

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors First Congregational Church, Concord, NH 19 December 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 13:11.

Directors present: Roberta Barry, Lisa Hartley, Louis Hobbs, Margie Lindsley, Alicia Maggio, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick

Directors absent: Kit Carter, Duncan McInnes, Marianne Storer, Pat Storer

One guest was present, a friend of Alicia's.

The meeting opened with a Yankee gift swap, and the most-swapped gift this year was a yellow and pink stuffed pig that could be used as a floatation device.

Roberta shared a brochure she found that listed all the benefits of marriage in fine print and multiple columns on one side. On the back, it listed all the benefits for same-sex couples: "nothing."

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Gordon **moved** to accept the November board meeting minutes as written. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Restructuring

Roberta reiterated the positive impacts of the restructuring plan. She noted that the core of the plan is the reassignment of duties from the state to the chapter.

Each chapter must send year-end financial statements to National. Financially, the chapters are covered under National's 501(c)(3) status. Each chapter must send \$15 of each membership's dues to National. After that, each chapter determines how much to keep and how much to send to the state council. She reminded everyone that this is a reversal of what we've done before.

Roberta noted that there are still some unanswered questions concerning the legality of dissolving the state board, so at this time, a vote to restructure cannot include this aspect. Nevertheless, she noted that the cost of operation for the state council will be much less. The membership database will be simplified and the Website will play a key role in our operation. Lisa added that the state council will be able to be a point of contact to resolve chapter issues with National.

Louis questioned the trustworthiness of National with respect to financials and database. He noted that he has attempted to be the T-coordinator for National several times but they have not sent any information to him.

Gordon **moved** to accept the restructuring organization. BarbieAnn seconded. Carol asked how the state board would be affected right now while legal questions remain unanswered. Roberta noted that in name, we will be a "Council"; however, changing and redefining the present

board with its bylaws and 501(c)(3) status will be a process defined by the case involving the Attorney General. The goal will be to dissolve the "Board." The 501(c)(3) status will be determined following the resolution of the case. She stressed that a vote in favor today is a vote to proceed with the process, not to change everything overnight. Gordon called the question to a vote. Passed unanimously.

Case Update

Roberta noted that the case continues and that the next update may be in January or February. As before, we still must be quiet about details. Roberta will write a letter to explain to all members the situation, but cannot do it until the case goes to trial.

Lisa asked what can be disclosed at this time to the membership, and how, when we collect dues, we explain to them that there is no newsletter.

Roberta recommended the following statement be used when communicating to the at-large membership as we update chapter databases: "We are presently restructuring the state PFLAG organization. We do not know when a printed newsletter will be produced; however, one can go to <http://pflagnh.org> to read the e-newsletter. Dues and membership affiliation with National will be handled by each chapter."

Treasurer

Gordon distributed the treasurer's report and discussed highlights. He noted that our Fidelity account is down to \$127.16 and they are charging us \$12-15 per month to maintain it, which has been the case ever since the account dropped below \$1000.

Gordon **moved** to close the Fidelity account and transfer it to savings. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Carol noted that John Monroe is still a signatory on the account. Roberta asked her to contact him.

Roberta noted that the State has fined us \$50 for late filing of employment security paperwork. She tried to have the fine forgiven, but the State denied it. Gordon noted that the fine has been paid.

Lisa **moved** to accept the treasurer's report for audit. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Roberta noted that with Gordon's recent illness, the database update work has not yet been done. She asked that the computer committee get together after the holidays to get the database update work done.

BarbieAnn offered to take over on the ledgering of financial data in QuickBooks, MS Money, or Excel; she said she would have time to do this after the holidays.

Membership Form/Dues

Carol reported that she sent a draft membership form to the board via e-mail. Roberta invited the chapters to customize the form for their particular chapter, but asked

that the form continue to list all chapters so that attendees will know their options.

Roberta asked that the chapters urge members to sign up for the e-newsletter, stressing the cost savings.

She stressed that each chapter must adhere to the rules of confidentiality with regard to member contact information. She also noted that National no longer guarantees that their mailings will be devoid of the PFLAG logo.

Discussion about requiring a signature (no, since there is no age limit). Discussion about adding a line for an extra donation (yes). Roberta reminded the chapters to update the mailing address on the form.

Roberta noted that chapters may specify new levels of membership (student, senior, etc.) Louis asked how special discounted memberships will be paid to National. Gayle noted that the chapter would have to make up the difference, if any.

Lisa and Margie stressed the need to keep the dues structure equivalent between chapters. BarbieAnn **moved** to set the membership fees at \$25/individual, \$35/family, and \$15/student or senior for all chapters, and each chapter determines what percentage is maintained in the chapter and what is sent to the state council. Carol seconded. Passed unanimously.

Lisa asked Jeremy to make an online version of the membership form. Jeremy agreed.

BarbieAnn **moved** to accept the new dues structure. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously.

New Meeting Location/Date

Roberta expressed her gratitude to Gordon, Cy, and Havenwood for their generous hospitality in the past year of monthly meetings. Carol reported that we have been given an opportunity to meet at the E. Concord Episcopal Church but would need to change our meeting day of the month to accommodate their scheduled meetings.

Roberta asked that Gordon and Cy inform us if hosting us at Havenwood becomes too stressful for them given Gordon's possible future treatments. At that time we can consider the E. Concord Church alternative. Until then, we will maintain our regular meeting space and time and enjoy the Sherman hospitality with thanks. Lisa **moved** to make it so. Alicia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Announcements/Miscellaneous

Margie announced that the theater department at NEC will be performing *The Laramie Project* on April 21-24.

Roberta announced that National's redesigned Website has been launched and is stocked full of information, including information to support chapters.

Jeremy announced that he will not be able to attend the January meeting and that someone will need to replace him to take the minutes.

Alicia announced that she has tried to contact the Women's Expo 3 or 4 times. She believes that we will have to

forget about it this year. The board agreed that that might be a good idea.

Roberta announced that Leanne Tigert wants us to help sponsor a book-signing for her *Transgendering Faith* book.

Roberta distributed a letter she had written to the National leadership introducing her vision for the role to which she has been elected. She reminded everyone of the importance of telling our stories.

Margie asked that we update the board contact list before we perform the database update.

Roberta noted that there is no need to plan for an Annual Meeting at this time. Once the disposition of the state board is known, we can discuss it at that time.

Chapter Reports

Concord (provided via e-mail)

Eight members attended, no new people. Discussion on Gay Men's Chorus table's for their concerts. Paul and Marcrofts manned the table at several of the concerts. We were well received and obtained a few donations. Also discussion on GLBT-friendly companies. In January we'll discuss program ideas for the year.

Upper Valley

BarbieAnn reported an attendance of 7 this month. They held a brainstorming session to bring together supportive clergy and church members to discuss the negativity coming out of church groups. They also discussed the reorganization and were in favor of it. In January, they will have a "bring your checkbook" meeting to renew everyone. The Upper Valley chapter will split dues with the state council.

BarbieAnn warned that Peg Gage has unofficially christened the west side of the CT river as a separate chapter called the White River Junction chapter. She noted that this is nothing to worry about, as it is one of Peg's "projects" to create a real chapter there someday.

Lakes Region

Gayle reported an attendance of 8 this month. She held a holiday potluck and brainstormed with the core group.

Plymouth

Carol had planned a Christmas party this month but had no attendees. She wants to distribute a calendar to attendees that show the chapter meeting dates throughout the year, to draw attendees back.

Adjournment

Roberta announced that the next regular meeting will be at Havenwood on Tuesday, January 18.

Lisa **moved** to adjourn. Alicia seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 15:04.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary