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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Date: September 1978

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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[Sep 1978]



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

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome: Present Status of the Council- Tony Silvestre
- 2. Alcoholism Committee- Jim Huggins, Pam Erdeley
- 3. Testimony to the Penn. Advisory Council to the US Civil Rights Commission
- 4. Prison Rape Committee, Tony Henry
E PRIDE '79.
- 5. Annual Report, Tony Silvestre
*INVESTIGATION OF LEWISBURG
INVESTIGATE SEGREGATION
BAN ON LITERATURE
NAMES OF PERSONS.*
- 6. Council Publications, Art Duprat
- 7. Sodomy Law Reform, David Donaldson
- 8. Announcements - *GOV. BRUNN - FORBIDS DISCRIM.*

BREAK

Presentation: DR. BARBARA SHORE

*FINANCE BLDG.
JUNE 17 ROOM 517*

*30-76 ADOLESCENT CENTERS.
ISSUES ON DISCRIMINATION.
MORE CASES PERSONAL.*

*717-787-8920
ART. DUPRAT.
513 FINANCE BLDG.
HARRISBURG, Pa 17120*

[Sep 1978]



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

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON OCTOBER 31 AT 1:30 PM IN ROOM G-13 OF THE FINANCE BUILDING. A SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS IS ATTACHED AT THE END OF THE MINUTES.

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Pat Crawford (representing Richard Thornburg), Jeff Britton, Marilyn Hewitt, Louise G. Oncley, John G. Case, Kenneth D. George, Vicki Beardsley, Jeanne Brooker, Martha Gale, Marie R. Keeney, Conrad Jones, Rose Weber, Mary Ellen Dowdrick, Joseph Burns, Mary Nancarrow, Gerald J. Brennon, Barbara Gittings, Walter Lear, Tony Henry, Jay Snyder, Leslie Phillips, Pam Erdely, and Tony Silvestre.

I. Announcements

...Tom Wiestling who has served on the Council since its beginning and who has worked long on union issues has resigned the Council;

The Governor is appointing the following people to the council:

Joseph Burns- A graduate of Moravian College with a wide range of activism, including union work, community organizing and gay activism since the 60's. He recently co-chaired the Pa. Rural Gay Caucus.

Leslie Phillips- a graduate of University of Pennsylvania is in private law practise. Leslie was past editor of the Pennsylvania Law Review and is associate editor of The Retainer. She is an expert on transsexual issues.

John Zinsmeister- a veteran of Viet Nam and a Pittsburgh gay activist has worked hard with Rapid Action of Gay Equality, Gay Supporters at Pitt., Persad and the Pittsburgh ACLU.

...Persad's address is now 817 Highland Building, 121 South Highland Ave, Pitt.

...Council representatives have spoken to: The National Committee on Sexual Civil Liberties, Committee on Sexuality of the Episcopal Diocese of Phila., Hasitngs Law School, Phila. College of Art. Tony Silvestre was interviewed for the Drummer and appeared on "Talk About", on public TV in Center County. Council members were reminded to suggest speakers from the Council for groups needing presentations.

...Marilyn Hewitt was interviewed for a Carlisle, Penn newspaper.

...Rose Weber attending a conference in Toronto found a very organized gay community there working to support human rights legislation.

...Joseph Burns announced that the film WORD IS OUT will show in Allentown on Sept. 23 after a gay rights rally. The excellent film will also be shown on public TV in early October. Check your local station for time.

COUNCIL MEETINGS
STATE OFFICE
BLDG.

October 31
Dec 15 Friday evening in Phila.
January 31
March 8 Thurs.

(CHANGED FROM OLD SCHEDULE)

April 27 Fri. evening Pitts.
June 7 Thursday
July State College

...Marie Keeney announced that the Commission for Women is gathering data on sex discrimination in high school sports. Parents whose children face discrimination are especially invited to contact the Commission.

2. The Gay State-wide Support Network Mary Nancarrow

This new statewide group is developing its final structure. The network which grew from the Rural Gay Caucus includes representatives from towns and cities throughout the commonwealth. Envisioned tasks of the group are public speaking, working in coalition with other groups, ending isolation of rural gays and increasing communication among gays which includes sponsoring the 1979 statewide gay conference.

3. Training Dr. Ken George

Final plans were announced for the training of Affirmative Action officers which will take place at the end of October. Training for Dept. of Education employees is also expected to take place in the very near future. There has been no action at this time on training for MH/MR workers. Jay will pursue some training possibilities in the Dept of Welfare. The Secretary of Welfare has not yet answered any of Tony's three letters. (Since the meeting Elouise Oncley of AA who has helped develop our training for that agency has suggested that there be two trainings-one for staff of the Affirmative Action Bureau and a different training for Affirmative Action officers.)

Vicki Beardsley of Human Relations shared some reactions from that agency to our training. Agency personnel and administrators have been pleased with the training. The Philadelphia office has been working on EEOC issues and will be contacted in October for rescheduling of the training.

4. State Police Gerald Brennan

Jerry, David Donaldson, Capt. Rodriguez and Tony Silvestre met with State Police Commissioner Paul Chylak. The Commissioner expressed support of the idea of training in the State Police Academy on sexual minority issues. The training would follow the model developed by Officer Tennant in California. It is based on the assumption that police officers can better solve crimes if they are informed about sexual minority issues. Knowing the difference, for instance, between a transvestite and homosexual could be very important in solving a crime. Tony will be gathering more information on the California model so that a plan can be presented to the State Police.

5. Prison Rape Project Tony Silvestre for Ed Brown

The final draft of the literature review on prison rape has been held up on receiving new data. The report will make it clear that rape is far too common an occurrence in prison, that it involves male and female victims, staff and inmates as perpetrators and victims and is an act of violence and not fulfillment of a normal sexual urge. Rape takes the form of very brutal gang rapes, individual violent rapes and sexual acts coerced through threat of violence. This issue is especially relevant to the Council because many victims of rape are homosexual and because segregation of homosexuals is often an attempt at reducing rape. The report will recommend that rape be addressed by:

- 1) Providing training on rape and sexuality.
- 2) Providing services for victims of rape.
- 3) Providing services for inmates to help channel aggression.

Major John Case (Ret. Marines) former warden at Bucks County prison and presently field director of the Pennsylvania Prison Society addressed the Council. The Pennsylvania Prison Society founded in 1787 by Benj. Franklin and Benjamin Rush works for the rights of prisoners. Major Case expressed support for the findings of our report based on his own experience. He made the point that persons who run prisons do not understand that homosexuality and same sex rape are very different. He suggested that persons running prisons are interested in concealing rape because it reflects poorly on their ability to contain prisoners. This may be an important factor in keeping complaints of rape from reaching the courts. Major Case suggested that the Pennsylvania Prison Society might be interested in co-sponsoring a conference on prison rape.

A committee consisting of Jeff Britton, Tony Henry, Leslie Phillips and Tony Silvestre will meet with Major Case to discuss such a conference and to prepare plans for the Council. Council members interested in the project should contact one of the above people.

6. Alcoholism Pam Erdely

Tony reviewed remarks made by Jim Huggins made at the last Council meetings. Those remarks are included with the copy of last meeting's minutes.

Pam discussed the Alcoholism Committee's proposal for Council actions. The first part of the proposal outlines work that the Council can do to deal with the problem, including:

1. Sending a statement to gay groups outlining our council's concern and suggesting that the group invite speakers to address the problem of alcoholism.
2. Generating articles for the gay news media on alcoholism.
3. Working with gay radio shows to develop programming on the issue.
4. Sending a letter to state alcohol and drug abuse programs asking for information on their programs for sexual minority members as well as on the training their counselors receive to deal with the issue.
5. Developing a resource list of services in Pennsylvania and surrounding areas.
6. Collecting information on the incidence of calls concerning alcoholism coming into gay line, and counseling centers.

The proposal for a meeting with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug abuse suggests that issues relating to funding for research, training of personnel and the publication of pamphlets should be discussed. More concrete suggestions will be made after the committee meets again.

7. Walter Lear, Marilyn Hewitt, Leslie Phillips and James Huggins were elected to the steering committee.

8. Jerry raised the issue of venereal disease. The Health committee is working on the issue and developing programs for the Dept.

9. Jeff Britton presented a resolution relating to the death of Rep. Shuman. After discussion he withdrew the resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15PM