

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

September 16, 2003

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on September 16, 2003, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

Attending: Jeremy, Gordan, Margie, Roberta, Gayle, Cheryl, and Sheila.

Roberta opened the meeting opened at: 6:30 pm.

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

1. Raffle

Outcome:

- Charge \$5 per ticket/ \$20 for a book of 5
- Send information about the raffle and a book of tickets to members with the membership drive.
- Direct people to the website for a list of prizes.
- Draw big prize first so that everyone has a chance at the big prize.
- Board members will solicit 5 prize donations each.
- Recognize businesses that donate prizes in the newsletter and on the website.
- Draw winners a week before Christmas.

Action items: Roberta will take an email vote on the raffle since there wasn't a quorum to vote at this meeting (again). Sheila will send new membership form to Roberta.

2. Priorities for 2003/2003

Funding, Gay Prom, and Local Contacts

3. Grants

Sheila will submit a project grant to NHCF by October 1, 2003. Also, Sheila will be applying for \$45,000 from Jane's Trust.

Action items: A condition of this grant is to create a Safe Schools and Speaker Bureau brochure. Sheila will email the draft of the Safe Schools brochure to Margie. Margie, Roberta, and Gordon will review the concept paper for the Jane's Trust grant and give feedback to Sheila by October 10, 2003.

4. Copier

Ursula might be able to procure a donation of a photocopier.

Outcome: The board would like to know the make/model and size of the copier to determine the costs associated with the upkeep of the photocopier.

Action item: Gordon will get the information from Ursula and research the costs of cartridges, toner, etc.

5. Nominating Committee

It's time to start looking for new board members. We currently have at least two vacant seats, and Paula will be finishing her third term at the end of this year.

Action items: Write article for the Equality Press for board members. Look for board members from Capital Gay Men and Seacoast Gay Men. Sheila will bring in a printout of the database next meeting for people to look over for ideas on who to tap for the board. Sheila will be at the Church at 5:30 pm to give people a chance to look over the list.

6. Organization Database

We will begin to build a GLBT Organization Database to assist in collaboration.

Action item: Board members should email Sheila contact information (including email) of GLBT organizations.

7. Newsletter

As of September's newsletter, we will begin going to a quarterly newsletter. The next printed newsletter will go out in December. Every 4-6 weeks David will publish an e-news letter to email to people who request it. Chapters should continue to send news to David as soon as it is known for inclusion in the enews.

Action items: Sheila will email Jeremy an updated copy of the database. Everyone should be

collecting email addresses and sending to Sheila. Jeremy will put the newsletter on the website and send an email blast to alert people that the newsletter is there, providing a link to our site, and a link to Adobe Acrobat so people can access the newsletter. Jeremy will also include an “opt out” link.

8. Website

Jeremy gave a website demonstration on how he updates our webpage. He has also added a web counter.

Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy

Sheila reported that Governor Benson has nominated Karen Testerman to the Commission on the Status of Women. Karen Testerman is the Chair of Corner Stone Policy Research, a conservative religious group. Karen Testerman has made several anti-gay, anti-choice, and anti-non Christian remarks to the media, and would not be a good candidate for the commission. NH Freedom to Marry has sent out an action alert requesting people to contact their Council-person to protest this nomination.

Membership

Sheila reported that there are currently 159 paid members.

Communications

Newsletter – After September, the newsletter will only be printed and mailed quarterly. An enews will be emailed to subscribers every 4-6 weeks. People should send news to David on a regular basis for inclusion in either the enews or the printed newsletter.

Website – Jeremy gave a demonstration on his laptop of how he updates the website.

Finance

The end of the 2003 fiscal year is September 30th. All receipts needing reimbursement should be submitted by then.

Chapter Reports

Upper Valley

The Upper Valley Chapter of PFLAG NH met on Monday September 8 in auditorium A at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical center at 7:00 pm. Three individuals were present. We had a general discussion and were especially happy to note that a co-worker of one of the people present was successfully transitioning from male to female on the job with general acceptance. We are also looking into ways to raise money for the state organization with each person to look for donors.
- BarbieAnn Rounds

Plymouth

The monthly meeting in Plymouth was held Tuesday, September 9th. There were six of us in attendance. The representative from the Dean campaign in this area attended. We all had a sharing exchange. Mike M. informed us about NHFTM concerns.

Lakes Region

We had 5 people attend our Lakes Region Chapter meeting last night. There was a teenager attending for the first time. Also, we had a very good day at our table for Multicultural Market Day. The local newspaper interviewed two members, Gayle Spelman and Lou Hobbs. We plan to have a speaker in Oct or Nov. – Paula.

North Country

Neither Kit nor I could make the meeting last month, so it was cancelled. During the month I heard from two people and provided each with some information. One is a prisoner at Berlin who is looking for someone with whom he can exchange letters. The other is a recently arrived local resident who is looking for a local contact.

On the evening of September 18th we participated in an event held at St Paul's Episcopal Church entitled a: *Teaching Seminar on Homosexuality and the Christian Church*. The evening began and ended with a brief video movie. Each movie showed a portion of the life of Rev Janie Spahr, her family's and the church's response to her coming-out after more than a dozen years of marriage. In-between were two talks. The first was be given by Dr. Robert Christie, a local retired physician and Episcopalian. Dr. Christie presented an enlightened examination of the

physical characteristics of homosexuality among human beings.

The second presentation was given by Rev. Andy Jepson, pastor of the United Church of Christ and United Methodist parish in Berlin. Rev. Jepson focused our learning on homosexuality and the Bible. She reviewed some of the Bible passages which reference homosexuality and discussed the history of their interpretation.

The talks were open to the public. They were offered as a way to further promote peace, cooperation, understanding and tolerance in our families, our communities and the world.

Concord

Twelve people attended, including four new folks. Roberta Barry our State Council President also joined us. Discussion on trans issues. Program by BarbieAnn followed. New person discussed dynamics with his closeted brother. Another guest expressed how his family is accepting of his wife's two lesbian sisters. This gentleman has children also. Paul lead a discussion on coming out, work problems etc.

Announcements:

Roberta updated us on the many events in Keene. Speaker series starting on 10/8/03. Raffle idea for the state council. Margie reminded everyone about our Oct and Nov programs. Oct. will be

youth speakers and Nov will be a reading by author Clair Robson of her memoir "Love in Good Time"

Program by BarbieAnn Rounds: She is There: "Live In More Than One Gender" Barbie showed a short video from a 20/20 interview of FTM Tony Baretto-Neto and his challenges in his Florida police work, his family acceptance and his adjustments after surgery. Next she told her story and did a brief educational piece. Many questions were asked as Barbie passed around before and after pictures of herself and her 3 birth certificates. Excellent program Barbie.. Thank you.

Keene – Not Submitted Yet.

Seacoast – Not Submitted Yet.

Other Business:

The next board meeting will be held October 21, 2003, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant