

# 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, 11 February 2006

### Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 11:21.

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

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

### Minutes of Prior Meetings

Carol reported that the minutes from the December meeting require some clarification, since there is a distinction between the NH Charitable Foundation and the NH Charitable Trust. Roberta suggested that the minutes be amended to report that the clarification can be found in the February minutes.

Gordon **moved** to accept the minutes of the 12/10 meeting as amended. Roberta seconded. Passed unanimously.

### Business

#### Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the report she sent to National for FY2005. She highlighted that the only recurring expense from October to now is the phone bill. The other expenses included the newsletter mailing and the donation to FTM. Carol highlighted a \$250 payment from the Seacoast chapter.

The council discussed Spring fund raising efforts. The council also conceded that some members may be confused by the membership drives, uncertain as to whether they belong to a particular chapter, the state, or to National PFLAG.

The council unanimously agreed to accept the report.

#### Bylaws

Roberta noted that our bylaws state that the board must have at least 6 directors, 1 from each chapter of the state. Roberta suggested that we examine the bylaws carefully before the next meeting to see what we can remove and simplify.

#### NH Charitable Trusts

Carol spoke to NH Charitable Trusts, who told her that PFLAG-NH has not filed a report since May of 1999. They would like this year's filing to include all data from the last filing to the present. Roberta said that she would schedule a meeting with Chris Gauntt, administrative assistant to the attorney general's office, to have her explain what our standing is, and see what it is they need. She will request that we start with a more recent data and move forward. She will also try to get us excused from the \$75 fee for each year missed. She will also ask her to look over our bylaws and see what we can simplify; particularly, the more formal items such as the annual meeting and board of directors.

#### Website

Carol reported that the current Web site is growing obsolete. She pointed out some specific items. Roberta suggested that the site be refreshed with the information available from the back page of the latest newsletter, as well as with information about the Worcester conference. The council agreed that the Website will be one of the most important communication

tools for PFLAG-NH in the future. Jeremy agreed to find time to get started on this project.

#### Worcester Conference

Roberta reported that her motivation for this conference is to "fire up" her New England chapters and increase membership. Roberta discovered that many existing chapters are like ours, and that emerging chapters have younger, family-oriented members. Roberta noted that this is also true with the bisexual transgendered community, the co-sponsors of the conference.

Roberta noted that we can maintain our autonomy as PFLAG, or we can build strength by working with FTM and the trans groups. She recommended the latter, due to our waning ability to connect with the younger crowd. She hopes that a focus of this conference is to find ways to integrate with the younger people, and ultimately locate our heirs.

Roberta distributed the conference flyer and the supporting text information. Roberta provided information on the conference itself, and hoped that the overall conference fee would be \$75 or less.

#### Miscellaneous

Carol asked if Mikalya is receiving e-mails sent to "board". Jeremy agreed to look into it and inform the council periodically who the mailing goes to.

Roberta distributed a flyer from Betsy Janeway for an upcoming panel discussion called "Greater Concord Area Task Force Against Racism and Intolerance." The panel will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2006.

Roberta reported that the UCC conference will be held in Keene in April. AIDS Services will be hosting a large fundraiser, with Jim Bailey performing Judy Garland. Roberta plans to combine PFLAG and more spiritual segments at this conference. Carol noted that Plymouth State College is hosting a pride celebration the same weekend.

### Chapter Reports

#### Keene

Roberta reported that the chapter is seeing attendance of 8-12 per month. At the most recent meeting, one mother returned after 2 years away; she spoke at the recent hearings about the marriage amendment.

Roberta is considering opening a "youth section" of PFLAG that serves the youth.

Roberta reported that she is still struggling to transition her chapter-based workload to others, but cannot get anyone to volunteer. She noted that GLSEN is having the same trouble.

#### Plymouth

Carol reported attendance of 2 at the last meeting, which was a support meeting. She noted that her advertising efforts from last year have not yet had any impact on poor attendance.

#### Concord (via e-mail)

Fourteen people were in attendance, an interesting mix of two sets of parents with teens who recently came out, six

“regulars”, one returning gay man after an absence of several months, two new gay men, and one homeless heterosexual man who needed a place to keep warm for a few hours and was invited to the meeting!

The returning gay man read a paragraph from the book, *Men Don't Listen and Women Can't Read Maps* which said “Hormones are responsible for homosexuality. It's not a human choice.”

For the new parents, it was noted that they need to get re-acquainted with their gay children now that this new facet of their lives has been shared.

“Gay-ting” was a phrase coined for gay dating. One mother was wrestling with the fact that she was allowing her 16-year-old gay son to go on a movie date with a man he had met at Seacoast Outright. She and her husband hadn't met his date,

a fact which concerned her. She did not want to smother her son but expressed her concern to the group. We all agreed that she had a l -o -n -g night ahead of her waiting for him to come home safely!

## Adjournment

Roberta announced that the next meeting is scheduled for March 11 at 11:00 at Gordon's house.

Gordon **moved** to adjourn. Roberta seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 13:42.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary