

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

324 Havenwood Heights, Concord, NH

17 February 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 18:41, asking for a moment of silence to commemorate Ken's and Barbie's separation.

Directors Present: Roberta Barry, Sheila Dion, Cheryl Elliott, Lisa Hartley, Louis Hobbs, Margie Lindsley, Duncan McInnes, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Marianne Storer, Jeremy Winnick

Directors Absent: Kit Carter, Sandy Conley, Ursula Kneissl, Alicia Maggio

Guests: Pat

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Gordon **moved** to accept the minutes of the 1/20 meeting as written. Duncan seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Treasury/Membership

Cheryl is awaiting financial reports from the Keene, Lakes Region, North Country, and Upper Valley chapters. She noted that the deadline for filing with the State is March 15 and that failure to file by the deadline results in a \$150 fine. Gordon offered to contact Kit regarding the North Country report.

Sheila reported that there are 108 paid members.

Newsletter

Roberta, Gordon, and Sheila discussed the logistics of handling the quarterly newsletter assembly.

Roberta reported that the newsletter committee now includes Paula Spink, Gayle, and Lisa Brown; each signed up at the Annual Meeting. Sheila noted that about 800 newsletters are mailed out; thus, it remains a great tool for chapter visibility and local chapter news.

Speaker Bureau

Sheila distributed a Speaker Bureau brochure that had been updated to include transgender info. She asked for everyone to read them carefully and make additional edits.

Roberta reminded everyone that PFLAG-NH was scheduled to speak at one of the programs in the Rainbow Series Workshops in Manchester, but no one knew which program we were invited to. Gayle agreed to track this down.

Discussion of upcoming speaker bureau engagements: March 12 at the Red Blazer in Concord, a state conference; Roberta and Lisa will discuss homophobia. May 19 in Shrewsbury MA, Roberta will speak at a library-based event.

Sheila urged everyone to submit the Web-based form for every speaking engagement, highlighting the importance toward future grants and also noting that mileage to/from each event is tax deductible.

Sheila reported that she has redesigned the speaker bureau form; it is currently under review by Roberta and Margie.

Day of Remembrance Committee

Lisa asked if she could create another committee to organize a Day of Remembrance, an internationally-recognized event that remembers the transgendered men and women who were murdered over the past year.

Annual Meeting Post Mortem

Roberta thanked everyone for attending despite the threat of inclement weather. Sheila suggested that the Annual meeting be pushed off to March or April in the future.

Lisa praised the facility and meeting organization, hoped that more transgender-based items would be included next year, and wondered whether the Rev. Robert Wood would be willing to be more involved in PFLAG.

Roberta recommended that he be invited to give his entire 90-minute presentation at an open-to-the-public meeting held by the Concord chapter.

Roberta noted that she has agreed to be nominated to replace Peg Gage at the national level.

Helpline

Sheila brought everyone up-to-date on the types of calls coming into the helpline. She noted that when she actually is able to take a call and that call is asking for information, she uses the Rainbow Resources Website to find it.

Cheryl noted that they could use call forwarding if anyone wanted to have a trial run at handling the helpline calls, but noted that there's a cost involved with that. Gordon offered to take over the helpline. Roberta asked that Sheila and Gordon figure out the technical details, including how to handle the local number change and caller ID issues.

May Advisory Meeting

The theme of this meeting will be "Conquering Fears" and will be held on May 13, 7pm, at Havenwood Auditorium. It will not be a potluck, but there will be dessert refreshments provided.

Gordon distributed letterhead to everyone; asked that it be used to create invitations. Roberta recommended that the invitations be personal and include a mention of the guest speakers for the program, Bishop Gene Robinson and Carol's son Jeff Perkins.

Roberta noted that this meeting is an open meeting, not just reserved for the Advisory Council. Thus, she asked that this invitation be (1) distributed from a central location to all PFLAG members via the membership database, (2) sent personally from each of us to all non-members who would not be in the database but who might have something to contribute, and (3) posted on the Website.

Website/E-newsletter/Curriculum Scans/PayPal

Jeremy reported that doing the minutes for PFLAG is taking up a lot of time but that he hopes to be more efficient in the future. Alas, the online donation capability is not yet available on the Website.

Brief discussion on a computer for PFLAG. Roberta proposed that \$1000 of grant money be used to purchase a laptop computer for use by the PFLAG-NH board.

Jeremy also reported that he has not yet installed the OCR software for the curriculum scans. Roberta asked to be educated on how to do this so that she can do it in the future.

Media & Political Watch

BarbieAnn provided a report, observing that the red-hot issue of the year is gay marriage and that all three branches of government are engrossed in it. She noted that the wording of the issue will deeply affect its outcome; for example, "protecting families" vs. "denial of civil rights". Lisa added that most states already have discrimination laws, and thus efforts to remove rights will be followed with discrimination lawsuits.

Sheila reported on a recent poll of married couples in NH, noting that 55% favor same-sex marriage, while 42% oppose.

Church Contract Renewal

Roberta reported that the rental agreement with the Congregational Church expires in March. We can renew for another year or continue to meet at Gordon's.

BarbieAnn **moved** to dissolve our relationship with Congregational Church and continue to meet at Gordon's. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Miscellany

Sheila offered to do membership-related queries to assist chapters with their outreach efforts.

Jeremy asked if a "final" 2004 board listing will be published soon, so that the Website listing can be updated. Gordon agreed to send out the final listing.

Sheila asked whether Betty Batchelder should be on the board e-mail exploder.

Marianne asked if NH TREE (Transgendered Resources for Education and Empowerment) can link to PFLAG-NH. She noted that the 2nd Annual Spring Summit for NH TREE is April 24.

Chapter Reports

Jeremy asked for clarification on how/when to insert chapter reports in the minutes. Sheila noted that all February reports should be in the February minutes, even though some chapter meetings have not yet occurred at the time of the state board meeting.

Sheila reminded the board that the minutes are a public record, so the reports must be written with discretion.

Keene

Roberta reported that she's handling all of the organization of the Keene chapter, which will shortly need to change if she's moving up to national PFLAG.

At the last Keene meeting, 12 members attending, providing for very rich, multi-generational discussions. She again credited the recent Keene chapter success to her work at the local schools and high visibility with the Keene Speaker Series and being on the radio.

Straight Spouse Network

Duncan was the only one there...nothing to report.

Seacoast

Duncan reported a support group-format meeting with 6 attendees, mostly core group. He noted that one church agreed to have a meeting notice in their bulletin, but only one month.

Marianne noted that she is now the Seacoast board liaison for the Seacoast.

Upper Valley

BarbieAnn said that there likely was a meeting held, but that she couldn't report on it due to her flu-induced absence. She reported that she spoke recently at a medical panel where she told everyone there that the best way for them to establish a welcoming presence is to have PFLAG information available for those who might need it.

Concord

Margie reported that Beth and Ruth from NH Freedom to Marry were guests at the chapter meeting.

Lakes Region

Gayle reported 7 attendees, including a new 18-year-old man who wants to start an Outright group in that area.

North Country

David reported "I came, they didn't, I left."

Plymouth

Carol noted that a new attendee, a married nursing student, came to the meeting looking for support after her gay best friend was killed in an accident. Also, another (not new) gentleman attended, and everyone watched Roberta's video.

Also reported:

- The local newspaper did print her article, but edited it and included it during the wrong week.
- She's talked to all the guidance counselors in her area. Plymouth school has a GSA called Students for

Diversity, but it's dormant. She offered to help keep the GSA alive, but found resistance.

- She will attend a spaghetti supper at Plymouth State University, hosted by a group that had attended a marriage rally.

Adjournment

BarbieAnn **moved** to adjourn. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, Webmaster