

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

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## **Documents Online**

**Title:** *By-laws of the PA Rural Gay Caucus*

**Date:** November 6, 1976

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

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BYLAWS

PENNSYLVANIA RURAL GAY CAUCUS

ADOPTED 11/6/76

prepared for distribution by the  
Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus  
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ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of this association shall be the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus

ARTICLE 2: Purpose

The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus is an association of interested individuals and groups, formed with the objective of promulgating the concerns and freedoms of gay people and all sexual minorities. This goal is to be achieved through such techniques as:

- (a) exchange of information,
- (b) cooperation with other interested individuals and groups,
- (c) action on the part of the association
- (d) encouragement of action and representation on the part of individuals and groups, and
- (e) the sharing of resources.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

The membership of the Rural Caucus is open to anyone regardless of age, sex, race, creed, national origin, disability, or affectional or sexual preference.

Section 1: General Membership

Any person attending a Rural Caucus meeting is considered a member of the Rural Caucus and is entitled to speak in due order.

Section 2: Voting Privilege

Voting Privilege is restricted to those members who have attended one meeting in the preceding six months; voting shall be on the honor system. Attendance records shall be kept by the Rural Caucus Secretary.

ARTICLE 4: General Meetings

Section 1:

The association shall meet monthly at a designated time and place agreed upon at the previous general Caucus meeting. A quorum shall consist of at least 10 persons.

Section 2:

The co-Chairpersons shall conduct the meetings of the Rural Caucus. The meetings shall start promptly. A Temporary Chairperson may be elected to preside until the arrival of at least one of the co-Chairpersons. Motions or resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority vote. A 50-50 vote shall constitute a failure of that vote.

ARTICLE 5: Officers

The Officers of the Rural Caucus shall consist of two co-Chairpersons, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All Officers must be voting members.

Section 1:

The co-Chairpersons shall be one male and one female, whose sole responsibilities shall be to conduct the meetings of the Rural Caucus and to appoint initial convenors of committees. During Rural Caucus meetings the



co-Chairpersons shall not have a vote.

Section 2:

The functions of the Secretary shall be to take the minutes of all monthly meetings, receive copies of minutes of all committee meetings, and submit the general Caucus minutes to the Caucus newsletter. The minutes of the previous meeting shall be read by the Secretary or a designated representative; in their absence, a co-Chairperson shall read the minutes.

Section 3:

The Treasurer shall be empowered to open bank accounts as deemed necessary from time to time and have full fiscal responsibility, subject to an annual audit. The Treasurer shall report the financial position of the Caucus at each general meeting.

ARTICLE 6: Elections

Nominations shall be open for one month prior to all elections.

Section 1: Annual General Elections

The election of Officers shall be held each November for a term of one year. In the event of a vacancy, an election shall be held within 6 weeks.

Section 2: Committee Elections

(a) Committees shall elect their chairpersons within 6 weeks following the annual election of Officers.

(b) Newly formed committees shall elect a chairperson within 6 weeks of the appointment of the initial convenor.

Section 3: Vote of Confidence

(a) Any voting member of the Rural Caucus may request a vote of confidence/no confidence for any elected official at any scheduled general meeting. A simple majority vote will decide the vote of confidence/no confidence. Abstentions during this vote shall not be considered in the vote. Officers who are the subject of this vote shall not have a vote.

In the event of a vote of no confidence, nominations shall be opened immediately for that position and an election shall follow within 6 weeks.

(b) Any member of a committee may request a vote of confidence/no confidence for the chairperson of that committee at any scheduled meeting of that committee. A simple majority vote will decide the vote of confidence/no confidence. Abstentions during this vote shall not be considered in the vote. Chairpersons who are the subject of this vote shall not have a vote.

In the event of a vote of no confidence, nominations shall be opened immediately for that position and an election shall follow within 6 weeks.

ARTICLE 7: Comm

Committees shall be comprised of volunteers regardless of voting or membership status within the Rural Caucus. Committees shall make monthly reports at the regular

general Caucus meeting.

#### ARTICLE 8: Mailing List

A mailing list shall be kept up to date and shall be restricted to internal use. Any outside use of this list is prohibited without the express permission of the persons involved.

At the beginning of every Caucus meeting, a co-Chairperson shall inform all participants that anyone may choose to be or not to be on the mailing list. If persons choose not to be on the mailing list, they shall be notified of future meetings by other means.

#### ARTICLE 9: Public Relations

Official media releases must be sanctioned by the Caucus as a whole or by one of its committees.

#### ARTICLE 10: Emergencies

##### Section 1:

An emergency is defined as a matter in which actions must be taken before the next scheduled Rural Caucus meeting.

##### Section 2:

In the event of an emergency, the "telephone tree" shall take a consensus on which actions should be taken by the Caucus and that consensus be relayed to the proper individual for proper action to be taken.

##### Section 3:

Only with this consensus may an individual use the name of the Rural Caucus other than by an approved resolution at a regular Rural Caucus meeting.

##### Section 4:

Any person may request advice or action from the Caucus in the event of an emergency, and state that such aid is being sought, provided that no commitment is assumed of the Caucus.

#### ARTICLE 11: Resolution to amend the Bylaws

Resolutions to amend the Bylaws may be proposed by any voting member to be voted upon during the next general meeting. Proposed amendments must appear in the Caucus newsletter prior to the vote.