

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

December 16, 2003

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on December 16, 2003, at 167 West Road, Canterbury, NH.

Attending: Carol, Jeremy, Gordon, Margie, Roberta, Gayle, Cheryl, and Sheila.
Guests: Cy Sherman

Roberta opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. The meeting began late due to a holiday potluck dinner and yankee swap.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

1. Resources

Roberta gave everyone a video and quiz on LGBT issues to use at speaking engagements for high school students.

Action Item: Jeremy will put “*Tips for a Happy Holiday*” on the website.

2. Advisory Meeting

The Advisory Meeting has been scheduled for May 20th. Advisory participants will not be specially invited to the annual meeting. Gene Robinson has agreed to be on the advisory board.

Action Item: Carol will draft an invitation letter to advisory members.

3. Regional Director Position

Roberta is considering taking over the position of Regional Director after Peg resigns.

4. Votes from last meeting without a quorum

Gordon spoke with Lisa Hartley, Kit Carter, and Duncan McInnes who all voted yes to the motions not able to pass at the last meeting for a lack of a quorum. These motions were:

- Accept Sheila and Cheryl’s resignation plan
- Attend the Women’s Expo and share costs and table with NH Freedom to Marry Coalition and Education Fund.
- Put the curriculum manual on the internet instead of printing them.
- Plans for the annual meeting.

5. Nominating Committee

New board members nominated are: Sheila Dion, Cheryl Elliott, Louis Hobbs, Jeremy Winnick
Returning board members are: Roberta Barry, Lisa Hartley, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds

Action Items: The nominating committee will coordinate the mailing of the annual meeting invitation and ballots to paid members by December 19th. Sheila will provide the mailing labels. The nominating committee will have a slate of officers by the January meeting.

6. Board Structure and Bylaws

Due to the increasing difficulty to achieve a quorum at meetings, it was suggested that the board structure and bylaws be amended in the following ways:

- Article V, section 1: Election and Numbers states “there shall be six or more directors as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. Of these, at least one must be from each of the regional chapters”.
 - The proposed amendment would add (something to the effect of): If a Board Director from a chapter (or chapters) cannot be found, who would attend at least 50% of State Council meetings, then that chapter will appoint a chapter representative who will agree to receive all communications from the State Council, and will agree to provide chapter reports and other communications on a regular basis. That chapter will not have a vote at the State Council meetings until such time as a fully active Board Director can be found to participate in the State Council, and may be appointed at any time by the State Council.

The purpose of this change is to avoid the inability of the State Council to do business as a result of not having a quorum (4 times this year) because at least two chapter board members not attending State Council meetings due to distance or other commitments.

- Article V, section 5: Board Meetings states “Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on such date and at such time and place as the board shall designate at least one month in advance....”
 - The proposed amendment would add (something to the effect of): It is the responsibility of each Board of Director to attend no less than 50% of all regularly scheduled meetings to remain a voting member on the board. If a Board Director consistently misses regularly scheduled meetings without just cause, the Board of Directors may vote to ask the Board Director to resign.

The purpose of this change is to avoid the inability of the State Council to do business as a result of not having a quorum (4 times this year) because of board members consistently not attending State Council meetings..

Action Item: Be prepared to discuss these proposed amendments and the next meeting. The above language of the amendments is only suggested wording. Feel free to come up with your own versions!

7. Helpline

Sheila expressed concern that she is missing several helpline calls because she is not home during the day. She suggested that it might be better if someone else who is home more took over the helpline.

Outcome: This issue is tabled until after the helpline logs can be tallied and phone bill examined for the cost of handling the Gay Info Line.

Action Item: Gayle will answer the helpline while Sheila is on vacation.

8. Summer Intern Donation

Roberta made a motion that we send our summer intern, Katie Sullivan, \$100 for the work she did on the Safe Schools Database last summer, to show our appreciation. Gordon seconded the motion. Since there was not a quorum, the motion was tabled until other members could be contacted.

Action Item: Gordon will contact members not present for their vote on this matter.

9. Photocopier Donation

Ursula has found a source of a donated photocopier. The board needs to decide if we want this donation or not. Concerns include cost of cartridges and upkeep, costs of repair, and where it will be housed.

Action Item: Gordon will research costs involved.

Action Item: Jeremy will research his costs for printing from his printer.

10. Chapter Reports

Sheila reported that she has not been receiving chapter reports from every chapter, and not receiving them in time to include in the minutes. Chapter reports should be sent for the previous month before each meeting. For example, November chapter reports should be sent at least two weeks before the December meeting, so that they can be included in the November minutes.

Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy

The NH Freedom To Marry Coalition and Education Fund is looking at potentially putting up legislation for same-sex marriage in 2005. They will also be holding an event on January 29th to get interested GLBT people and allies, and GLBT organizations together to talk about the next step.

Membership

Sheila handed out final 2003 chapter rosters and final chapter payments to chapter leaders. The official count for 2003 was 157 paid members – our largest membership ever! She also reported that 2004

membership letter has been sent out and will report on numbers at the next meeting.

Communications/Website

Jeremy reported that it will cost about 2% of each donation or membership received through online donations.

Outcome: A motion was made to authorize Jeremy to set up a Paypal account to accept donations online.

Without a quorum, the motion was not able to pass.

Action Item: Gordon will contact board members not present and report at the next meeting.

Finance

Action Item: Cheryl handed out a 4th quarter financial report and a fiscal year end report.

Chapter Reports

Upper Valley - 12/08/03

The Upper Valley Chapter of PFLAG New Hampshire met Monday December 8 from 7-9 p.m. in Auditorium A of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Seven people were present and the meeting was devoted to support. A young married couple came for help dealing with their situation. The woman after dealing with depression had finally been able to come out as lesbian to herself and her husband. Our support consisted of listening, encouraging and providing other sources of help for both of them including the Straight Spouse Network. We helped them to face issues of coming out to family and friends and provided our own experiences and knowledge. The couple planned to return next month and we hope to be able to provide more help. These people clearly cared deeply for each other and were working to support each other through the changes in their lives. Our meeting was PFLAG at its best and most basic.

Plymouth – 12/9/03

I was the only person there for the first hour but the meeting moved to the PSU campus for the ALSO group meeting at 8pm. I brought cookies, pretzels and soda for their meeting, which was the last this semester. Two PFLAG members joined me there for the meeting.

Lakes Region - Not yet submitted

North Country

In preparation for our regularly scheduled meeting this month we announced that a spokesperson would be present from the Dean campaign. Both the spokesperson and one interested newcomer attended the meeting, along with the chapter chairperson, Kit Carter. Kit informed the Dean spokesperson about concerns regarding a potential, illegal endorsement by

PFLAG. Therefore no political campaigning or endorsement occurred at the meeting. With the arrival of an interested newcomer, the meeting was deemed a success.

Concord – 12/21/03

Eleven people attended.(One new) With mostly trans people in attendance, the discussion was centered around their issues - electrolysis, gifts which trans people have to be shared with others, visiting family during the Holidays, and hopes for the future. Paul reported that he had spoken about sexuality to the 7th/8th graders at his church (UU Church in Manchester). Margie reminded everyone that members cannot endorse political candidates as representatives of PFLAG. Lisa had spoken at the Southern New Hampshire Area Pride meeting in Nashua. Twenty-three people attended. Her talk centered around the

Gay/Lesbian community versus Transgender community and ways to find common ground.

Keene – Not yet submitted

Seacoast - Not yet submitted

Other Business:

The next board meeting will be held Gordon Sherman's house, at Havenwood, in Concord. A map is attached. Members not able to physically attend have the opportunity to attend via conference call. Please contact Gordon if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant