

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

November 19, 2002  
Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on November 19, 2002 at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

In attendance were: Gayle, Margie, Roberta, Lisa H., Ruth, Carol, Duncan, Jeremy, and Sheila.

The meeting opened at: 6:30 pm.

## **Items Discussed:**

1. Minutes from previous meeting. Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes, and Margie seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

2. Subcommittee Reports

### **Admin/Finance:**

Cheryl provided the third quarter financial report, via Sheila. The opening balance was reported as \$2836.80. Revenue totaled \$6,195.00 (with a \$5000 Fidelity transfer). Expenses totaled \$3,486.11, leaving an ending balance of \$5545.69.

Duncan made a motion to accept the financial report, and Lisa seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

### **Membership:**

Sheila reported that the annual membership letter had been mailed out and she has received 35 paid memberships to date. Of the 35, 9 memberships were from members who hadn't paid last year, and one was a new membership from a woman who signed up for a free newsletter at the Indigo Girls concert.

Sheila also suggested a modification of the existing dues distribution. Currently the distribution is as follows:

On a \$25 single membership: \$10 is sent to National; \$8 is given to the Chapter; and the State receives \$7.

On a \$35 family membership: \$10 is sent to National; \$18 is given to the Chapter; and the State still only receives \$7.

Sheila suggested increasing the State's portion of family memberships by \$3 as follows: National/\$10; Chapter/\$15; State/\$10.

The reason for the proposed increase is the cost of the newsletter, which runs about \$1400 per year. The State's cut of membership dues last year was only \$798, almost half the cost of publishing the newsletter.

*Outcome:* Chapter leaders will discuss the proposed increase with their chapters and report to the board at the next meeting.

## **Communications:**

### **Newsletter:**

Sheila proposed that the newsletter be published quarterly rather than bi-monthly. Since the cost of the newsletter is roughly \$250 per printing, cutting out 2 newsletters a year will allow the State Chapter to almost break even in the cost of publishing the newsletter. Jeremy suggested an online newsletter for those with internet access, either to fill in between quarterly newsletters, or to replace the paper newsletters. Paper newsletters could still be sent to those who preferred a hard copy, and to the libraries and other organizations for outreach purposes.

*Outcome:* Chapter leaders will discuss the newsletter proposals with their chapters and report to the board at the next meeting.

Sheila also requested that all newsletter articles be sent to her for review and editing before being sent to David, to avoid duplication.

### **Website:**

Jeremy reported that he was unable to get statistics on the website hits, but will be adding a counter.

### **Advocacy:**

Ruth volunteered to continue her role as the advocacy committee chair, even though her six-year term as a board member is ending this year. She reported that NH Freedom to Marry will continue to do educational outreach and will organize to head off any repeal attempts of existing legislation affecting GLBT rights. Ruth

also reported that NH FTM is creating an Action Alert system.

*Action Item:* Jeremy will check on mass e-mail capability for an online sign-up of the action alert system from our website.

*Action Item:* All board members should start collecting email addresses of people interested in receiving action alerts regarding anti-legislation.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Lisa Nachbaur has resigned from the Board due to work conflicts. She is looking for a replacement from GLSEN. The Seacoast chapter is also looking for a Seacoast representative to replace John Monroe. The following is a list of potential nominees:

Dr. Ursula Kneissel

John Bleyle

Sheila Finch (NAMI & Youth Suicide Prevention Committee)

Anne Boedecker (Psychologist and the mother of a lesbian youth from Bow)

Diana Lacey (Grants & Contracts, DHHS)

*Action item:* Anyone who has nominated any of the above needs to get a confirmation from the nominee, and send names and addresses to Ruth.

*Action item:* Ruth will send a formal invitation and welcome/orientation packet to all nominees.

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

#### Safe Schools Project/Speaker Bureau:

Roberta spoke about the need for better communication around speaking events, to avoid duplication and to keep track of for grant writing purposes. It was suggested that many people who represent PFLAG NH at events do not consider themselves "speakers". Sheila reported that Jeremy has created an email form for people to report their speaking events from online.

*Outcome:* Send out an email and put an article in the newsletter asking people to keep us informed of any events where they represent PFLAG NH, and change the term "Speaker Bureau to "Outreach".

*Action Items:* Sheila will send out an email about the email form, and Gayle will write an article for the newsletter.

Roberta also spoke about the need to develop a consistent presentation for speakers for the Safe Schools Project. The following suggestions were made to develop the Safe Schools project:

- Develop a curriculum.
- Tap the founding Moms & Dads for ideas.
- Put together a notebook of ideas for the "Outreach" committee to use at speaking events.
- Set aside a day for planning and reviewing curriculum materials.
- Meet with the Advisory Council for ideas and advice.
- Change and update the curriculum often.
- Find ways to tap the Department of Education for funds.
- Create a "Safe Space" sticker.
- Have "From Our House to the Schoolhouse" printed for distribution.
- Include PFLAG info with every "Hatred in the Hallways" distributed.
- Create an evaluation form for feedback from every speaking event.

*Outcome:* Have a curriculum planning/review meeting the morning of the Annual Meeting from 8:30 am – 11:00 am. Participants are expected to bring materials to review and lots of post-it notes!

#### Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting has been set for February 1, 2003, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, on Pleasant Street in Concord, from 11:30 – 3:00 pm. There will be a Safe Schools Review Meeting before the Annual Meeting, from 8:30 – 11:00 am. The newly elected board will meet after the Annual Meeting, from 3:00 – 4:00.

#### Advisory Council:

It was decided that a separate Advisory Council meeting will be held on March 18, 2003, from 6 – 8 pm. Potential nominees are:

John Schuttinger (GLSEN and past PFLAG NH Board Member)

Tim Dougherty (Concord High School Teacher)

Alice Nye (Family Resource Connection)

*Action Item:* Lisa will write a letter to Advisory Council members and potential nominees, inviting the past members back, and inviting the potential nominees to join the board.

Grants/Grantwriting:

Sheila reported that she has not received word yet from the NH Charitable Foundation or the Public Welfare Foundation, but noted that other organizations had already received word of their grants.

*Outcome:* All new grants should be reviewed by Betsy Janeway before being submitted. Also, unreimbursed expenses need to be kept track of for grant writing purposes.

*Action Item:* Sheila will email Racheal Stuart, from the NH Charitable Foundation, regarding the grant application.

Grant Writing Committee: - Tabled

Action Plan: - Tabled

Book Purchases:

Sheila requested reimbursement for a lot of 24 GLBT books she bid on at the So. NH HIV/AIDS benefit's silent auction, with the intent to donate them to the Family Resource Connection library as part of PFLAG's collaboration with the library. The cost was \$106.

*Outcome:* Carol donated \$60 from the Plymouth chapter, and Lisa donated \$20. Ruth made a motion to reimburse the remaining \$26, and Duncan seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Roberta requested reimbursement for a curriculum book she purchased on how to teach elementary school children about diversity. The cost was \$18. It was suggested that a second book be purchased and donated to the Family Resource Connection.

*Outcome:* Margie made a motion to reimburse the cost of the book purchase, and Duncan seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

*Action Item:* Roberta will review the curriculum, and report to the Board before a second book is purchased for the Family Resource Connection.

*Action Item:* Sheila will create a wish list for the Family Resource Connection, to be printed in the newsletter with an invitation for members to purchase a book for the library.

International Day of Remembrance:

BarbieAnn reminded everyone that November 20<sup>th</sup> has been designated the International Day of Remembrance for transgender persons murdered in hate crimes.

Franklin Pierce College:

Roberta reported that Franklin Pierce College should be sending a donation to PFLAG NH for the video work she volunteered on the production of the "Laramie Project"

Adam & Steve's Gay Union Ceremony:

Jeremy reported that the Capital Gay Men will be putting on a mock wedding ceremony on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003, at the Courtyard Marriott, to benefit the Merrimack Valley Assistance Program. The cost of the event is \$50 per person, including dinner and entertainment.

Seacoast Annual Meeting:

Duncan reported that the Seacoast Chapter's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Chapter Visits:

It was suggested that Board members visit other chapters to update them about the State Board and the Safe Schools Project.

**4. Chapter Reports:**

**Plymouth**

The Plymouth PFLAG meeting was held last night with two others attending. One member shared with us the plans of the Plymouth Congregational Church to host the "Love Makes a Family" series in the sanctuary during April. There will be a reception and you should be invited. The other person shared her Master's project of Grant Writing to help the Manchester Outright Group. She may have someone to help PFLAG with Grant Writing.

**Keene**

Our regular first Tues. of the month support meeting had 2 new people attend. Our total attendance was 9. I'm so happy! The first hour, we spent with telling our stories and support. Then we watched the HBO T.V. version of "The Laramie Project" No one had seen it before. It is the story of the reactions of citizens of the town, Laramie Wyoming, where Matthew Shepherd was murdered. It is a powerful drama. We will continue with a discussion of this next month.

On Tues. the 12th, we hosted Marc Adams, The Preacher's Son. We held this open event in conjunction with KSC, GLSEN Southwest N.H., the Homophobia Project, Diversity Committee, KSC Pride, and Women's Studies. There were about 35 people in attendance. We video taped Marc's presentation and have his permission to use it for our meetings. Monday, Nov. 25 I will be speaking to the Health Classes at Monadnock Regional High School. We are presently planning our Holiday Fun(D) Raiser House Party for Dec. 8th (Sunday) from 2-5 at Jean and John Bleyle's house. This will be a joint venture with GLSEN Southwest N.H. and whatever funds we raise from the donations will be divided between our two groups.

### **Seacoast**

We had a very good support meeting. There were five new participants representing three families; two parents and their children and a mom. Most of the evening was spent on support of these families. The "Safe Schools Program" was abbreviated because of the time spent in the support groups.

Betty brought an Outright Group to Dover High School and they were well received.

We want to remind everyone that Marc Adams will be speaking at our December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and everyone is invited to attend.

Our January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our Annual Meeting and pot-luck dinner. It will be at the Stratham Community Church and will begin at 6:30 pm. The Seacoast Straight Spouse Support Group also met on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the entire night was spent on support.

### **Concord**

No new people attended. (7 members) Update on Board nominations, how it runs for new Concord member. Speaker bureau sheet given out and explained. Gordon wants to sit in on next school training we do.

Announcements: Margie updated chapter on Nat'l Conference, So. NH. Aids Benefit Auction and NH Minority Health Coalition event. Alicia volunteered to take PFLAG brochures to 3-1-3 club for advertising. Margie will give Gordon sign in sheets to call old attendees.

Linda met with a new mom from last month's meeting. She also showed us new book received "The Rainbow Kite". Margie gave her flyer on another book "Felicia's Favorite Story" to order when we have more money in the chapter.

### **Laconia/Lakes Region**

The Laconia/Lakes Region PFLAG chapter had 8 people attending the November meeting. For three gay men it was their first PFLAG meeting. "Tips for the Holidays" were given as hand-outs.

### **Upper Valley**

Our regular monthly meeting was held on Monday November 11 from 7-9 PM in Auditorium A, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon.

Four individuals were present including a woman with Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome, an intersex condition that results in a child with XY sex chromosomes and testes but female external genitals. Our discussion with her illustrated the need for more information on individuals with intersex conditions and the need for better care including counseling for parents for intersexed newborns.

This month members of the Upper Valley chapter have also been involved in other activities. On November 1, Ruth Hunter and BarbieAnn Rounds attended a conference Science, Sexual Orientation and the Law. The topics discussed were The Gay Gene-What does science prove or disprove? Life Among the Ex-Gay and Transgender Orientation. After the final presentation the Faculty Advisor to the student group which organized the conference urged people to work to add transgender protections to Vermont Law.

On November 3, BarbieAnn Rounds met with the peer counselors of Woodstock (VT) High School to share her experiences of being transgender and of being different in high school. On November 6 she was part of a panel discussing transgender issues with a joint Vermont Law School, Dartmouth Medical School class.

### **5. Other Business:**

The next board meeting will be December 17, 2002, at Ruth Smith's house, in Hopkinton. This will be a holiday potluck meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Dion, Administrative Assistant