

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** *PA Rural Gay Caucus Legislative Committee and Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities Joint Meeting Minutes*

**Date:** June 12, circa 1976

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

**Contact:**

LGBT History Project  
Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

**[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)**

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
COMMITTEES OF THE RURAL CAUCUS AND THE  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SEXUAL MINORITIES  
PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 12

TELEPHONE TREE-being organized in three centers: Pittsburgh, rural, and Philadelphia. Three people will be in charge of organizing each of these areas. Contact persons are Diane Gigler, Pittsburgh; Ray Stickles, Rural; and Harry Langhorne, Philadelphia. Working with feminist telephone trees was suggested.

SODOMY REPEAL-Joe Burns and Bill Hollabaugh met with Sen. Messinger, one of Hill's cosponsors, who urged us to continue lobbying legislators. If enough contact Hill expressing their support, but not necessarily a majority of them, he might yet introduce the bill, perhaps just before the fall election, thus allowing for hearings and prompt consideration after the election. Messinger considered very candid.

Mark reported that 40% of the senators had not replied to Hill's poll. We had no copy of Hill's letter. Hill told Mark that he would not meet with us and straight allies to discuss this further. Hill expressed willingness to cosponsor in the future, but was unwilling to sponsor and suffer another legislative defeat this year. Mark said he would meet with Sen. Craig Lewis to discuss sponsorship.

Two other strategies were discussed: a joint effort with feminists to overhaul the Sexual Offences section of the penal code. Barry Kahn suggested we contact Debbie Glass, an assistant attorney general in Philadelphia, about this. Secondly, a court challenge to the sodomy law on state constitutional grounds.

FUNDRAISING FOR CAMPAIGNS OF STATE LEGISLATORS-rationale is to show gays have political clout. Discussion focused on whether to work for representatives or senators, whether to emphasize money or personpower, whether to raise money through personal solicitation or fund raising events, and whether to disperse money through local or through state wide decision. Kevin spoke strongly for local decision, and both rural people and Pittsburgh people expressed doubts about ability to raise money. Mark suggested supporting Bob Strunk, the democratic challenger to Bell.

OTHER THINGS: Rural Caucus and Gov.'s Council's Legislation Committee will exchange minutes and mailing lists.

NGTF letter on platform committee was discussed.

Smith-Cousins offers us the use of Berson's Watts line

Reports on Gay Education Day are in State College. The final report is not yet prepared, but a general summary can be obtained from Bill Hollabaugh.

Letters should be written to Peter Perri asking that Bill HR 2220 should be transferred from his committee to Berson's.

Reading: Howarold Brown and one other city councilperson may introduce a gay rights bill there soon.

Smith-Cousins says he can convince Berson to hold hearings on HR 2220.

Bill Hollabaugh will send Philadelphia legislator evaluation sheets.

Five persons will meet before the next Gov.'s Council meeting to discuss long range legislative strategy. They are Barry Kahn,

Harry Langhorne, Ritch Marquart, Bill Hollabaugh, and Kevin Smith.

Mark & Harry have met with Senator Crieg Lewis, and he has agreed to sponsor the repeal bill if he gets an OK from Milt Birkey.

The proclamation was met with a resolution from the state house. (see inclosed clippings). The Governor has received many letters against his proclamation, but few in support. We can not afford to lose a friend write letters or send mailgrams. Ask friends to do the same.

Tuesday, June 22, 1976

Phila. Daily News

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The Evening Bulletin

Tuesday, June 22, 1976

### Gay Pride

The House adopted by an unrecorded, voice vote a resolution condemning Governor Shapp for proclaiming June 12-19 as Gay Pride Week.

In the resolution, the House declared the proclamation as "contrary to the morality and laws of the Commonwealth."

Last week house Speaker Herbert Fineman adjourned the House before a vote could be taken on the resolution, offered by Rep. Klarence B. Dietz (R-Bedford).

### House Raps Guv's Gay Pride Edict

HARRISBURG, Pa. (UPI) — The Pennsylvania House yesterday passed a resolution stating it "does not condone" Gov. Shapp's proclamation of June 12-19 as Gay Pride Week.

"The members of the House do not agree that citizens should be proud of committing acts that are in direct conflict with the morals of the community at large and in fact are prohibited by criminal laws . . . ;" the resolution said.

" . . . The House of Representatives declares that it has not been a party to the governor's proclamation declaring June 12-19 as Gay Pride Week, that it was not consulted by the governor on the matter, that it does not condone the governor's action, that it condemns the proclamation as being contrary to the morality and laws of the Commonwealth . . ."