

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
Havenwood Auditorium, Concord, NH
7 February 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 13:04.

Roberta opened the program portion of the meeting by honoring the memory of long-time PFLAG friend Hans Kaufman who passed away last week. Roberta noted that the meeting today was dedicated to Hans and Lynn.

Roberta pointed out the "clothesline" display depicting a sequence of stories as well as an abbreviated GLBT and PFLAG history. She also discussed some of the ways in which PFLAG-NH is trying to get the word out to schools in the state.

Program

Rev. Robert Wood, Guest Speaker

Roberta introduced the special guest speaker, Rev. Robert Wood. She described how different the country was in the late 1950s when Rev. Wood's book *Christ and the Homosexual* was written.

Rev. Wood opened by noting that the fight against discrimination hasn't ended; that he recently convinced the Havenwood management to cease discrimination based on sexual orientation. He then discussed his own history and walked through his slides on the clothesline, including Hitler's Germany, the McCarthy era, the genesis of organized gay movement in 1951 (not 1969), court-ordered lobotomies in the '60s, Stonewall, AIDS. He received a standing ovation after the presentation.

Report from the Elders

Gordon and Cy Sherman and Betsy Janeway stood to discuss the early days of PFLAG. Gordon suggested that we write President George Bush an e-mail every day, since someone in Washington, DC is reading them.

Roberta presented daffodils to the Elders in thanks for their continuing efforts.

Vice-president's Report (Margie Lindsley)

Margie urged everyone to write to their representatives concerning the gay marriage issue. Discussed SB427 and its implications: the loss of 1049 federal benefits granted to married people. Reminded everyone that Vermont's civil unions only provide state benefits, and only in Vermont. Also discussed military policy, hate crimes, and the Texas sodomy law. Betsy added that a phone call to a representative has the same impact as 5 e-mails.

Vice-president's Report (Carol Perkins)

Carol discussed the up-coming advisory meeting to be held on Thursday, May 13. She revealed both of the guest speakers; the first will be her son Jeff Perkins, who has written *You have the Power; Choosing Courage in a Culture of Fear*, scheduled to be released May 10. The other will be Bishop Gene Robinson. There will be lots of other

advisory people too. The meeting will be held from 7-9pm, with dessert refreshments.

Video Presentation

(The video was produced by the Independent Judiciary, focusing on the 3 most extreme of President Bush's judicial appointments.)

GLBT Present and Future

Roberta fears a well-organized, well-funded movement to restrict rights of GLBT folk, due to the concept of "gay is sin." She urged folks to support GLBT organizations that work towards equality for all, and to give them their time and money. She thanked Sheila for her work in producing the Annual Report. She noted that on the wall behind her was 50 feet of clothesline representing 50 years of GLBT history, but that she had another 50 feet of clothesline ready to go, an open slate that is up to us to define.

A representative from NH Freedom to Marry stood to discuss their Website, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling, and the recent and upcoming rallies. She also issued a request for volunteers to stuff envelopes, sign and circulate petitions, and consider appearing on NH Public Television.

Award Presentation (by Gayle Spelman)

Gayle recognized Paula Spink on the occasion of her last board meeting, noting that she must now step down from the board after 6 years of service. She presented a plaque thanking Paula for her years of work. Roberta presented her with a guardian angel pin too. Paula promised to remain active at the Lakes Region chapter. and noted that PFLAG has helped her stay close to her gay son.

Award Presentation (by Roberta Barry)

Roberta recognized Jean Blyle for starting the Keene Chapter and for getting her involved in PFLAG-NH.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Betsy Janeway **moved** to accept the minutes of the 2003 annual meeting as written. Gordon Sherman seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Nominating Committee

Gordon distributed ballots and answered questions about write-ins and proxy ballots. Final nominations: Roberta Barry, Lisa Hartley, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Sheila Dion, Cheryl Elliott, Louis Hobbs (Lakes Region and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), Jeremy Winnick, and Marianne Storer. He additionally asked members to consider a write-in vote for Alicia Maggio (Concord).

Annual Report

Roberta highlighted certain items within the report:

- the improving membership numbers.
- collaboration with other like-minded organizations to reduce the duplication of efforts, like GLSEN.
- the Monadnock High School quiz, the results of which indicate that there is plenty of work to do to educate youth about GLBT issues.
- NH Child Advocacy Network.
- the newsletter, noting that volunteers are needed.
- the e-newsletter, noting that articles pertinent to local chapter news and programs are needed.
- the national convention coming up this year, noting that she hopes that representatives from each chapter will be present.
- Speaker Bureau, noting that the need for speakers is great and that people should not fear their ability to do this.

Transgender Report

Lisa Hartley introduced Louis, Alicia, and Marianne, and discussed events going on. She noted that the Transgender Network is a national group that is forming

a connector to PFLAG. Officially it is not a part of PFLAG, though, so it's developing its own set of bylaws and 501(c)(3) exemption. She highlighted their challenges, noting that 99 percent of psychiatrists do not understand transgender issues and still believe that it is a mental disease.

Committee Signups

Roberta read through the committee requirements and asked for people to sign up. She invited attendees to attend the next state board meeting, to be held on February 17 and continuing on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Cy and Gordon's apartment. Jack Barry reminded everyone that PFLAG needs \$15,000 to run each year, so a commitment of money is just as valuable as a commitment of time.

Adjournment

Alicia **moved** to adjourn. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 14:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, Webmaster