

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Council Home of Gordon and Cy Sherman, Concord NH Saturday, 10 December 2005

Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 11:27.

Council members present: Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Carol Perkins, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick

Council members absent: Kit Carter, Mikayla Howden, Alicia Maggio, BarbieAnn Rounds, Marianne Storer, Pat Storer

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Roberta **moved** to accept the minutes of the 10/18 meeting as written. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Margie asked that the September, 2005 minutes be clarified to indicate that some folks who had been removed from the letterhead template were *not* removed from the council itself. The council agreed that the letterhead should show only actively participating council members. Jeremy agreed to clarify the minutes.

Business

Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the treasurer's report and discussed highlights, including less than stellar results from the Fall membership mailing. Roberta agreed, noting that she has received 2 memberships out of a mailing of 40.

The council observed that some of this may be caused by the membership cycle change that occurred last year. Roberta explained that the change was necessary to make it fit with National's reporting requirements. As part of this correction, we needed to assess members twice within the same calendar year. This may have confused some donors who believed that they've already paid for the year. Hopefully, this will not be a problem in the future.

Carol reported that the bank balance is \$2684.80, with income mostly from Mo Baxley. Expenses included the phone bill and the Autumn newsletter. An additional \$60 from Lakes Region chapter and \$50 from Concord have come in since the report was filed.

Roberta **moved** to accept the treasurer's report. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Donation to NH Freedom to Marry

Carol noted that NHFTM has heavily supported us and has been our only source of income recently. Roberta believes that PFLAG-NH should donate to them in return, in support of their current and major initiative: fighting the constitutional amendment.

Gordon **moved** to donate \$250 to NHFTM. Roberta seconded. Carol noted that the donation is a close match to their contributions to us. She noted that we cannot rely on getting any more money from Cheryl in the short term, noting that she has until 2009 to repay us in full.

Roberta stressed that advocacy is a very important part of our mission and that FTM demonstrated their willingness to help us. She suggested that we increase the donation to \$300, and with no objections, **moved** to amend the motion as such.

Motion passed unanimously. Carol agreed to write the check right away.

Roberta and Margie promised to provide the state portion of their chapter funds shortly. Roberta suggested in future that the council inform the chapters when it's time to produce a newsletter and ask the chapters to send some money to help defray those costs.

NH Charitable Foundation

Carol noted that we have a report due to the NH Charitable Foundation. She tried to download the report form but her computer cannot retrieve it. Roberta noted that we must use the Attorney General's audit materials and findings in order to file this report. Roberta and Carol will work together on this. Carol will ask for an extension. She noted that this foundation provided us with a lot of money after Cheryl resigned, and that's why we have to file the report.

Democracy Project

Roberta asked if everyone was clear on what the objectives of the project are, and whether we were all comfortable with their promise to uphold the confidentiality of our data.

Consensus: yes. She noted that the results will be returned to us prior to the next election, including the folks from our list who should be approached for money. Carol will sign the agreement to work with the Gill Foundation. We can fill out the more detailed application later.

Membership

Tabled to the next council meeting.

Payments to National

Margie asked whether National was agreeable to receiving their share of the dues in January. Roberta said that the only thing that must be submitted by the end of the year is the financial reports. She noted that one form must be filled out for each chapter (under "category 2") and one for the state. She added that chapters need only to file to National; National will handle filings to the State.

Worcester Conference

Roberta attended an initial planning meeting to put together a leadership conference in October, 2006 in Worcester. The conference is being organized by Transcending Boundaries, a young group that's "current" and technically savvy. The conference will feature plenty of the tried-and-true PFLAG topics, as well as some items that are more youth-oriented. Roberta suggested that we need to find a way to appeal to these people, many of whom have never heard of PFLAG. She hopes to evolve and expand PFLAG's mission to their generation. Perhaps that will mean less support and more education and advocacy.

Roberta needs to report to National to determine whether to join in this conference, which will include some topics on sex. The council supported the decision to join. Plus, PFLAG will be presenting "neat and clean" workshops at the same time, so people can choose. Margie asked that it be made clear that this is conference of diverse, separate organizations

sponsoring these workshops. Roberta noted that she will be asking the council to host at least one of these workshops.

Miscellaneous

Roberta asked that database updates be sent to Jeremy for implementation in the main database file.

Carol reported that she would convert the bulk mailing permit from Manchester to Concord after the holidays.

Carol reported that Lou Hobbs received an award posthumously for his service.

Carol reported that the Upper Valley chapter is not registered as a chapter with the State of NH and thus cannot collect funds in the name of PFLAG-NH.

The council agreed to continue to support the helpline, so long as Gordon enjoys doing the work, and we're willing to pay the \$40 monthly expense.

Roberta observed that there are fewer people on the council than had been on the board, but that each person is hopefully burdened with less responsibility due to the restructuring. Roberta suggested that the core council members spend more of their time handling their chapter work. Full council meetings can be held less often, perhaps 4 or 6 times a year, perhaps on a Saturday morning, when it's daylight and heads are clearer.

Chapter Reports

Keene

Roberta reported that there were 15 attendees, and that the meeting was a farewell to Jean and John. She did a "role play" game of a hypothetical Christmas dinner coming out.

Roberta suggested that everyone keep the lines of communication open to their local colleges and universities. You never know who it will lead to.

Plymouth

Carol reported that the rainbow flag now hangs with all the others at Plymouth State University. Two students in the college senate (Chris and Andrew) have proposed that the

student council incorporate "gender identity and gender expression" into their non-discrimination clause. The dean is working with them, and a commission is being set up. Although the AIDS Vigil this year was better attended than ever before, they're trying to get the community involved earlier for the AIDS Vigil next year.

Concord (via e-mail)

Cy reported that 8 people attended including one new person. She was a straight woman who wants to teach her children at an early age to respect diversity and to be open minded. Her neighbor, a lesbian, brought her to the meeting. When she left she brought home 3 children's books about diversity.

Concord Outright might be started up again. A person is checking into holding it at First Church where PFLAG meets.

Discussion on Transgender - a trans woman commented that she had explained to her children that she had a "birth defect" - being born into a man's body. She needed to have this "birth defect" corrected.

New England College Trans Day Remembrance service was being held Sunday evening. Next year an announcement should be placed in the PFLAG newsletter to get publicity for the event. At the Remembrance service Lou Hobbs was being remembered. He had spoken a number of times at NEC and passed away last June. He will be greatly missed. There are no young trans people ready and willing to be speakers.

In the future the Trans Community should hold a combined Remembrance Service in front of the State House.

A PFLAG member had paid for a PFLAG ad in the NH Gay Men's Chorus holiday program.

Adjournment

Roberta **moved** to adjourn. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 13:08.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary