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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: July [7], 1979

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE IN STATE COLLEGE ON JULY 13, 1979 IN ROOM 225, HETZEL UNION BUILDING. ANYONE NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS (free) SHOULD CONTACT TONY, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT (215) 732-3212 BEFORE 5 pm. A MEETING TO BE HELD SATURDAY MORNING WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN STATE COLLEGE. PERSONS INTERESTED IN CAR POOLS SHOULD ALSO CONTACT TONY. A RECEPTION IS PLANNED AFTER THE MEETING AND THE PENNSYLVANIA ARTS FESTIVAL WILL BE GOING ON DURING THAT WEEKEND. TICKETS FOR A LOCAL PRODUCTION OF "THREE PENNY OPERA" CAN BE OBTAINED FOR \$3.00, CONTACT TONY.

The SCHEDULE FOR 1979-80 Council Meetings

July 13, 1979 7PM State College
Sept. 10, 1979 1:30 Harrisburg
October 20, 1979 Saturday Pitts.
Dec. 7, 1979 7:30 PM Phil.
January 23, 1980 1:30 Harrisburg

March 3, 1980 Harrisburg 1:30
April 23, 1980 Harrisbg. 1:30
June 3, 1980 Harrisburg 1:30
July 1980 State College 7:00

MINUTES

In Attendance: Rose Weber, James Huggins, Leslie Phillips, Art Duprat, Mary Ellen Dowdrick, Walter Lear, Tony Henry, Jay Snyder, Ken George, Jack Case, Jean Becker, Jack Avigliano, Jerry Brennan, Tony Silvestre, Conrad Jones, Salvador Rodriquez.

1. Proclamation of Gay Pride Week

At a dinner honoring Governor Shapp, hosted by the Philadelphia Gay News (circulation 40,000), Dr. Ethel Allen announced Governor Thornburgh's proclamation of Gay Pride Week for June 16-24. Two days after issuance of the proclamation, the assembly voted 180-14 to ask the Governor to rescind the order. The Governor, of course declined to do so. A short discussion of the proclamation followed. Some Council members asked about Council participation in the issuance. The Chair mentioned that we were uninvolved. Other members asked about the appropriateness of the state action and it was agreed that in the future, perhaps, other more profitable ways could be found to channel the commitment and interest of the Executive branch.

2. PRIDE 79 Conference

The conference, the fourth in the last six years, will focus on issues of concern to the sexual minority community. Topics will include alcoholism and gays; problems of older lesbians and gay men; racism and the gay community etc. The conference is scheduled for the weekend of October 20, 1979 at the Holiday Inn at the Pittsburgh airport. In order to cut down on travel for Council members, the regular Council meetings in Pittsburgh is scheduled to coincide with the conference. Many organizations including the Council, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, the ACLU, and unions and other groups are being invited to co-sponsor the conference.

3. Alcoholism Update James Huggins

Two days of the ten day summer school offered by the Pennsylvania Council on Drug and Alcohol Use will be devoted to issues of Sexual Minorities. It is expected that training on similar issues will begin in the regions in the fall. We are awaiting other actions on our proposals.

4. Report on Aging Ken George

(See attached for written report.) A discussion of Dr. George's report centered on the fact that sexuality among older people is an area often neglected by agencies servicing the group. In addition, homosexuals face problems different than heterosexual older people including the likely lack of support from family members and the stigma attached to homosexuality, to mention two problems. Problems in nursing homes are especially difficult. Leslie Phillips suggested working with the Episcopal church to develop programs and Walter Lear suggested tapping into the groups educating nursing home personnel. Ken noted that research has been confined to samples of white, middle-class men and so more work must be done to understand the problems of other groups.

The Council decided to continue its education in the area with a panel discussion at the State College meeting and to meet with the Secretary of Aging on the issue. The Eromin Center in Philadelphia received a 10,000.00 grant to study the problem and will work with our Council on the issue.

5. Announcements

The Council has been asked to co-sponsor the Pennsylvania meeting of the National Association of Social Workers.

Council representatives will be meeting with Mrs. O'Bannon on June 21.

A group of gay lawyers and a group of gay broadcasters are organizing in Philadelphia.

The Second National Public Health Conference gave awards to two of our own members-Dr. Walter Lear and Barbara Gittings.

The coalition sponsoring the conference will be establishing a journal, a clearinghouse for health information and continue conferences.

6. Worksessions Three work groups organized after the break. A group dealing with our speaker's bureau decided to work up a course to propose for the State Police Academy. A group on funding will present a report at the next meeting. A group on Welfare identified issues to be raised with the Secretary.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:00 pm.

OTHER SMALL GROUPS ARE ASKED TO SEND NOTES FROM THEIR MEETING TO TONY FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT MINUTES.

Issues for the Department of Justice: (Leslie Phillips, David Donaldson and Arthur Warner)

- 1. Corrections: Revising and strenghtening the training of Corrections officers, participation and support of the Prison Rape Conference and appointment of a representative to the Council from that Bureau.
- 2. Pennsylvania Constitutional Issues: The Pa. constitution must be examined to see if protections of privacy, association, speech and religion offer any possiblities for actions on gay related issues.
- 3. Declaratory Judgement Act: More information is needed on if the Attorney General can bring actions and if so in what court.
- 4. AG Opinion: More information is needed to know if an official opinion declaring deviant sexual intercourse as unconstitutional is a realistic objective of our Council.
- 5. Regulations: Since the AG's office reviews all state regulations, mechanisms should be explored to see that reviews include a look at compliance with the Governor's executive order.

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Suggested Agenda Items for Meeting with the Secretary of Welfare(DR. LEAR)

- 1. Regulations: Review of new regulations and amendment to a few key existing regulations.
- 2. Training of DPW Staff: County Assistance Officer, Youth Development Centers and available to Base Service Units.
- 3. Financial Support of Mental Health Services: State Plan for MH services Needs Assessments and direct grants to Eromin and Persad.
- 4. Mental Retardation Services: Define problems, brainstorm-solutions

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Meeting With Council on Drug and Alcoholism (Ken Willims, Tom Ziebold Tony Silvestre, Pam Erdeley)

The meeting was very successful. The Council agreed that the issues we raised were and are of immediate concern. There will be a meeting in April to begin working on concrete plans for Council implementation. Detailed transcripts of the meeting will be available. (Contact Tony)

ALL MEMBERS AND GUESTS PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN TO TONY SILVESTRE, 1735 NAUDAIN ST., PHILADELPHIA 19146

NAME _____

I WILL BE AT THE MEETING IN PITTSBURGH _____
I WILL NOT BE AT THE MEETING IN PITTSBURGH _____

I WILL NEED HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS _____ ON THE NIGHTS OF _____

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT CAR POOLS _____

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. GUESTS ARE WELCOME