

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

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**Title:** Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 8, 1979

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

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

238 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

URGENT: THE 1979 ANNUAL REPORT WILL FOCUS ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SEXUAL MINORITY MEMBERS. WE WILL USE THE RECORDS OF OUR COMPLAINT DESK, BUT ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT COMPLAINTS THAT HAVE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS. IF YOU KNOW OF COMPLAINTS IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, DENIAL OR LACK OF SERVICES, MEDIA COVERAGE OR ANY OTHER MATTER WHATSOEVER, PLEASE BE IN TOUCH WITH TONY SILVESTRE (215) 732-3212, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT A DOCUMENT ATTESTING TO, AND DESCRIBING DISCRIMINATION WILL, IN ITSELF, BE HELPFUL TO GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY. AT PRESENT, FEW SUCH DOCUMENTS EXIST.

The next Council meeting will be in Pittsburgh on April 27, 1979 in Room 2217-D of the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. Mayor Caliguiri of Pittsburgh has been invited to welcome the Council. The feature speaker will be Dr. Barbara Shore. Please fill out the form on the last page of the minutes whether you are able to attend or not.

MINUTES

March 8, 1979

Attendance: Vicki Beardsly, Walter Lear, Tony Henry, Art Duprat, Mary Ellen Dowdrick, Jack Avigliano, John Zinsmeister, Pam Erdeley, Jeff Britton, Leslie Phillips, Tony Silvestre.

1. Media: At our December meeting the question of media coverage of gay issues was raised and discussed. James Guthrie, our Public Information Officer has met with Tony Silvestre and the issue discussed. As a result, the Council agreed on the following points:

a. That the Council request for a workshop at the Pride '79 Conference which will be chaired by Jim Guthrie and focus on equipping activists with information to enable them to be most effective in working with the media.

b. That Jim work on pulling together information for a packet on Reaching the Media. It was suggested that he explore already existing publications put out by Gay and other Minority groups.

c. That Council members send Jim a list of media experts supportive of the movement who can meet for think tank sessions on the problem. His address is 141 South Fraser Street, State College, 16801.

d. That the Council consider having a presence at meetings of news publishers, editors and broadcasters that occur in Pennsylvania. We will ask Jim to look into the matter and let us know which meetings would be most important and how our input should be planned. Limited funds are available through the Friends of the Council.

## 2. Governor's Office:

a. James Seip, the Governor's Appointment Secretary has asked Tony Silvestre to send him information on the Council's membership, our plans for 1980 and issues of immediate concern (our reporting mechanism to the Governor, reappointments etc.). These are being prepared and will be sent out by March 25, 1979.

b. Annual Report Suggestions made on the format and content of the 1979 were made. They include: including a chart showing the Council's position in the Governor's Office, a list of Council meetings for 1979-80, and a more complete list of resources and bibliographical information. It was also suggested that the Governor and Lieutenant Governor be asked to include a letter from each of them for the report.

Leslie Phillips has offered to help with the report as did Rose Weber. Other members wishing to be consulted or wishing to review the report should contact Tony, as soon as possible.

## 3. White House Conference on the Family:

The White House is planning to sponsor a national conference on the family. Part of the plans include state participation. In Pennsylvania the Governor's Council on Family Life will organize our effort. NGTF has submitted the Council's name as the organization which can provide input on lesbian and gay families. Tony will be in touch with the State committee to assess possible methods for input.

## 4. The Council's Membership:

Information on the Council's membership requested at our January meeting was presented.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council meeting will be in Pittsburgh. John Zinsmeister and Pam Erdeley are organizing it.

Randal Forrester, a former member of our Council is running for County Commissioner in Pittsburgh.

The Council agreed to seek \$25.00 from the Friends of the Council for permission to reprint the article on Alcoholism by Dr. Tom Ziebold.

On October 18, 1979, a state wide conference (Pride 79) will take place at the Holiday Inn at the Pittsburgh Airport. It is expected that the Council will be asked to co-sponsor the conference by the Penn. Support Network.

On February 25, there will be a conference on organizing a march on Washington. Because of the lack of information available to the Council, it was decided not to send official representatives.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:00.