

# *Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH*

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
The Chapel at Havenwood Heights, Concord, NH  
22 February 2005

## **Call to Order**

Roberta called the meeting to order at 18:45.

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

Directors absent: Kit Carter, Marianne Storer

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

Carol read a blessing written by Bishop Gene Robinson.

Roberta presented an "Academy" award to BarbieAnn for her performance at the Vagina Monologues earlier this month. The "Oscar" was accompanied by a story about Buster the Bunny.

## **Minutes of Prior Meetings**

Gayle asked if the minutes could be amended to include the list of attendees and absences. Pat agreed. Lisa **moved** to accept the minutes as amended. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously. Roberta asked Pat to send the amended minutes to Jeremy for his files. Pat agreed.

## **Business**

### Case Update

Roberta and Carol reported having been approached by Sheila at a local restaurant. They reported their conversation with her and asked that the details be kept off the record.

Roberta read from a letter received from Wayne P. Coull, Deputy County Attorney. He urges us to write Victim Impact statements and submit them. Roberta distributed copies of the statement form, urging everyone to fill them out. She acknowledged that such statements might be highly personal in nature and did not want to see them, so she asked that they be returned to Wayne Coull, Deputy County Attorney, directly. Margie added that they must be submitted before sentencing on 4/19, and noted that what is said in the statements may affect the sentencing.

Lisa asked how the membership will respond to the news, whether they might walk away or give even more generously than before. BarbieAnn noted that her chapter, whose attendees have already been given the essence of what has happened, have been asking, "What can we do to help?" Duncan added that the Seacoast chapter attendees had no issues with the reorganization. Lisa clarified, noting that she is more concerned about the reaction of the membership at large rather than the small subset that attends meetings regularly. Roberta invited everyone to submit suggestions for the wording of the membership letter.

Duncan asked about the money. Roberta showed a money order for \$250 from Cheryl. She also noted that Cheryl offered a "gift card" worth \$500 that could be used

towards bills. The council agreed that there's a good chance that there won't any more money coming, but it's not yet time to lose hope. Betsy Janeway has asked us to write some letters to some people to ask for donations of services. Roberta acknowledged that Betsy is a long-time supporter who has not been deterred by recent events.

### Treasurer's Report

Gordon noted that he did not have a formal report to present to the council. Duncan asked what the balance was. Gordon noted that it should be over \$800 at this point.

Roberta reminded everyone about a QuickBooks program offering for \$48, which is normally \$500. Jeremy asked if he could check out the company first, to ensure that it isn't spam. The council agreed.

Lisa asked that we keep the restitution payments accounted for separately in our treasury records in order to keep track of them. Roberta added a request to each chapter to photocopy checks coming in and keep a good paper trail.

Duncan asked how much money will be coming into the council as renewals come in. Roberta noted that National gets \$15, and each chapter decides how much to keep for itself and how much to send to the council.

### Membership Dues/IRS

Roberta displayed a chart indicating the money flow of dues. She stressed the need for chapter leaders to record all info (by hand or electronically) and send that information to the state council. She also reminded the chapters to send acknowledgement letters to contributing donors, for their tax purposes.

Questions were raised about the 501(c)(3) status at each chapter. Carol reported that each chapter was given its own IRS EIN number but not its own 501(c)(3) status; the status was covered by National. National, however, is unsure if this is still the case. Someone must determine from the IRS if the chapters are still covered. If we are covered, then our only obligation is to provide National with local chapter financial reports for their tracking purposes.

Discussion about the differences between the Secretary of State and the Division of Charitable Trusts. Roberta explained that the former manages our incorporation. The latter manages our tax-exempt status. We want to release our direct connection to the Charitable Trusts division in order to avoid the \$75 annual fee. We can only break our link when we are certain that we are covered under National's tax exempt status.

Roberta noted that PFLAG-NH's incorporation is due this year. She stressed that we need to stay incorporated to protect the council and its members from lawsuits that would be levied on them. As a corporation, lawsuits will be against it instead.

Database Committee

Roberta asked everyone to think about categories the chapters may want for the database. Examples: donors, speakers, advisors, members, supporters. She asked that these categories be sent to Pat so that she can generate the database fields. Lisa asked that we not overwhelm Pat with too many categories since our original intent was to make the database as simple as possible.

Pat asked that we put anti-virus software on the laptop. Roberta asked her to proceed with purchasing Norton.

Speaker Bureau

Roberta distributed a speaking engagement draft for the March and April events. She noted that each speaking engagement now will have separately assigned coordinators rather than require Margie to coordinate them all. Also, there is a contact person listed for each event. She added that many of the speaking engagement requests are asking for youth speakers.

Roberta reported that she is creating bios to introduce PFLAG-NH and its Speaker Bureau to the organizations at which they are speaking.

Gordon distributed a flyer for "Celebrate Diversity" to be held at the NH United Church of Christ on April 30.

Brochure Update

Roberta noted that the address in the brochure is wrong and needs to be updated. BarbieAnn offered to scan in the old brochure and then edit it. Jeremy and BarbieAnn will work on this. Roberta asked them to mail proofs of the updated brochures so that folks can make copies as needed. Jeremy agreed to make them available on the Website as well.

Spring Membership Meeting

Roberta asked that we host a meeting in mid-May and invite the entire membership to attend. She noted that Dr. Leanne Tigert will be the keynote speaker, discussing her book, *Transcending Faith*. This meeting would also provide a good forum for open discussion about the case and the restructuring.

Gordon offered that we hold it in the Havenwood Auditorium as we did with our 2004 Advisory Council meeting. The council agreed that we cannot host both a council meeting and a membership meeting at the same time. Carol asked if this was to be an Annual Meeting. Jeremy asked whether we were still under bylaws control. Carol replied that we need to come up with a constitution, but it doesn't have to be as structured as the bylaws.

The council agreed that the membership meeting will be held on Saturday, 5/21 at the Havenwood Auditorium, probably from 11am-3pm. Lisa and Gordon agreed to coordinate this meeting.

Newsletter

Roberta asked Jeremy to contact David concerning the e-newsletter, making sure everything is still up to date.

Roberta distributed an e-mail from David Pendleton seeking guidance from the council as to the future of the newsletter. He asked whether there was a need for a printed, mailed version. He asked if an internet version,

made up of internet-available news would be wanted too. The council did not have time to discuss the matter.

Duncan McInnes: Farewell and Thanks

Roberta thanked Duncan for traveling from the Seacoast regularly and for all of his work, and awarded him with a framed certificate. (*Applause*) He noted that he has a new life waiting for him in Fresno, CA. Duncan noted that he will be the chairman of the board of Amity in San Francisco, so he will still be working in Straight Spouse support. His new e-mail address will be dcmcinnis@yahoo.com. He will be leaving on March 5, and is taking the scenic route via Florida and the desert Southwest. Duncan noted that Nancy LeHoux will be the new SSN point of contact.

Miscellaneous

Roberta distributed a "Stages of Homosexual Understanding" white paper, depicting 4 stages. She recommended that the chapters use them for their support meetings or speaking engagements. Roberta asked her chapter attendees to read it, reflect, and ask themselves at what stage they are. She noted that there can be problems when the child is at a more advanced stage than the parents. Lisa added that this structure gives people a sense of flow in their development and coming out.

Carol noted that Becky Larson has been ordained at the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ. She passed around the newspaper announcement of it.

Carol noted that NH Freedom to Marry is hosting an event with Mary Benauto as guest speaker.

Roberta displayed the new PFLAG logo and the letterhead she made with it. She promised to send it as an attachment to everyone.

Roberta displayed the \$10 hardcopy of the Gay Lifeline from NH Rainbow Resources. She noted that it can be printed from the Web too. Gordon reminded everyone that we're doing their work by continuing to host the hotline.

Jeremy asked if SGM could lease an unused mailing list from PFLAG-NH. He reminded everyone that PFLAG has 2 mailing lists included with its Web hosting package, but only uses 1, which directs e-mails to the entire council. He promised that SGM would relinquish the other list if PFLAG needed it. He noted that SGM believed that the list was worth \$10 per year and agreed to pay it. Gordon **moved** to allow SGM to make use of the list. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously.

Jeremy provided an update on the Gay Honeymoon Cruise, held on February 19. He noted that the event did not lose money, and that he was recognized for his 5 years as facilitator with a "Lincoln" model New Hampshire clock, given by the entire CGM membership.

Chapter ReportsPlymouth

Carol reported that she sent out the membership letter and has received 3 new members so far. One of them sent a

\$100 donation. She wrote an article about gay marriage, but is not sure if it's appeared in the Concord Monitor yet.

#### Upper Valley

BarbieAnn reported that the chapter meeting was cut short due to bad weather. She read one of the "Vagina Monologues" for us.

#### Lakes Region

Gayle reported that there were 4 attendees, all core group. She's preparing for Diversity Day at Laconia High School, and also working on the membership letters.

#### Seacoast

Duncan reported that he had a small meeting, all core members. He did a mass mailing 3 weeks ago, asking for dues to be paid by 3/15. He noted that there was a significant amount of money coming in but didn't know

how many people it was. He reported that the new Seacoast contact will be Betty Batchelder.

#### Concord

Margie reported an attendance of 7, 1 was new.

#### Keene

Roberta reported 14 attendees this month. She attended the Keene State event and had dinner with Gene Robinson. She also reported that the membership letter for her chapter has been sent out.

### **Adjournment**

Lisa **moved** to adjourn. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 21:19.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary