

# Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

April 16, 2002

## Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on April 16, 2002 at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: John Monroe, Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Lisa Hartley, Jeremy Winnick, Ruth Smith, Lisa Nachbaur, Carol Perkins, Duncan McInnes, Cheryl Elliott and Sheila Dion.

John opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

### Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of previous meetings: Lisa Hartley made a motion to accept the March Minutes. Roberta seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.
2. Subcommittee Reports

#### **Advocacy:**

No new legislation to report. Ruth will be focusing on the speaker bureau training and will also be working with the Wesley Methodist Church on Open & Affirming.

#### **Admin/Finance:**

##### Spring Fundraiser

The spring fundraising letter has not yet been written, but is in the works.

##### Fidelity

John has submitted a change of address to Fidelity now that he is an "official signatory". He emailed Judy inquiring about the Fidelity account history and received the following reply:

*"That account was established as a means of gaining interest on money received from grants and large contributions, a result, mostly, of the work of Betsy Janeway. At the same time, we were recipients of a substantial amount of money in memory of an early PFLAG member. We were building up our resources in anticipation of hiring personnel, but the fund was not designated for that specific purpose; the money can be taken out for use in the general budget, as needed. At that time, Harold Janeway was providing financial advice to me, (I was treasurer, he's an investment person). He reviewed my financial reports, suggesting changes, etc. (It was very helpful to me to have his input, as there were not other people on the board with more financial knowledge.) Since the checking account was carrying a heavy balance, we decided on the*

*money market. This provided earnings, while maintaining the principle. We didn't feel we should get into a more risky investment with these funds. As time went on, we had very successful fund raising drives each spring, and the expenses were not large, so the PFLAG assets have remained at a healthy level."*

*"One challenge for the current board is to focus on the stated reasons for earning the nonprofit status, i.e., education, outreach, advocacy, and finding ways to meet those goals. This needs to be balanced, of course, with maintaining proper funding for employees and other budgeted items. I expect the personnel expenses now are near the level we anticipated at the time we did our proposal for hiring. Except for the period during which Becky was at 'full strength', the staffing hours have, up to now, been below expectations."*

##### Treasurer's Report

Cheryl presented the results of the financial audit for the years 2000 and 2001, including a trial balance for both years and a breakdown of income and expenses. Copies of each report were distributed to all board members present.

The audit revealed a \$2575 difference (shortfall) between the past treasurer's financial accounting of income and the Bank of NH's records of deposits for the year 2001. The audit also revealed a difference of \$174.06 (shortfall) between the past treasurer's report of expenses and the Banking records.

The income for the year 2000 balanced and the expenses were off by \$724.56 (shortfall).

Cheryl reported that she felt the discrepancies were due to inadequate record keeping procedures. She then described to the board the method of record keeping she plans to implement as treasurer: Quickbooks accounting software will be used to keep track of all accounts. Each month the board will be provided with an account balance, a trial balance, and a bank reconciliation report. Quarterly reports will also be produced, with the first quarter to be furnished at the May board meeting.

Lisa Hartley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Duncan seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

### Public Relations:

The PFLAG NH brochure and the *Growing up...* series brochures have been updated by John and Sheila. A limited number were printed in order to have them to distribute at the Diversity Prom. John requested that everyone take at least 10 of each, proofread them and bring suggestions for revising them to the next board meeting.

Lisa Nachbaur had the following suggestions: Put the PFLAG mission statement on the front cover, add the Family Resource Connection as a resource, and update the number of families served. Other suggestions included updating the quotes, updating and condensing the reading list, and including transgender wherever it says "Gay people are..."

A suggestion was made that an effort be made to get brochures placed in hospital and physician waiting rooms.

Sheila requested that chapters do a PFLAG publications inventory and email to her so she can place an order. Lisa suggested purchasing more "*Our Trans Children*".

Sheila reported that Claudia Moore from Child & Family Services called requesting information for an article she is writing for the Union Leader entitled "*What do I do if my child is gay?*". Also, *In News Weekly* called for information regarding PFLAG NH to include in their Boston Pride Guide.

### Videos:

Sheila is compiling a list of all videos owned by PFLAG chapters to assist Roberta in choosing videos for the Family Resource Connection to purchase. Sheila requested that each chapter email her a list of videos owned by their chapter and indicate which ones are copies and which are originals. This will also enable chapters to know what videos other chapters have so resources may be shared rather than duplicated.

### Miscellaneous:

Sheila announced that she has ordered a copy of the book "*Too High a Price: The Case Against Restricting Gay Parenting*", for each chapter. The book is being offered free from the ACLU. Additional copies may be requested by calling 212-549-2673.

### **Membership:**

Sheila reported 86 paid memberships for 2002 to date, compared to 125 members for 2001. It was pointed out that at the March board meeting 91 members had been reported. A closer look at the database revealed the difference being that contributors had been included in the number last month, but not this month. A comparison between Becky's database and the 2002 membership drive appears to show 11 new members, but that number cannot be absolutely relied upon due to database discrepancies.

The question of adding a new membership tier for Student/Limited Income was discussed and decided against since there is no way to verify that category.

### **Communications:**

#### Website:

Jeremy reported that he had updated the Board list on the website, updated the resources list, checked the links and also checked for handicap accessibility. He also reported that he is updating programs immediately and adding a page for the Speaker Bureau. It was noted that information should change monthly so that people will return to the website often.

#### Newsletter:

Selling advertisement space in the newsletter was discussed. Sheila reported that she had called the Omaha PFLAG to inquire about their advertising policies. Omaha PFLAG charges \$50 per year for a business card sized advertisement, and they said that they include advertising more as a courtesy to businesses that give them discounts than for raising revenue. Jeremy raised the question of whether or not accepting advertising would be cost effective because of the added space requirements and printing costs. Sheila will contact Omaha again with these questions and also find out about their contractual agreement with the advertisers.

### **Education & Outreach Committee:**

Roberta reported that she had given out most of the "*Hatred in the Hallways*" books. She passed out a list of the recipients, including a list of 37 libraries who had requested them through the Family Resource Connection. Roberta pointed out that more books will be needed as well as funds to purchase them. Ideas were mentioned

that perhaps the chapters could donate money towards purchasing additional books and the project should be mentioned in the spring fundraising letter from John.

Roberta also reported that she has been asked to do a leadership workshop for peer mediation in Manchester on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Speaker Bureau:**

Roberta presented her story along with Carol and Gordon at Concord High School on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to an audience of about 400. They were well received and gay students came up to them afterwards and thanked them for speaking.

Lisa and Margie spoke to a group at New England College. Margie will be speaking on April 19<sup>th</sup> to a group at Kearsarge High School.

John and Betty spoke at Oyster River High School in Durham.

### **3. Other items discussed:**

#### Children's Alliance of NH

John informed the Board of an invitation to a reception by the Children's Alliance of NH, to be held April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. John is planning on attending.

#### Boston Pride March

It was decided that anyone wishing to march in the Boston Pride March on June 8<sup>th</sup>, would march with the Boston PFLAG Chapter rather than registering a NH group to participate in the parade. Margie agreed to contact the Boston chapter and accept their invitation to march with them.

#### Recognition for Peg

Ideas were discussed for recognizing Peg Gage and thanking her for her work as Regional Director. Margie and Roberta are planning to apply for an award nomination for the Safe Schools Project. John agreed to email National to see if they honor the outgoing RD's at the conference. Roberta made a motion that the Board present Peg with a plaque and organize a dinner in her honor in November at the Advisory Committee meeting. Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

#### Betsy Janeway Article

Ruth has written an article recognizing Betsy Janeway and will submit it to the newsletter by the April 20<sup>th</sup> deadline.

#### NPR

Ruth emailed Mary Kruger, producer of *The Exchange* at NPR, about doing a piece on PFLAG.

#### Retreat:

August 9<sup>th</sup> was discussed as a possible date for a retreat to be held at Paula Spink's house this summer.

### **4. Chapter Reports:**

#### Keene:

Jean and Roberta briefly presented information about PFLAG at the KSC Homophobia film project that has been running on Wednesday evenings. We have attended several films and were invited to do a brief informational spot at the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jean and John Bleyle presented at the St. Paul's School in Concord on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Our April meeting was attended by students from Keene State Pride Group. We previewed the video, "*It's Elementary*." One of the KSC students is hoping to use it at the school where she is student teaching

#### Concord:

We had 17 people at the meeting. Seven new people/families, including our guest speaker. Also our State Board President, John Monroe attended. (Thanks John!!)

One young man struggling with Trans issues took information and listened carefully but was not comfortable speaking. Margie and Lisa have been emailing this person over several weeks, had sent a packet of information and he met Margie outside the church before the meeting. He will email Lisa more for guidance.

Two new families: One comfortable with their college student daughter's sexual orientation and hopefully will become active members. Dad is a faculty member of a local private school. (Margie will connect later for our Safe Schools project. Discussed briefly during break) Other Mom's son, also a college student, just came out 2 weeks ago and she is struggling with Dad's non-acceptance and 17 year old sibling who is still home and Mom assumes doesn't know.....A lot of support and encouragement given to this mom...It takes

time.... Another guest discussed recently coming out to his grown son. This showed the other side of the coin, so to speak.

#### Announcements:

Pride March Boston: 6/8/02 anyone who wants to go contact Margie

Core Planning meeting: 5/19/02 After next month's support meeting.

Treasurer Position: Ellie is resigning think about replacement

Dan Woog: Author of "Jocks" will be at Colby Sawyer Monday 4/22/02.

New Brochures: Margie noted new brochures Growing Up Gay etc. done and updated.

PFLAG board still working on.

Program: "Moving Out From the Shadow of Shame" presentation and discussion by Jim Paradis, D.M was absolutely one of the best programs Concord has had. With such great dynamics during our support meeting Mr. Paradis continued on, captivating us with an explanation of shame. He spoke of the levels of shame and examples of what wasn't shame but embarrassment. He gave us a scenario in the gay and straight world. Following was a brief discussion (Thank you Paul for putting this together for us.). We all left the meeting more enriched and thankful for our PFLAG family.

#### Lakes Region:

Seven people attended the Lakes Region Chapter meeting held last Sunday. Several new books were added to the PFLAG Library at our meeting place. Ways to reach out to educators in the area was discussed during the meeting.

#### Upper Valley:

The Upper Valley PFLAG Chapter met Monday April 8 in Auditorium A at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center from 7-9 PM. There were 5 individuals present and we engaged in general support and discussion including how to tell more distant relations about a family members sexuality, the situation of sexual molestation among Catholic priests and its (non) relationship to homosexuality and the matter of the local Boy Scout troop which has been asked to stop meeting in an "Open and Affirming" church.

#### Seacoast:

Seacoast Chapter's March meeting was attended by about 15 people. The support meeting part of the evening was interesting as there was no organized Straight Spouse Support (SSN) group

that night, so Duncan was able to meeting with the PFLAG group and it was just as well that he did. We had a couple of new people attend, one of whom was looking for help to support her ex-husband, who has recently come out.

The program for the evening was "Advocacy Over the Internet". Lead by Diane, this discussion focused on how people can anonymously help groups that keep track of what various publications are saying (or how they are slanting) coverage of GLBT stories. Diane acts as a "media watchdog" on several seacoast area newspapers and keeps her eyes open for other interesting stories on the Internet.

Seacoast Chapter's April meeting was attended by about the same number of people. The program was supposed to be a part of the "Scout's Honor" video, outlining the 'Scouting for All' effort and the Boy Scouts of America's actions when their members 'come out'. Again, with no organized SSN group that night, Duncan joined the PFLAG group, and again it was a good thing. A woman whose husband has recently come out was among a couple of "newbies" and the group was able to support her.

The discussion in the support group was going so well that the program was cancelled for the evening and the group broke up earlier than the normal 9 pm departure time.

#### Plymouth:

The Plymouth PFLAG monthly meeting was Tuesday, April 9th. I am so happy to report that two people attended who had never attended in the past. Our meeting was basically for support and information. We all shared our stories and supported each other. It was great. I put a large article in the local paper which came out this week so the results won't show up until next month. I will follow up with a reminder the week before the meeting.

#### North Country:

I had a long talk with a mother of two gay children who was referred to me through the Helpline. She wanted to come to a meeting but didn't have transportation. At last evening's meeting I found a ride for her [she wasn't able to come last night anyway] for the next meeting. Also had a new person from Colebrook. It was reported last evening that the Diversity Day last month went very well and sessions were well attended.

Straight Spouse

A straight spouse divorced for 5 years came to the last meeting. She was concerned about how to tell her 9 year old daughter that her father is gay. She was also concerned about how to help her ex-husband deal with his parents. Margie recommended the video "That's a Family". Duncan reported that there hadn't been any attendance at the meetings for the last two months until this month, but that he had received four phone calls this month concerning straight spouse issues.

**5. Other Business:**

The next board meeting will be May 21, 2002, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion  
Administrative Assistant

CORRECTION ADDENDUM  
Board Meeting Minutes

The following is a correction addendum to the April 16, 2002 minutes.

**Admin/Finance:**

Speaker Bureau:

Correct as follows: Lisa, Margie and a local high school youth spoke to two New England College Prejudice and Discrimination classes on April 16th. Margie, Lisa, Les Norman, John Liston and another youth speaker will be speaking April 19th in three workshops at Kearsarge High School for their Diversity Days.

Apologetically submitted,

Sheila Dion  
Administrative Assistant