

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

October 21, 2003  
Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on October 21, 2003, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

Attending: Carol, BarbieAnn, Jeremy, Margie, Roberta, Lisa, Gayle, and Ursula.

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

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted. (BarbieAnn, Ursula)

## 1. Future of the Board

Roberta opened the meeting with a discussion about the future of the board, and how much time we feel we can all give to this board on a personal basis. Lisa discussed how we might be able to support the individual chapters better and how we need to get our energy focused back on the smaller chapters for support. BarbieAnn suggested asking other members of our chapters to become the chapter chairperson to the board.

## 2. Membership Letter

Roberta suggested we each write a more personalized note to add to our chapters' membership letters. It was suggested to send membership letters to all people who have attended even one support meeting.

**Action item:** Please encourage all your chapter supporters to become paying members of PFLAG!

## Chapter Reports

### Upper Valley

The Upper Valley Chapter of PFLAG New Hampshire met on Monday October 13 at 7:00 pm. in Auditorium A of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Four individuals were present and the meeting (shortened to allow people to watch the Red Sox game) consisted of general support and discussion.

On Sunday October 19, BarbieAnn rounds of the Upper Valley chapter spoke with teen peer counselors at the Woodstock (Vermont) High School on transgender issues.

### Plymouth

None Received.

### Lakes Region

Only two people attended the Oct. meeting. One was attending PFLAG for the first time. I told him about the history of PFLAG and a bit about my own connection. The other news from Laconia is that I have been asked to speak to a class at Plymouth State University. I plan to take some PFLAG Literature and tell our family's "story". I believe the class is a postgraduate education class on Counseling. Will find out the exact name of the class and complete a speaker's form after the presentation.

### North Country

None Received.

### Concord

15 people attend the meeting. (This includes one new person and 5 students who were presenting a program later in the meeting). Discussion on diversity and this being Coming Out month. Paul shared the importance his men's group has had in his journey of coming out. He stated his fear in telling them years ago when the group was started that he was gay. They didn't have a problem and surprisingly he is the only gay man in the group. GSA's discussed and importance of allies. Lisa led a discussion "Can you tell an ally Gay/Straight acceptance". Religion and church experience discussed. Paul discussed the significance of "The Laramie Project" being shown at his church.

### Announcements:

Program to follow "Youth Coming Out Stories"; Gay Men's Chorus holiday program; New State Council Members needed. Gordon, Chris, Margie and Karla discussed panel PFLAG did at Southern New Hampshire Area Pride (SNHAP) on 9/24/03. Very well received. Lisa and Alicia spoke of the PFLAG table they had at Colby Sawyer's Parents weekend on 10/11/03. Lots of people came up to the table. Casey Family Services- On 10/16/03 Margie did a PFLAG presentation for 10 foster care folks plus staff. Well received. Any earlier program was cancel due to low turnout. They would like PFLAG back for some training they do at least one a year.

Nov. program – Clair Robson. Ashley announced GSA @ NEC's two programs for Nov. (Trans Program) and Dec. (Aids awareness). December will be Core Meeting and holiday potluck.

Program followed with 6 young people including two of our youth speakers Chris and Karla telling their coming out stories and to some, still their struggles with acceptance and other issues. Lisa facilitated and the power of these young people reminded us why we are allies and how importance PFLAG is.

### Keene

None Received.

### Seacoast

None Received.

## 3. Annual Meeting

Dates to be considered for the Annual Meeting are January 31 or February 7, 2004 to be held at the U.U. Church on Pleasant St. in Concord. It was suggested that we do a 50/50 raffle as a fundraiser.

#### 4. Copier

Ursula will obtain information about the make/model and size of the copier so we may determine the costs associated with its upkeep.

**Action item:** All board members need to give an estimate of how many copies per month they are producing.

#### 5. Nominating Committee

A nomination was made to invite Jeremy Winnick to become an official voting board member, as he has been such a strong supporter of our mission by attending almost all of our meetings. Roberta made the nomination, BarbieAnn seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve his election to the board. Jeremy accepted. Gayle submitted a nomination to the board for a new member: Louis Hobbs. We will request a short bio be submitted for review by the board, to be voted on at the annual meeting.

**Action items:** Write an article for the Equality Press to recruit other new board members. 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.

#### 6. Newsletter

As of September's newsletter, we have shifted to a quarterly newsletter. The next printed newsletter will go out in December, with a deadline of November 20th. Chapters should continue to send news to David as soon as possible for inclusion in the e-news.

**Action items:** Everyone should be collecting email addresses and sending them to Sheila. Jeremy will put the newsletter on the website.

#### Subcommittee Reports

##### **Curriculum Materials Project**

Roberta and Gordon have started collating materials and pamphlets, categorized by the audience to which we will be speaking. We would like to be able to have the materials available on the website so they may be both updated and downloaded more readily.

**Action item:** Everyone on the board should go through their chapter's materials to determine which items, if any, need to be updated. A determination should be made to which audience each pamphlet or worksheet would be appropriate. We should also consult PFLAG National to see if we are missing any valuable resources. Gayle agreed to do this research.

#### **Communication**

**Action item:** We all need to work on writing articles for the e-newsletter to submit to David Pendleton. (Tell your story—we know it's fascinating!)

#### **Advocacy**

We would like to purchase more gender-variant behavior pamphlets--"If You Are Concerned About Your Child's Gender Behaviors"--for distribution to physicians and other professionals. They are \$35 per 100.

#### **Speaker's Bureau**

Lisa reported on her many transgender speaking engagements. Margie reported on being invited to the Capital Region Family Health Center's Teen Care 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. As well, she has been invited to Tilton High School to speak. New England College will be planning a week in April to honor diversity. Chrissy Gephardt will be speaking at NEC this month.

#### **COLAGE**

There is a new group starting up, in conjunction with Rainbow Families. They are quite active in the Seacoast area. Ursula has made a few contacts in the Concord area as well.

#### **Advisory Board**

We would like to have another advisory board meeting in the spring (possibly May 6<sup>th</sup>), like the May meeting last year with Peggy Gage, to get feedback from NH professionals on how we can get our message out to the public.

#### **Other Business:**

We would like to design a PFLAG "Safe Space" sticker to send to all our advocates so they may display them in their offices.

The next board meeting will be held November 18, 2003, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Spelman  
Secretary