

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

February 19, 2002
Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 19, 2002, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Ruth Smith, Betty Bachelder, Jeremy Winnick, Lisa Nachbaur, Carol Perkins, Paula Spink, BarbieAnn Rounds, Lisa Hartley, Heather Driscoll, Cheryl Elliott and Sheila Dion.

Carol and Roberta opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of previous meetings: Lisa Hartley made a motion to accept the January Minutes. BarbieAnn seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.
2. Roberta made a motion to table action items until the next board meeting and Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.
3. Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy:

Paula distributed an article she received from Dr. Rick Wilson, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, regarding the Academy's endorsement of gay and lesbian co-parent adoptions. Dr. Wilson suggested that we attempt to pursue co-parent adoptions locally in NH. It was noted that last year's bill failed and that currently only single gay adults may adopt. Paula suggested that each board member send a copy of the article to their local representative.

Ruth reported that there is nothing significant legislatively happening at this time.. There is a bill to lower the number of employees that will be required to be covered by an insurance policy in order to get domestic partnership benefits.

Sheila reported that the State Employees Association will attempt to include Domestic Partnership benefits in the Union's next contract. Anyone interested in advocating for this benefit should attend a meeting of all interested persons on March 12, 2002, at the SEA office in Concord at 5:15 PM, to strategize how best to proceed.

Transgender Advocacy: Lisa Hartley reported that recently Strafford County Probate Court had denied a transgender person applying for a name change. Lisa had spent the day meeting with and educating the Chief Justice of Probate on transgender issues. It was agreed that an education program was needed for the Probate Justices. The Chief Justice did not reverse the decision, but gave suggestions and information on re-filing for the name change. He had also suggested that the person answer to whatever name they wanted, but not change it legally.

Admin/Finance:

Cheryl introduced herself as the new interim treasurer and reported that all bills are current, but that she was unable to complete the audit until she receives all financial records from the past treasurer. She also reported that Aime has emailed her that the records would be available by the end of the month. Many members of the board expressed concern that all PFLAG NH financial records had not been turned over yet, and it was suggested that the board should write a letter to Aime requesting that all records be transferred to the interim treasurer by March 4th, 2002. Carol volunteered to call Aime and to draft the letter if her call is unsuccessful. Lisa Hartley made a motion to send the letter from the board to Aime, and Ruth seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.

Sheila announced that the Reverend Frances Potter has donated a gift of 18 shares of

Johnson & Johnson stock to PFLAG NH, valued at \$1035. The stocks are currently being held by Tucker Anthony and are awaiting a decision by the board about whether to hold or sell them. It was suggested that Harold Janeway be consulted about whether to sell them or not. Paula made a motion to reinvest the dividends from the stock and Lisa seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.

Sheila suggested that the PFLAG NH brochure is outdated and needs revising. She requested that the board look over the brochure and bring suggestions for edits to the next board meeting. Roberta made the motion and Lisa seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Membership:

Sheila reported that there had been only one more membership renewal since the Annual meeting, bringing the Fall 2001 membership drive number to 84.

A discussion ensued about how many newsletters should be mailed to a prospective "new member" before they are dropped from the membership/newsletter mailing list. Roberta made the motion to limit the number to 3 newsletters and Carol seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.

The board also revised a letter from John to be included in the next newsletter, letting people know that we are updating our membership list and that if we don't hear from them, they will be dropped from the mailing/newsletter list. It was also suggested that a check box be added to the membership renewal form that says "I would like to remain on the mailing list but am unable to contribute at this time", to allow for people who cannot afford to pay dues, but who are still interested in PFLAG NH. Ruth also suggested that email addresses be requested on the dues form to build an email list. Roberta made the motion and Carol seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Communications:

Jeremy requested suggestions and updates for the website. A website committee was suggested by Lisa Hartley. BarbieAnn made a motion to add a revision of the website to the action items for the next board meeting. Lisa Hartley seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Sheila reported that after consulting with David, the 20th of every odd month is the absolute deadline for submitting items to the newsletter.

Education & Outreach Committee:

See other items discussed.

Roberta and Margie said they would like to take advantage of Alice Nye's offer to distribute "*Hatred in the Hallways*" to the Best Schools Initiative Team members, by providing her with 20 books to distribute. Roberta reported that she had distributed about 10 books so far, and was keeping track of which schools requested them. Margie said she thought she could get a better discount on the purchase of books if she purchased 100 rather than the 50 that Peg's donation would buy. Ruth made a motion to spend another \$500 on books in addition to the \$500 Peg donated for books, and Paula seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Margie and Roberta said they would work on applying for the PFLAG National award for Support, Education and Advocacy that Peg highly suggests we apply for, using the Superintendent's project.

Roberta reported that she had attended a film entitled "*Off the Straight and Narrow*", part of a GLBT film series sponsored by Keene State College. Some of the films will have a panel following the film. She suggested that she could offer the sponsors to have PFLAG NH representatives on the panels.

4. Other items discussed:

Family Resource Connection/Best Schools Resource Center:

Alice Nye, from the Family Resource Connection and the Best Schools Resource Center attended the “brown bag dinner” before the board meeting. She handed out information about the Family Resource Connection and a list of materials that is currently in the library collection pertaining to GLBT issues for youth and families. Alice discussed ways that PFLAG NH and the Family Resource Connection could collaborate to provide more GLBT information to the public.

Alice volunteered to write an article for the Best Schools Initiative newsletter about the “*Hatred in the Hallways*” project, offering the book to the Best Schools Teams throughout NH. She suggested that PFLAG NH could donate a certain amount of books (10-20) and she would publicize in the newsletter that PFLAG was offering them free to the first 10-20 people who requested them. Alice would also keep track of who she distributed books to so PFLAG NH could follow up with the recipients of the books.

Alice also suggested that a donation from PFLAG NH to the Family Resource Connection library would enable her to purchase more books and videos to enhance the collection. The materials would be mailed free of charge to any NH resident requesting to borrow them, along with a postage paid mailer, free of charge. FRC would pay all postage and would match any donations from PFLAG NH to purchase more materials. All requests for materials from FRC are confidential and patrons can borrow materials right from the FRC website through email, making it easier for people who might be too embarrassed to borrow from their local public library to borrow materials. A link from PFLAGNH.org has been added to the Family Resource Connection’s website.

Recognition for Peg:

It was suggested that PFLAG NH do something to recognize Peg for all her work

by the end of her term as Regional Director of PFLAG. It was also suggested that PFLAG NH carry a “Thank you Peggy” banner in the Boston Pride parade.

Betsy Janeway:

Ruth reported that she had given Betsy Janeway the gift PFLAG NH purchased, honoring her for her efforts for PFLAG, and that she loved and appreciated the gift and recognition. Ruth volunteered to write an article for the press about Betsy, suggesting that it would be a great PR opportunity as well as showing gratitude to Betsy.

Public Relations:

BarbieAnn said she would re-contact Superintendents in the NH/VT immediate area of the Upper Valley regarding “*Hatred in the Hallways*”. She also suggested PFLAG NH try to get a spot on NPR. Ruth said she knew Laura Knoy and would attempt to contact her regarding a story on PFLAG NH.

Sheila distributed an article published in Equality Press entitled “*Thanks to my friends I don’t drink rat’s sweat*”. This was an article written by a gay youth about why he does not attend PFLAG meetings. He wrote that he feels PFLAG and other support organizations do not do a good enough job of publicizing just exactly what they do and what they are all about. He also suggested that PFLAG and other support organizations needs to do more to promote diversity, advocacy and education about GLBT issues.

A discussion ensued about needing more PR, and Gordon and Margie volunteered to write an article for the next issue of Equality Press about PFLAG. The due date for that issue is March 12th, 2002.

Advertising rates in the newspaper were discussed and Paula suggested that people actively seek contacts at local newspapers. She also suggested that if chapters didn’t have any programs scheduled for a meeting then a discussion title should be used to draw more people.

Roberta made a motion to put PR Brainstorming on the agenda for next month's board meeting, and Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Unsafe Schools Initiative:

BarbieAnn distributed a letter mailed to Superintendent's nationwide, by the National Association for Research Therapy in Homosexuality (NARTH). Included with the letter will be a booklet entitled "Homosexual Advocacy Groups and Your School". The letter urges schools to encourage students to wait until adulthood to make decisions about sexual identity and warns schools not to refer questioning youth to counselors or ministries who support GLBT youth.

BarbieAnn suggested that we obtain a copy of the pamphlet.

Boston Pride March, 2002

It was suggested that PFLAG NH should send representatives to march in the Boston Pride March, 2002. Jeremy volunteered to get information about the march and what PFLAG would need to do to participate.

Conference:

Lisa Hartley reminded the Board of the "Children in the Shadows" conference at the University of CT, March 22 – 23.

GLSEN:

Lisa reported that the 2nd Annual Diversity Prom was set for April 13, 2002, at the Holiday Inn in Manchester, NH, from 7 pm – midnight. Lisa also requested that members of PFLAG NH chaperone the event. Also, GLSEN is looking for donations to fund the event and help with setup and break down, before and after the prom. Roberta made a motion to donate \$200 to GLSEN for the event and Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

5. Chapter Reports:

Keene:

Roberta reported that there were two new members at the last meeting. She has been

attending a film series at Keene State and connecting with more KSC Pride people.

Concord:

There were 12 people in attendance at our last meeting including three new people and two returnees. Lisa gave us an update on the progress of a mom with a 9 year-old transgender daughter. We had a support discussion on transgender issues and the need for support for spouses of transgender people. A father and his 17 year old daughter who had just come out a few months ago told their story and how the climate was at her local high school.

Announcements by Margie: Paul Belyea will do a musical program for next month with recordings by gay & gay friendly artists. The April meeting program "Moving Out From the Shadow of Shame", by Jim Paradis, D. Min. Dr. Paradis is an Augustinian priest on the clinical staff at the New England Pastoral Institute in Salem, NH. The Youth Pride March Date was given; discussion on Marching in Boston Pride March; and the flag-bearer award was explained. The group voted to try a small 2x2 ad in the Concord Monitor for \$25.98 for the next two months. Judy made everyone aware of the new website of the Equality Press. A program by Duncan McInnes of the Straight Spouse Network was very powerful. Duncan told his story of his wife coming out and their family journey of pain and courage, and how this developed into his involvement in the S.S. Network and PFLAG's support.

Speaker Bureau News:

Margie and Gordon spoke at Nashua High School to the GSA group of about 10 youths. They were well received telling their stories, explaining the large part PFLAG has had in their lives and answering questions on how to come out to their parents. They left many handouts including a copy of the "Hatred in the Hallways". Margie explained the Safe Schools Program and Gordon offered his and Cy's services to come speak in the health classes at a future date.

Lakes Region:

No one showed at our last meeting due to the ice storm. Some of our group attended a presentation by the Laconia Human Resource Committee in the Lakes Region. Les and Jane Norman spoke about when their son came out. The next presentation will feature Leanne Tigert on February 26th.

Upper Valley:

Our chapter has continued to notice and discuss how few people are showing up for support and help. We usually have the same 3-7 regulars. We've noted, as have others, how the numbers go up when we have a program, so we are talking about (no definite plans) having more programs. We have also noted that unless we do something special, "The Valley News" will only put us in with a lot of other support groups in a non-conspicuous part of the paper. We are considering a small ad each month just before the monthly meeting. We are also considering what to do with respect to the safe schools project. We're

planning on working with G/LEARN on writing follow up letters to the local New Hampshire schools and initial letters to local Vermont schools about "Hatred in the Hallways"

Seacoast:

There were 15 people at the last meeting. A lesbian couple spoke about parenting and the CORE meeting discussed advertising and attendee issues.

Plymouth:

No one showed at the last meeting.

6. Other Business:

The next board meeting will be March 19th, 2002, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant