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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: July 11, 1978

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



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

REMINDER: THE COUNCIL MEETS AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1978. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND. (ROOM 306, HEALTH & WELFARE BUILDING, HARRISBURG)

MINUTES

July 11, 1978

Attendance: Art Duprat, Mary Nancarrow, Walter Lear, Rose Weber, Jay Snyder, Tony Henry, James Huggins, Conrad Jones, Louise Oncley, Vicki Beardslly, Salvador L. Rodriquez, Alan LaPayover, Tony Silvestre, and Spencer Coxe.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Police: Salvador Rodriquez

Salvador met with the Commissioner of the State Police and relayed our request for a meeting with him. The Commissioner can meet with us during the week of July 24. Tony will contact Jerry Brennan, David Donaldson and Tony Henry to find an appropriate date. Other Council members interested in attending should contact Tony. Two items on the agenda will be meetings with field officers and arrests at the turnpike rest areas. Other items can be sent to Jerry, Salvador or Tony.

While in San Francisco, Tony met with a San Francisco police officer who is gay and does training for local police in California. He suggested that a training approach should include information which the police will find helpful in dealing with crimes where gay people are victims. This can be explored at a State Police Committee meeting which will precede the meeting with the Commissioner.

Education: Conrad Jones

The booklet, "What is a Sexual Minority, Anyway?" won an award of distinction from the National Association of State Education Information Officers.

Conrad announced that the planned training within the Department for division chiefs and bureau directors among others will take place during the first week of September. Conrad and Ken George will work out the details of our council's participation.

Speakers Bureau: Tony Silvestre for Ken George

The speaking before the Pittsburgh and Harrisburg regional offices of the Human Relations Commission went very well from reports of participants and our speakers. Jim Huggins and Tony discussed feedback they received.

Vicki Beardsly, the new representative from HRC, will get additional feedback from HRC staff as well as confirm a date for Philadelphia training.

Council members are reminded to keep our speaker's bureau in mind for speaking engagements for various groups they might work with.

Prison Rape: Tony Silvestre for Ed. Brown

The Council report on rape is being completed and will be available very shortly. The report will be circulated to groups which may join with council in seeking funding for a conference on the problem. Tony Henry, Tony Silvestre and Ed will meet before that to discuss strategy. Anyone interested in coming to that meeting should contact the committee. Spencer Coxe suggested that the Prisoner Rights Council be invited to participate. Other suggestions are welcome.

Affirmative Action: Louise Oncley

The training program is being reviewed in Washington D.C. where contracts will be signed and funding planned. Although it is not clear at this point, how the council will participate in the training, we have been assured in the past of an active role. Tony will be in touch with Dan Sawyer when he returns from vacation to discuss our input.

Welfare: Jay Snyder

Training funds for the DPW have been drastically cut as a result of the department's budget cut of fifty million dollars. Jay will look into the possibility of staff training within the agency similar to the training at HRC.

Bob Sobolovitch has looked into training for staff of children's institutions and will notify Tony of the results.

The Secretary of Welfare has not yet responded to Tony's request for a meeting.

Health: Walter Lear

The health committee is working actively on four projects:

- a. The design of a survey schedule to collect information on the health needs and problems of sexual minority members. Rose Weber is directing the work;
- b. Gathering information and planning for concerns on sexually transmitted diseases;
- c. Producing a brochure for general distribution to health providers.
- d. Designing an educational session for health providers.

Walter also announced that the American Nurses Association adopted a resolution supporting non discrimination against gays. The Council of Psychiatric Nurses adopted a similar resolution but added that Homosexuality is a viable and health ful lifestyle. David Waldron and John Lawrence were active in accomplishing this breakthrough in the nursing field.

The Department of Health has been sued by the Penn. Hospital Association and is prevented from enforcing the Patient's Bill of Rights which among other things protected gays from discrimination in hospitals. Walter expects a long court proceeding before the matter is cleared.

2. Executive Order Tony Silvestre

The council's request to Milt Berkes to review a draft of a new executive order which would clarify some issues about the council's functions has not yet been acted on. When the new executive order is approved in principle, copies will be sent to Council members, comments solicited and the order issued.

3. MEMBERSHIP Tony Silvestre

Tony welcomed Vicki Beardsly from the Human Relations Commission who will be replacing Luke Rentschler who has moved into the Department of Education.

The July meeting is the last meeting for Alan La Payover who is moving to New York to begin at Union Theological Seminary. Alan before being appointed to a Council position served as Administrative Assistant to Tony. His contributions to all phases of Council work have been very great and too often unsung. Good-bye Alan and THANK YOU.

Rose Weber has moved to 4712 Hazel Avenue, Philadelphia 19143, SA 4- 8435.

Tony Silvestre has also moved to ~~1735 Naudain Street~~ ~~Philadelphia 19146~~ ~~732-3212~~
work:1735 Naudain Street, Phil. 19146 732-3212.

PLEASE MAKE THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOKS AND ON MAILING LISTS.

Four council seats are now open. One female and one male in Pittsburgh, one male in central Penn. and one female in Philadelphia. Persons interested in applying for council seats should send a resume to Tony as soon as possible; the steering committee will be meeting to make recommendations to the Governor. Jim Huggins strongly recommended that transsexuals be sought for council positions. Council members agreed. Other considerations according to council policy are sex, race and geographic balance. Racial minority members are also needed at this time.

Elections for the steering committee will be held as usual by mail ballot. Nominations will be accepted until August 11. Please send nominations to Tony as soon as possible. Self nominations are encouraged. The present members of the committee are Tony, Marilyn Hewitt and Walter Lear. The committee needs ~~two~~ people to meet its total membership of five.

4. HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION Walter Lear

Grace Alpern of the Penn. Advisory Board to the U.S. Human Relations Commission was very supportive in having the Federal agency begin to deal with sexual and affectional orientation in some of their research. She has invited members of the council to meet with her to discuss actions the Penn. board can take. Members who wish to join Spencer, Tony Henry, Tony Silvestre, Art and Walter should contact Tony Silvestre.

5. LICENSING BOARDS Spencer Coxe

Spencer, Jeff Britton and Walter met and decided to work with the Dept. of State which has jurisdiction over licensing of many professional groups. Spencer and Walter met with Barton Fields., Secretary of State and were heartened by his supportive posture. A law student in Spencer's office reviewed legislation in the area and identified areas where discrimination based on sexual orientation and other sexually or gender related areas is possible. Most revolve around requirements about "moral character".

Fields will meet with officials in his department and representatives of the licensing boards to examine the problem and propose solutions. Walter and Spencer will again meet with him to further study and discuss pertinent issues. Related questions are the effects if any of convictions and arrests on licensing.

Other licensing areas to be dealt with in the future are in law and education.

Spencer urged council members who know of persons who have been discriminated against in this area to contact a member of the committee.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of a few errors in the booklet, "What is a Sexual Minority, Anyway?" Tony relying on input from Jim Huggins and Barbara Gittings will see that an errata page is inserted.

THE SEXUALAW REPORTER, a publication which examines court cases relevant to sexual minorities was circulated. Members interested in keeping up on the national court decisions should subscribe by writing to SEXUALAW REPORTER, 1800 Highland Avenue, Los Angeles.

Marilyn Hewitt and Jerry Brennan will meet with the mayor of Harrisburg to discuss the recent rash of arrests of men on State Street who are charged with sodicitation for sodomy.

Questionnaires have been sent to candidates for Governor from an ad hoc group of supporters of gay rights from around the state.

The ANNUAL REPORT has been completed and distribution begun. Members who need copies of the report should contact Tony. At our September meeting the report will be discussed and feedback from council members solicited.

7. ALCOHOLISM James Huggins

Jim presented an excellent overview of the relationship between alcoholism and sexual minorities. At Walter's suggestion, Jim will prepare a copy of his presentation for distribution with the minutes.

Because of the very serious nature of the problem as well as its complexity, a special meeting will be held in Pittsburgh on Thursday, August 17 at Western Psychiatric Hospital for a detailed examination of the issue with the goal of presenting concrete objectives for the Council in this area. Please contact Tony Silvestre (215-732-3212) or Jim Huggins (412-681-5330) if you wish to be invited to the meeting.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00.