

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Council

Havenwood Heights Chapel; Concord, NH

21 June 2005

Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 18:40.

Council members present: Margie Lindsley, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Pat Storer, Jeremy Winnick

Council members absent: Roberta Barry, Betty Batchelder, Kit Carter, Lisa Hartley, Alicia Maggio, Marianne Storer

Minutes of Prior Meetings

BarbieAnn **moved** to accept the minutes of April 19 as written. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Pat **moved** to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting, May 21, as written. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Council Listing

Carol distributed a sheet with council member contact information on one side and other supporting friends of the council on the other side. She asked for corrections.

Chapter Support

Carol distributed 3 letters to be used as templates for writing to people who contribute to PFLAG-NH or join as members. The letters were recently created by the Concord, Plymouth, and Keene chapters.

Carol reported that Plymouth is still the only chapter to send any dues money to the state council.

BarbieAnn **moved** to give each chapter until July 31 to reconcile their financial records and determine the amount to be given to the state council. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously. Carol reminded everyone that we will have to do this again in October, but that it will be only an annual duty from that point forward.

Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the treasurer's report and discussed highlights. The balance is now \$3182.70. Carol read from a card that included a \$321 donation from the UU Church in Concord. She also read a return letter that she will send to thank them for it.

Carol reported that she will only sign checks at the meetings so that the signing is witnessed by the council.

Pat asked whether anyone has contacted Verizon about getting a reduced rate on our 800 helpline. Gayle did not believe that Verizon would offer lower rates to non-profits. Pat agreed to look into it.

BarbieAnn **moved** to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Memorial Gift for Louis Hobbs

Gayle recommended that PFLAG-NH donate \$100 to the Wilkinson-Beane Funeral Home to go towards the funeral expenses, as the family is facing financial hardship.

BarbieAnn noted that the finances look better than they have recently and suggested a \$150 donation.

BarbieAnn **moved** to donate \$150 to the Wilkinson-Beane Funeral Home in support of Lou's funeral. Pat seconded. Passed unanimously.

Letterhead/Newsletter Back Page

Jeremy asked if everyone received the update letterhead. Carol noted that she is still unable to open some attachments.

Margie asked Jeremy to update the "Newsletter Back Page" file on the Website. Jeremy noted that he only has the PDF, not the native version of the file, but would try to update it.

Sheila's Resignation

BarbieAnn **moved** to formally select Sheila's resignation option, provided by her last year. Gayle seconded. Passed unanimously.

Carol agreed to send a brief letter to Sheila on behalf of the council.

Bylaws Update

Carol read from the bylaws, noting that several changes may be necessary under the new structure.

BarbieAnn noted that we haven't yet received guidance from Roberta on whether the old board really can be dissolved. Additionally, she noted that the council attendance at this meeting is too low for these kinds of changes.

Jeremy agreed to distribute the most recent bylaws (December, 2001) to the council for review and possible update at a future meeting.

Meeting Space

Carol reported that Mo Baxley offered space in an office conference room to PFLAG-NH for the monthly council meetings. The office is on Low Street in Concord, behind the CVS. She noted that the room is without windows and has a cluttered, busy appearance. The space would be free to use, but Carol recommended against it. The council consensus was to remain here at Havenwood for now.

Case Report to Membership

Margie reported that Roberta has agreed to write a newsletter about the case for the membership. She expects that it will be ready by July.

Database

Pat reported that she investigated some of the membership letters that were returned. She noted that she was able to locate updated information on some of them, but was unsure about whether it was ethical to enter this information into the database. Jeremy noted that SGM did this, giving long-expired members the option to renew, be removed entirely from the database, or do nothing (remain in the database as an expired member).

The council agreed that Pat could re-issue the letters with the updated contact information. The council thanked Pat for her resourcefulness.

Miscellaneous

Gayle agreed to bring in an info sheet and order form for better-looking, rainbow ribbons, at the next meeting.

Margie reminded all the chapters to file their non-profit returns before the December deadline. She noted that the fee for filing is \$25, and that each chapter must do this.

Margie reported that Roberta may ask the North Country chapter if they wish to break away from the council, as there has been no contact with them for years.

Margie reported that the Women's Expo will be held on February 18, 2006. She recalled that we split the \$250 cost with NH Freedom to Marry this year. Gayle recommended that we not participate next year.

Carol reminded the chapters to report on their finances to National in October. This will cover the fiscal year from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. She urged the chapters to make a "practice run" in August using all available data, which can then be augmented in October.

Carol asked if some of the Boston Pride photos could be uploaded to the Website. Jeremy agreed to look into this.

Gayle recommended skipping the July meeting. Carol recommended having a Saturday "retreat" style meeting at her house in Plymouth. No date was set.

Chapter Reports

Concord (from Margie via e-mail)

Five people attended including one new person. She was looking for some social support groups in the Concord area, for lesbians. We had a discussion on the lack of social support systems in New Hampshire. Gordon suggested some of the open churches for contacts. We also discussed the importance of networking with other GLBT groups.

Cy updated us on Campbell High School graduation, which was yesterday. Fred Phelps did not attend.

Margie discussed Commission to Study Marriage. Their next meeting is on June 27th in Concord at 1pm. The Portsmouth meeting is this coming Wednesday. July 25th will be a meeting at 6:30pm in Keene and Nashua's will be August 29 at 6:30.

Gay Pride discussed. What fun we all had despite the heat.

Keene AIDS Services for Monadnock Region will have a 2005 Keene Karaoke Idol tryouts on 6/24. The show is August 5th.

Keene (from Roberta via e-mail)

We had 12 people at the last meeting. One new person who sent us a lovely thank-you note later that week about how grateful he was for our acceptance and conversation and was looking forward to the next meeting. We are putting together a core group of regulars to meet the requirements of an affiliate chapter with elected officers, etc. For several years, we have been extremely casual in

our leadership - basically, Jean & John Bleyle and I have just agreed to co-facilitate and have been "winging" programs. Now that I have one less responsibility with state council, I am planning to work my local chapter more. Must also "train" new leadership to insure the stability of the chapter.

On that note, I am planning an "open" meeting for our next regular meeting on July 5th. Since it is "open", it means that we will not be doing the personal round robin introductions. Should there be new folks, I will invite them to contact me for a personal time to hear their concerns. I'm doing a showing of *Tying the Knot* (along with popcorn and soda!). I have notified everyone in my e-list which includes many of the GLBT community in this area. I have assurances that many will attend. Following the film, I will talk about the visit of the NH Commission on Marriage that will be holding the hearing in Keene on July 25th. I did attend the workshop in Portsmouth put on by Mo Baxley, regarding "how to testify" at this kind of hearing. There was only 1 other couple there. It was informative, and it is this info that I will share at the showing of the film.

Upper Valley

BarbieAnn reported attendance of 7 at the last meeting. Three of these were from a Congregational Church that is seeking to become an open and affirming congregation. The regular attendees assisted by telling their stories and explaining why you have to be explicit with whom you are welcoming.

Lakes Region

Gayle reported attendance of 9 at their annual barbecue. Discussions included Multi Cultural Market Days, the hanging of a rainbow flag in Laconia, and an update of the State Legislature from Gail Morrison, an out lesbian representative.

Plymouth

Carol reported attendance of 3 at the last meeting, including someone from a local homeless shelter who she is not sure she can adequately counsel. The discussion was about pride. Carol has sent acknowledgment letters to her members; two new members have joined since. Carol continues on her Marriage Commission crusade and provided an update on the upcoming commission hearings.

Seacoast, North Country

Carol will send copies of the template letters to Betty and Kit.

Adjournment

BarbieAnn **moved** to adjourn. Pat seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned with a brownie cake from Margie to celebrate Gordon's 68th birthday.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary