

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: June 3, 1980

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

June 3, 1980

NB ALL TRAVEL VOUCHERS FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1979- JUNE 1980 MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE THE END OF JUNE.

THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 11, 1980, FRIDAY AT 7:30 PM AT THE MEETING ROOM OF THE BETHLEHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 WEST CHURCH STREET (THE INTERSECTION OF CHURCH AND NEW STREETS). HELEN SEAGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION, AND LOUISE ONCLEY OF THE BUREAU OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WILL PRESENT ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT. LEHIHO WILL HOST A RECEPTION FOR THE COUNCIL AND GUESTS AT THE LIBRARY AT THE END OF OUR MEETING. PEOPLE NEEDING HOUSING ACCOMODATIONS SHOULD CONTACT JOE BURNS AT W (215) 867-5081 or at H (215) 867-2651. THE PHONE NUMBER AT THE LIBRARY IS (215) 867 3761.

MINUTES

Attendance: S.L. Rodriguez, Nancy Coleman, Louise Oncley, Gloria Guard, Vicki Beardsley, Helen Seager, Pam Erdely, John Zinsmeister, John D. Case, Jeff Britton, Leslie Phillips, Rosemary Madl, Russell Cardamone, Art Duprat, Tony Silvestre

1. Welfare: Gloria Guard

Bob Chandler, the acting director of Affirmative Action in the department met with Gloria and agreed to appoint a specific AA officer in each region and in central office to handle complaints on sexual minority issues. Margaret Brewster in central office has already been named in the central office. Mr. Chandler has also agreed to include sexual orientation as a category in non-discrimination policies that he issues. He also agreed that training of his staff is necessary and will arrange a contract to purchase such training.

A meeting has been arranged with representatives from medical assistance and mental health on the impact of the new MA regulations on clinics serving sexual minority members.

Gloria and Tony have been monitoring the Cuban refugee situation especially as it relates to lesbians and gay men among the refugees. A letter is being sent to the Department of Justice representative at Fort Indiantown Gap asking for information. A letter will also be sent to the commander of the Fort asking for a meeting. Representatives of the Eromin Center and of Episcopal Community Services have been in contact with World Church Services and will meet with them to discuss gay needs especially in relocation and resettlement.

2. Drug and Alcohol: Tony Silvestre and Rosemary Madl

Three days of the summer school for D & A counselors will be devoted to the treatment of sexual minority clients. Rosemary, Violet Plantz and Roger Beatty have been organizing the program.

Roger Beatty is still compiling data on the extent of addiction problem among lesbians and gay men. The report will be made available for members of the Council.

Tony will be arranging a meeting of the D & A subcommittee before our July meeting.

3. Complaint Desk

The lesbian club in Delaware County is no longer a target for harassment. Problems at the club have decreased rapidly after Council intervention.

The gay worker in the state hospital has taken his case to the AAO of the Southeastern region of DPW. His case is still in process.

4. Announcements

The joint ACLU and Governor's Council booklet on the law and lesbians and gay men in Pennsylvania is moving ahead. Funding looks problematic but it is possible that the booklet will be ready for distribution in October.

A committee is forming in Philadelphia to work for the enactment of a human rights ordinance protecting lesbians and gay men in that city. Tony Henry and Leslie Phillips of our Council are active on this committee.

Governor Brown is close to signing executive orders which would grant protections similar to those in Pennsylvania and would establish an internal mechanism to insure impelmentation. These orders will be discussed when they are actually signed.

***** 5. Sodomy Reform *****

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse Statue is unconstitutional. The ruling is a result of the Pittsburgh case which our Council has been monitoring. The Council voted unanimously to thank Dr. Arthur Warner and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, David Donaldson, Spencor Coxe, Thomas Harvey, Mary Ann Babusci of the ACLU and Donald Martin and the Eromin Center for the work done on the amici briefs. Professor Welsh White deserves special regognition and thanks for his presentation before the court. David will be asked to write and distribute a one page analysis of the decision and a description of its effects in Pennsylvania.

6. Future Plans

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the document distributed at the last meeting outlining past progress and future plans. A number of Council members made committements to work in particular areas over the next year. When Tony completes his poll of all Council members, he will sent members a list with the committee and their members to the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00