

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

June 18, 2002

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on June 18, 2002, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: John Monroe, Gordon Sherman, Jeremy Winnick, Cheryl Elliott, Carol Perkins, Ruth Smith, Margie Lindsley, BarbieAnn Rounds, and Sheila Dion.

John opened the meeting at: 6:40 pm.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of previous meetings: A correction was made to the May 21, 2002 minutes on page 4 under "Nashua PFLAG Chapter". A woman from Nashua wants PFLAG to start a Nashua Chapter, not that she wants to start a Nashua Chapter. Ruth made a motion to accept the May Minutes. Margie seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.
2. Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy:

Legislative sessions are over. Nothing to report.

Admin/Finance:

Budget:

John presented a tentative budget that he used for the grant-writing workshop. He suggested that the board approve a budget at the September meeting to present at the annual meeting.

Cheryl passed out a copy of a proposed budget and suggested that a fiscal year (10/1 – 9/30) be used to reflect actual dues and contributions received per year. Since the membership drive for 2002 was started in October, 2001, dues received from Oct. – Dec. are recorded for 2001, and dues received after January 1, 2002 are recorded for 2002. This is confusing when trying to report actual amounts received for membership and contributions received.

Cheryl also reported a checking account balance of \$3298.41.

Second Quarter Report:

Cheryl will email the quarterly report since there won't be a board meeting until September. She also reminded everyone that bulk postage is going up .03 per piece.

Spring Fundraiser:

Sheila reported that there were 21 contributions totaling \$1115.00. There were 4 contributions of \$100 or more.

The question was asked about how that figure compares to last year, but due to the way records were kept, that figure would be difficult to determine.

Membership:

Sheila reported that there are 103 current members for 2002, as opposed to 125 members for 2001. That breaks down to 48 singles; 47 family memberships; 8 newsletter only; and 16 temporary memberships.

Communications:

Website:

Jeremy reported that he had fixed the broken link to PFLAG NH from PFLAG National. Jeremy will also do a report on how many hits the website receives. Jeremy also said that he didn't think we needed to pay to be added to more search engines, since our site is easily found using most major search engines.

Advertising:

Sheila reported that she spoke with 3 different printers about the newsletter. All of the printers said that they could not tri-fold an 8-page newsletter, regardless of paper weight. They are able to fold the newsletter in half to 5 ½ X 8 ½, but we would need to purchase larger envelopes to mail them in. Town & Country's printing charges are .31 per newsletter; Capital Copy charges .44 per newsletter; and Kinko's charges .73 per newsletter.

John said that he would write an article for the newsletter about possibly taking advertising, and asking for members to leave their comments on the helpline.

Education & Outreach Committee:

Parent Information Center:

John and Roberta met with Heather Thalheimer, of the Parent Information Center, to discuss the Safe Schools project. They discussed the parallels in perception between disabilities and GLBT issues. 5 packets of materials, from the GLSEN Lunchbox and "Hatred in the Hallways", were left for PIC resource specialists. Roberta requested money for the Safe Schools project. While nothing concrete came out of the meeting, John and Roberta felt it was a great contact opportunity, and will hopefully lead to more in the future.

Ruth said she would bring a list of schools that have GSA's, and schools that host diversity day events, to the retreat.

Margie reported that she needs to order more "Hatred in the Hallways" books, and would like to order 100 more by next week. BarbieAnn said that GLEARN might share the costs in a bulk order. BarbieAnn will email Margie to let her know how many.

Margie also asked the question about who pays for the PFLAG publication "Read this before coming out to your parents"? She needs more to give out at speaking engagements. Sheila will check her inventory and see if she can send some to Margie. Sheila will also check to see if the publication has been updated.

3. Other items discussed:

Recognition of Peg:

John read the thank you letter that Paula Spink wrote to Peg, on behalf of the Board. Paula noted that Peg was very appreciative.

NPR:

Ruth reported that she hadn't made any progress with Laura Knoy about doing a piece on PFLAG NH. Ruth will email Margie the details about the piece that Laura Knoy is interested in doing, so that Margie can contact Bill Preble about possibly participating.

Boston Pride March:

Margie reported that the Boston Pride March was "cool" and that Sue Redkey had received a lot of positive responses from the crowd on her sign that

read "I love my lesbian daughter". Margie will submit an article about the event to the newsletter.

Retreat:

The retreat date has been set for July 26th, from 10 am – 4 pm, at Paula Spink's house in Laconia. Possible agenda items for the retreat include: PR brainstorming; GLSEN Lunchbox activities; Membership and Fundraising; and Communications. A special invitation will be sent to David Pendleton and the North Country chapter folks. It was suggested that people split into groups to maximize the time spent on each agenda item.

GLEARN:

BarbieAnn would like to do a presentation about GLEARN to the Board sometime in the near future.

Gill Foundation:

John went to the first meeting about the list enhancement services the Gill Foundation is offering. He reported that it was a learning opportunity for both NH and the Gill Foundation. John also reported that the Seacoast chapter has strong reservations about participating in the pilot project due to confidentiality concerns, and that they had voted not to participate.

Reaction from the Board included feelings that since only seven out of fifty states were chosen to participate, NH should feel honored to be chosen. It was also pointed out that National was consulted and approved, as long as the list is not swapped or sold. The question was then asked whether or not we might opt out of having our list accessible on the web, despite the fact that it will be password protected. A separate vote was made among the "PFLAG Parents" on the Board, and the "Non-parent" board members. Both votes were unanimous in favor of going forward with the project. The Board decided to go forward with the project, tentatively, and will revisit the issue of confidentiality before committing to the project. Gordon made the motion to go forward with the project and Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

It was also suggested that it makes sense for Sheila to be the list person/contact, since she manages the database and works for Freedom To Marry (which is also participating in the Gill project). The suggestion was made that if she were the contact person for both organizations,

both PFLAG NH and Freedom to Marry could share the costs of attending the training.

Market Square Days:

John reported that the Seacoast chapter sold \$167.50 worth of merchandise and that a contact was made with the Latin American Center. John will purchase some Spanish PFLAG materials for the Center.

Walk With the One You Love:

Both Foster's Daily and the Equality Press covered the 45-minute walk. While John spoke at the event, he was not interviewed.

Board Member Terms:

It was pointed out that several board members are half way through their 6th year and that the board should start thinking about new members.

Donation in Memory of John Schuttlinger's Father:

Margie proposed that the board make a donation to GLSEN, in memory of John Schuttlinger's father, who recently passed away. It was also suggested that "Hatred in the Hallways" books be purchased in his memory.

Prison Speaker on Hate Crimes:

Sheila reported that she received a call from a colleague of Becky Larson who volunteered to speak at the prison on hate crimes. She is a lesbian minister who already works in the prison ministries.

Brochures:

All brochure revisions need to be sent to Sheila by June 25th.

4. Chapter Reports:

Keene:

Nothing to report.

Concord:

Five people attended our meeting on Father's Day, including one new couple. The husband and Margie had emailed several times (Margie sent him a packet last week). He explained that his little brother, who lives in CA., had just accepted his being gay and was dating his boss. The husband was accepting but concerned about HIV/AIDS and the fact that their parents, who live in Michigan hadn't been told. The wife expressed that she has known all along that her brother-in-law was gay, and that she believed after the initial conversation, the parents would be very accepting

and knew gay people. We all stressed that it takes time, and that some educational materials should be available to the parents. It seems that the gay brother doesn't want to tell his parents, and would like someone else to do it. The support group discussed our experiences as parents of gay adults, and gave the couple more information and suggested reading. Margie suggested along with "Now That You Know", "The Family Heart" by Robb Forman Dew, which was helpful to her in the beginning. She will mail the couple a copy, as she has several left from the Betsy Janeway project. The brother will mail the materials to the parents after they have been told.

Linda worked on organizing the library. She will try to get to church later in the week to work on the books, and seeing where we are with books that haven't been returned.

Gordon updated us on his and Cy's church work.

Announcements: Margie gave a review of the Boston Pride March last Sat (6/8/02) and passed around pictures. She also gave Linda an email on a Nickelodeon special to run on 6/18/02 for taping.

Lakes Region:

Five "core" members met and we discussed upcoming programs. We also "cleaned" house a bit in our Library, took inventory of our PFLAG literature & films. Gayle agreed to give Sheila a list of what we have on hand. We plan to have a cookout in August.

Upper Valley:

The Upper Valley PFLAG chapter met at 7:00 P.M. Monday June 10 in Auditorium A of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. There were six individuals in attendance. Support was provided for family members—the mother, grandmother and mother's sister—of a young man who had recently come out as gay. Overall the family has been accepting and there have been few problems. The young man hasn't yet brought his partner to family events but that doesn't appear to be a major issue. The family noted how aware they have become of anti-gay (e.g. "Take Back Vermont" signs) messages and how society mostly presents only heterosexuality.

There was also discussion about what help we could give to a gay man in his 20's who had been rejected by his family. His problems went beyond family rejection and included serious illness and mental health problems. He had found someone

to provide housing for him however most of his problems seemed to be beyond what we as PFLAG could help with.

We also continued a discussion about the sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic church. We are planning to view videos at a future meeting. Some possibilities are Rosie O'Donnell's TV appearance and part of the "Nightline" series on gays.

Seacoast:

About 10 people attended our June support meeting. The program was supposed to have been a viewing of part of the "Scout's Honor" video (postponed from a previous program evening), but due to the length and depth of the support time conversation, it was again postponed. The support time conversation concentrated on the recent difficulties a Mom has had with her lesbian daughter, whose orientation has been known about for a long time. The group were very supportive and was lucky in that another meeting attendee was able to connect with the Mom in a unique way, and give her some more personal insights. The Straight Spouse group met for the first time in several months.

Market Square Day:

We were blessed with a great day weather-wise and the crowd responded. Besides doing a brisk business with our pins and stickers, the Chapter representatives were able to answer some questions and start networking with several new groups. A teenager asked for information, as his (older?) brother has recently come out as

transgender; a representative of the Latin American Center in Manchester came by and picked up some material and requested some copies of PFLAG's material that has been translated into Spanish; several groups came by and talked about schools – either GSAs, "Hatred In The Hallways" contacts or wanting to know who to contact to bring speakers into local high schools; a Nashua area Mom came by and wanted to know when we were going to create a Nashua area Chapter; and various members of the GLBT community came by and thanked us for being "out" in the open.

Plymouth:

No report received.

North Country:

No report received.

5. Other Business:

The next board meeting will be September 17th, 2002, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9 pm; BarbieAnn seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant