

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the State Council

Havenwood Heights Auditorium, Concord, NH

21 May 2005

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 13:17, noting that this is a combination of Annual and Spring meetings. She also noted that Gordon and Cy Sherman would be absent due to their son's wedding in Canada.

Council members present: Roberta Barry, Lisa Hartley, Louis Hobbs, Margie Lindsley, Alicia Maggio, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gayle Spelman, Marianne Storer, Pat Storer, Jeremy Winnick

Council members absent: Kit Carter, Gordon Sherman

Business

Annual Report

Roberta opened the meeting by telling a bit of her personal story and how she came to be involved in PFLAG. She urged everyone to continue to tell their own stories, since in the telling of stories, the spirit of PFLAG is expressed.

Roberta distributed the annual report and discussed highlights. She noted that a future appearance by Fred Phelps in NH may pave the way for a Manchester chapter to be created. Roberta warned of the power of evangelicals like Phelps; attendee Lee drove home the point by giving the "crumpled man" demonstration.

Roberta provided details of the restructuring process, indicating the new roles and relationships between National PFLAG, the state council, and the chapters. She explained why it took so long for PFLAG-NH to go public with this news, why the newsletter has ceased publication for now, and why we cannot afford an administrative assistant. She listed volunteer opportunities within the organization and urged attendees to consider making a gift of time to assist.

Roberta asked the council members to stand and be recognized; she affixed a pin featuring the new PFLAG logo to each of them.

Peg Gage asked how we will be able to maintain our 501(c)3 status during the reorganization. Roberta provided additional details.

Carol presented the financial sections from the annual report and discussed highlights.

Advocacy

Brian Rater discussed the state of marriage in NH, urging attendees to take part in a series of marriage commission meetings to be held in various towns. Carol noted that she has attended all of the commission's meetings thus far.

Chapter Highlights

BarbieAnn reported her progress in trying to facilitate discussion between the Upper Valley chapter and local churches. She hopes that alliances will be formed to overcome the propaganda that we are the devil.

Roberta introduced Meg and Betty as the new state council representatives for the Seacoast chapter.

Carol reported that the Plymouth chapter meetings have had low attendance recently, but that she's very active in GLBT events at Plymouth State University and local high schools.

Margie reported on a very dynamic Concord chapter meeting held in April. She also read a letter of thanks for the chapter's work.

Roberta reported regular attendance numbers of 12 or more at the Keene chapter, including several youth. She's trying to create a local Outright group.

Margie provided status on Safe Schools and the Speaker's Bureau. She listed several speaking engagements held over the past year and recognized the major speakers.

Awards Presentation

Roberta introduced a game created by Carol for use during a Plymouth State University event. She asked a couple of attendees to play and awarded them afterwards with T-shirts. Roberta presented Carol with an award for creating the game.

BarbieAnn introduced Lisa Hartley for an award. Lisa reported that she will be going to Florida after stepping down from PFLAG-NH, noting that there are 43 organized hate groups in Florida compared to 1 here. She's interested in studying and writing about culturally induced stress. She warned that we must upgrade our socialization process, for if we don't, we're destined to repeat history and never celebrate the gifts of difference.

Margie and Carol introduced Roberta for an award, noting that she had been recognized at Keene State University as Outstanding Woman of the Year.

Roberta introduced Peg Gage for an award. Peg told a bit of her story and noted that although National PFLAG oversees nearly 500 chapters, it is still made up of moms and dads. She also noted that the board provides the policy and procedures for the organization, and that she'll be staying aboard for another two years. She urged everyone to step forward and help.

Passing of the Torch

Roberta provided gifts of blank notebooks, pencils, and M&Ms to Carol and Margie, along with two large plastic containers filled with binders. Roberta discussed her new role as Regional Director, including how she's speaking to senators and showing them photos of families.

Keynote Address

Maren Tirabassi and Leanne McCall Tigert discussed their co-authored book, *Transgendering Faith*. Leanne noted that her inspiration to write the book came from her belief that we non-transgendered people have a responsibility to say those things that transgendered people say but which are rejected because they are transgendered people. The book is an anthology of 24 transgendered persons. Leanne noted that they would donate the profit of the books sold during

the meeting to PFLAG-NH. BarbieAnn provided a personal story of empowerment over a bad emotional experience from her past.

Adjournment

The meeting ended with a cake cutting by Roberta. The formal meeting presentation adjourned at 15:38.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary