

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Havenwood Heights Chapel, Concord, NH

16 November 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 18:38.

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

Directors absent: Alicia Maggio, Kit Carter

Gordon opened the meeting with a quote: "Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue."

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Gordon **moved** to accept the October board meeting minutes as written. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Case Update

Roberta reported that she attempted to contact Ms. Vachon, but the call was not returned. Roberta did send the board's decision to Sheila, but the report was so recent that there would not have been sufficient time for a reply. She noted that it is still too soon to have Sheila speak before the board.

Treasurer

Gordon distributed the treasurer's report and noted highlights, including \$250 received from Gayle and Louis for sales at the Holly Near concert. Louis noted that it was less about the food and more about great sales that made this a very successful day. (*Applause.*) He did share a "lesson learned" from the event: always make sure that there's plenty of water on hand, and turn up the heat.

Gordon noted that the ending balance as of 11/5 is \$760.94, with a telephone bill still to pay and \$174 for Microsoft Office 2003, which was installed onto the new laptop during the meeting.

BarbieAnn **moved** to nominate Gordon, Marianne, Pat, Carol, Margie, and Jeremy to a new "computer" committee. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously.

Pat asked if the laptop had anti-virus software. Jeremy said that it wouldn't be needed unless we go online or start loading software; Pat noted that if we're sharing the database on a CD, we potentially infect the new PC. Jeremy duly noted the observation.

Lisa **moved** to accept the treasurer's report for audit. Carol seconded. Passed unanimously. Gordon reiterated the importance of the qualifier "for audit" since we can, during the meeting, only accept his version of what was reported; the audit will provide a secondary validation of the data.

Political Watch

BarbieAnn provided an update on the state of the union, post-election.

Duncan discussed a type of training, the main premise of which is how to keep folks from standing in your way without necessarily bringing them to your point of view. Gordon asked Duncan to send to the board more information about this training.

Roberta shared a positive, front-page NH Business Review article on the North Country Inn, run by Ed and Wes.

Marianne reported that a gay marriage announcement appeared recently in the Portsmouth Herald.

2004 Conference

Roberta reminded everyone that her commentary on the 2004 Conference is available on the Website.

Roberta had on hand a number of books picked up at the conference, and discussed how some of these books might get to the chapters.

Roberta reported that she wants to host a regional conference that includes several GLBT organizations. She wants to bring in Robert Meyer (author of "Gay & Healthy in a Sick Society"). She hopes to do this is late 2005 or 2006.

National & The Reorganization

Margie reported that National's Website is being updated and there will be lots of download material, including information on how to run local chapters and state board. This material should be available by the end of year. Roberta noted that the National staff is struggling too; their staff is young and underpaid. They are also searching for a new director.

Roberta opened a discussion on how National PFLAG factors into the new local structure. She noted that National has provided roster lists (names only) and instructions, as well as the amount of money that would be due to National if all the names on the list renewed their membership for 2005. Each chapter will be required to provide the membership lists and money to national on January 1 of each year. National gets \$15 per family.

Roberta noted that the board has not yet voted to defer the membership drives, mailings, and database upkeep to each individual chapter. Duncan asked who would be writing a letter to explain this change to all members. Roberta said that if the change is adopted by the board, she would be writing the letter, along with a template for each chapter. She distributed a hardcopy form to each chapter for the updating of their membership database.

Carol asked that this letter be mailed by the first of the year.

Roberta reported that National will be sending verifications of membership to each chapter at least once per year. Margie asked whether she could get a membership listing from National on demand.

Duncan asked about the tax exempt status and who files what. Roberta noted that each chapter has filled out the paperwork to be covered under National's 501(c)(3) status. Each chapter must file annual financial statements to National; National takes care of the IRS stuff. However, the state board is not covered under National's 501(c)(3) status; it has its own 501(c)(3) status; so it must still file with the Secretary of State separately.

Roberta reported that National is encouraging each state to create "coordinatorships" instead of having a state board. When done this way, there is no bylaws, no annual meetings, and no complicated legal rules, but there is still advisory meetings and speaker bureaus. Lisa added that the state would continue to be a central repository of records and would serve as a "checks and balances" for the chapters.

Gordon **moved** to accept the reorganizational structure as proposed by Roberta in August. Duncan noted that he first needs to bring the draft structure to a Seacoast core meeting; Lisa asked that the questions raised there be brought back to the state board. Duncan noted that one of the questions that will be raised is the confidentiality of the database.

Roberta noted that the board as it is, with its bylaws, will cease to exist. Duncan noted that specifics about how the state will perform checks and balances for the chapters is not clearly specified in the reorganizational draft.

BarbieAnn asked that each chapter discuss the structure and be ready to vote on it in December. Roberta added that there is no rush for the chapters to send out their membership renewal letters until after this vote is taken.

Gordon **moved** to table the vote on the restructuring and dues to next month. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously.

Roberta reported that National is coming out with a PR piece that should help spread the word about PFLAG and bring people into the chapters. She added that National gives out scholarships to students. She distributed the scholarship information and asked the chapters to get this information to the school counselors at their local school districts. The packet includes a cover letter, an application instruction form, and the application itself. The deadline for the applications is February 15. She noted that there is also sufficient information included on how to write a press release.

Speaker Bureau

Louis and BarbieAnn reported on their most recent speaking engagements.

Miscellaneous

Lisa announced a new book, called *Transgendering Faith*.

Roberta distributed a safe-schools summary and discussed highlights.

Roberta distributed bumper stickers and 30th Anniversary pins to each chapter.

Chapter Reports

Plymouth

Carol reported attendance of 5 at her last meeting.

Concord – (from Margie via e-mail)

Eleven people attended. (2 new) New gentleman is an ally who spoke of connection with the Quaker church. He's interested in knowing about our PFLAG events. Brief discussion on our events during the year including Boston pride march. Paul, Lou, and Gayle discussed Holly Near Concert and success of our table and networking with the other 3 organizations. PFLAG made \$245 for food and \$298 for ticket sales which will be split between Concord, Lakes region and the board.

New mom has 20-year-old daughter who just came out. Discussion on support.

Margie gave a brief overview of the PFLAG National Convention she attended with Robert Barry in Salt Lake City, UT.

Announcements: Gordon explained the UCC National Coalition for LBGT Concerns will have workshops here at the First Congregational Church on 4/30/05.

Margie explained the application for PFLAG National's Scholarship program for high school seniors. We will have a brief core meeting after the program today to discuss the change in dues collection from the board to each chapter and the new roster system from National.

Program followed meeting by Lou Hobbs who spoke on trans issues and showed the video "Transamazon - A Gender Queer Journey" by Joelle Ruby Ryan. All enjoyed the program.

Adjournment

Roberta asked to combine the Concord chapter meeting with the state board meeting. It would be held on Sunday, December 19. As such, it can be made into a Christmas party instead of just a board meeting. It will be held at the First Congregational Church on the corner of Main St. and Washington Street, adjacent to the Hess station. BarbieAnn **moved** to make it so. Louis seconded. Passed unanimously.

Marianne **moved** to adjourn. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:49.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary