

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Minutes*

Date: June 4, 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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MINUTES OF JUNE 4 1977 MEETING

The Caucus was held at Arnold Hutchings' home at 1001 Spring St., Apt. 1-2, Middletown, Penna. Twelve persons attended. At 1:50 the meeting was called to order by CO-Chair Mary Nancarrow.

AGENDA: SB 531, Human Rights Day evaluation, Fall Rural Conference, Nominations for Secretary, The Harrisburg Guide Articles, Newsweek and Anita Bryant.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE report - BOB WOODS:

This committee needs more input or its work may disintegrate. Arnold and Bari Weaver graciously offered the Caucus use of the KCC'S new printing press and a small portable duplicator, respectively.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE report - MARY NANCARROW:

A "lapse of work" was reported; the committee needs an initial convenor. Suggestions are welcome. The EC covers any gay-related issues in education, such as investigating complaints of gay students and teachers and dialogue with the PA. Dept. of Education. Much constructive work has been accomplished with FDE already. A media presentation and documentation projects are future tasks.

YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Jack Shindler was appointed initial convenor due to the resignation of Susan Butler. Looming on the horizon are 21 cases of candy to be sold. A YC meeting date was set for 12 June at 828 Hereford Rd., Camp Hill, Penna.

TREASURY Report:

Because of her work schedule, Jan Sweat will be unable to attend every Caucus meeting. She will, however, authorize another person to make her report. Currently there is \$146.50 in the Treasury. Jan would like committee budgets to be mailed promptly to her at 616 Locust St., Reading, Penna.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY evaluation:

Approximately 30 people attended HRD. There was no participation from Phila or Pittsburgh, which hurt us badly. Senators Nolan (Phila.), Jubeljar (Blair), and Smith (Phila.) were quite hostile. Sens. McKinney (Phila.) and Duffield (Fayette) were very positive towards SB 531; both had fought SB 83. Senator Romanelli (Allegheny) had voted against SB 83, wants to hear from his constituents about SB 531. Sens. Gekas, O'Pake, and Hager should be written to since they have not yet formulated their stance of SB 531. A new Republican Senator, Kusse, has said he will vote against SB 531. Nolan is counting on pressuring 3 new senators, of which Kusse is one, to his side. Senator Kusse is extremely sensitive about his name, so if any Caucus people speak to him it might be a point in our favor to pronounce it correctly: (Q-C). Alarmingly, two original sponsors of SB531, Sens. Arlene and Hanks, (Phila.) have gotten cold feet and will probably withdraw their sponsorship. They must receive strong pressure from Phila. gays to stay with the bill.

Rep. Bursens's House Committee is still sitting on SB 83; if it is still there at the end of this session it will "die" and will have to be reintroduced at the beginning of the legislative process. The tentative hearing date for SB 531 is June 21, in Senators Hill's Judiciary Co. It is believed that Hill is supportive and the bill will reach the Senate floor, but it will probably be trounced there.

RURAL CONFERENCE:

The Caucus brainstormed ideas for a conference/festival to be held in the fall to generate interest in gay rights among new people and to rejuvenate old workers. Invitations will be extended to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. A motion was made to a committee for this project and to appoint Joe Burns and Mary Nancarrow co-convenors. The motion was seconded, passed, and resolved.

NOMINATIONS FOR SECRETARY:

Sam Edmiston's resignation became effective this meeting. Char Krasnai was elected new Secretary.