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Title: *Pride '78 Minutes*

Date: April 7 - 9, 1978

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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Dear Ho-Joe,

The following are the minutes at the Conference as taken under less than optimum conditions. If there are any changes to be made, please exercise your editorial discretion however and whenever you wish to publish any part of them.

Pride '78, Pennsylvania's Gay Conference April ⁷⁻⁹ 8, 1978

Sponsored by the Pa. Rural Gay Caucus and the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities.

4-8-78 10:20 AM

Mary Nancarrow and Gary Norton, co-chairpersons of the Rural Gay Caucus called the first general session to order and welcomed the delegates to Pride '78. Gary extended a special thanks to Joe Burns for his hard work in setting up and coordination of major portions of the conference. He also expressed some regret that discrimination exists in the gay community of Pa. in re: leather, denim, and motorcycle clubs. "We are involved in human rights, not just gay rights, and we need to draw closer together not just as gays but as humans needing one another." Mary then spoke and carried on the theme. "Let us celebrate our diversity in positive ways." She also made several comments of a general ~~XXX~~ character pertaining to the conference. Facilitators will be identified with yellow arm bands, conference committee members will be recognized by blue ribbons on name plate, workshop leaders will wear lavender ribbons on name plates, and emergency medical personnel will be identified by red sashes. She then introduced one of our keynote speakers, Mr. Tony Silvestre, Chairperson of the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities.

Paraphrases of major ideas contained in Tony's remarks:

Dear Friends:

As you know, I am deeply committed to the cause of minority rights. The work you and other minority activists are doing is sorely needed and I am happy to see that you all remain dedicated in the face of strong opposition. Courage for this generation can be defined by your actions.

I want to extend my sincerest wishes to all of you for a most successful conference.

Sincerely,

(signature), Gov.

(Above copied verbatim from original in possession of Tony Silvestre)

Gary then introduced Ms. Gloria Sackman-Reed, past-president of Penna. National Organization for Women

Paraphrasing of her major remarks:

We have to root out the destructiveness of sexism and sexual role stereotyping and instill a sense of self-respect in all human beings. As things now stand, the ~~XXXXX~~ Equal Rights Amendment must be ratified by 2/3 of the States by March 22, 1979. Additionally, most state legislatures are in session only eight months of the year and this is an election year to boot. House of Representatives Joint Resolution 638 will extend the period of ratification to March of 1986. If we lose in the fight for E.R.A. OTHER FEMINIST ISSUES, INCLUDING GAY RIGHTS, WILL DIE.

She outlined a course of strategy to use at various levels of government.

1. Your signature on a release allowing your name to be used on ERA political action letters.
2. Write a postcard to your legislators at all levels letting them know your views.

3. Write a letter in favor of extension to the editor of your local newspaper (effective for anti-gay legislation also)

4. Go and ~~XXXX~~ visit your legislators in person, and take someone or several along. IT REALLY HELPS!!

5. July 9, 1978 in Washington, D.C., there will be a NOW demonstration in support of ERA. There will be a parade and all kinds of great happenings. Participants are urged to wear all- white outfits. We are modern day Crusaders for freedom from oppressive laws that tell us what we may do with our own bodies.

Mary Nancarrow spoke and gave a listing and room numbers of workshops along with their location.

All conferees reminded to have a name tag as they cannot be admitted to workshops without one.

There would be a bulleting board in Gap View Room for posting notices.

Room 142 will be location for Society of Friends Meeting at 10:00 AM, Sunday. All are welcome.

Room 143 will be used as a caucus room on the Pa. Gubernatorial Race on Satur day evening following dinner. Candidates ~~XXXXXX~~ position and political strategy will be main discussion.

Tony rose and pointed out that the rights of gay ~~XXXX~~ prisoners and, in fact, all prisoners, are often neglected. Mr. Jack Case Field Director of Penna. Prison Society is attending the conference to assist with the symposium on the prison system. Any questions pertaining may be directed to Mr. Case.

Meeting adjourned by Gary and Mary.

4:00
By ~~XXXX~~ PM on 4-8-78 a total of 225 persons had registered for Pride '78. This figure included workshop leaders, coordinators, vendors, and members of the gay Press.

Statement:

Founder's Banquet keynote speaker, Rep. Elaine Noble (Mass.), did not arrive as expected. Ms. White and Ms. Bloch, who had gone to welcome her at the airport, returned with a note received at the airport at 5:00 PM, Saturday. It stated that she would be unable to attend and speak at Pride '78 owing to being detained at a conference in Mass.. No address or person's name from Pride '78 had been left at the airport and they had no way of notifying us prior to the Banquet. Presumably Ms. Noble did not contact Howard Johnson Motel, Delaware Water Gap, Pa.

The banquet provided by Howard Johnson's was quite good and went off well. It was plain that a great deal of cooperation, teamwork, and planning had been done by both the conference leaders and the motel personnel.

~~XXXXXX~~ General Meeting 4-9-78 at 10:45 AM

Keynote speaker, Bruce Voeller, National Gay Task Force.
Paraphrasing of pertinent remarks
The gay lib impact--

We have finally begun to reach our own people. In the cities, in the suburbs, and in the rural areas gay people are beginning to examine their lifestyles. This is only a-tenth of the potential people who could become involved. Those now in the movement need to finish what has been started. We need persuasion of the media to drop sexist terms and sexism in the publication of news. The public still needs to be educated by open discussion of legislation that may affect alternative lifestyles. We need to recognize our diversity and use it as a value rather than as a detriment that undermines the whole community . Research is needed in the area of sexual behavior but first the universities, colleges, and supporting foundations have to convince the public that such research is valuable and ~~XXXX~~ necessary.

We need to work on separating the crime of rape as a violent act from the predominant opinion that it is a sex crime dependent on contributory factors in the victim.

We need to work on revision of the US immigration laws that violate our highly-touted agreement with the Helsinki Accords by denying free international movement of people who are openly gay. Contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Plenary Session 4-9-78 at 2:15 PM.

Brought to order by Gary Norton, Homophiles of Williamsport, and Co-Chairperson of Penna. Rural Gay Caucus.

Introduction of Sam Deetz, who was in charge of registration and the financial side of the conference.

Deetz-- We are financially solvent and the hotel bill has been paid in full. Special thanks are due to Kathy Blackburn of Howard Johnson's staff who gave a little more than we expected. All the staff, and our host, are to be commended for an outstanding job well done. 229 people attended, from 7 states. Bob Eimers, Attorney, Florida.

Precedent was set in judicial history when the Supreme Court decided that the words 'good moral character' could be used to suppress unpopular minorities. Mr. Eimers was successful in his fight for admission to the Florida Bar Association, who have/had such a clause in their entrance requirements.

Bloch, Allentown--

Motion to change wording of Conference Rules and Regulations, Section 5.

"Consideration of any Resolution will be limited to ten minutes (time established by the Official Timekeeper). At that time, the Chair will determine if the Assembly is ready to vote on the Resolution. The motion will come to an immediate vote."

Seconded, voted on, and carried by majority. ~~RESOLUTIO~~ Rules and Regulations amended.

Bloch--

Motion to strike Section 6 of the Conference Rules and Regulations. "Resolutions not passed by the hour appointed as the end of the session will be considered defeated".

Seconded, voted on. Affirmed. The section was deleted.

Lear--

Motion to accept Conference Resolution #1, as written.

Seconded. Voted. Affirmed.

Bloch--

Point of privilege, "That the microphone be used by all persons making statements ~~for~~ from the Floor". Granted by Chair.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #2.

Nancarrow--

Discussion of the resolution, merits and deficiencies.

Lear--

Motion to amend first paragraph as follows: "That the Plenary Session of the 1978 State Gay Conference endorse the May 6th meeting called by Pa. Rural Gay Caucus to provide an open forum for the possible formation of a statewide support group".

Not identified in the hubbub--

Motion to substitute Lear motion for original resolution.

Seconded. Voted. Affirmed

Motion to adopt substitution.

Seconded. Voted. Affirmed.

Resolution ~~amended~~ adopted, as amended.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #3.

Bloch--

Motion to strike ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ underlining of words "and giving full protection to men" from amendment to original paragraph

4.

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed.

Bloch--

Motion to adopt amendment to Resolution #3, in entirety.

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed.

as amended,
Amendment, is now part of the body of Resolution #3. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~.

Jablonski--

Question use of the word "arbitrary" in the amended Resolution #3 in paragraphs 5 and 6.

Discussion by Sackman-Reed, Bloch, and Nancarrow

Jablonski--

Motion to delete the word "arbitrary" in Resolution #3.

Seconded. Voted on. Defeated.

Bloch--

Call the question, re: adoption of the amended Resolution #3.

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed. Resolution#3 adopted, as amended.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #4.

Bloch--

Motion to amend. Change wording in line #1 from "action taken to promote" to "raising awareness of" in wording "The gay community should take action to promote". Not seconded.

Motion to amend.

Change wording in Line 2 following "Community," to "the Gay Community recognizes the need for participation of Non-Jewish and Non-Christian Religions". ~~Not~~ Seconded.

Lear--

~~Not~~ Motion to Amend Bloch motion for amendment.

Substitute words "The Gay Community should take action to promote Non-Jewish and Non-Christian religions." Seconded.

Official Timekeeper called time. ~~Not~~ Resolution to come to vote.

Eller--

Motion to extend discussion time of amendments to six minutes.

Seconded. Voted on. Failed to pass.

Question called.

Resolution #4
Voted. Failed in its entirety for lack of agreement and
vagueness.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #5

Jablonski--

Motion to amend Resolution #5 by adding words "that the Gay
Pride '78 Conference encourages and endorses" after "Resolved,"
Line #1, Paragraph #1.

Seconded. Voted on, Affirmed.

Motion to accept Resolution #5, as amended.

Discussion on Floor.

Question called. Voted on. Affirmed.

Resolution #5 adopted, as amended.

Chair--

Introduction of ~~XXXXX~~ Resolution #6.

Bloch--

Motion for editorial changes and revisions. Delete "Resolved"
as ~~xxx~~ first word of resolution and add word "Therefore".
between words "gay community" and "be it resolved" in para-
graph 1, line 2. Delete words "a resolution of" between words
"that" and "this conference" in paragraph 1, line 2. Seconded.
Question. Intent of motion is clearly written.

Voted on. Affirmed.

Motion to adopt Resolution #6, as revised.

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed.

Resolution #6 adopted, as amended and revised.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #7

Lear--

Motion to amend to add words "education and" in paragraph 1,
line 4, between words "alcoholism" and "treatment programs".

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed.

Call the Question.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Motion to adopt Resolution #7, as amended.

Seconded. Voted on. Affirmed.

Resolution #7 adopted, as amended.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #8

Jablonski--

Motion to amend. Delete "Whereas" in Paragraph 3. Change word "oppression" to "problems" in paragraph 4, line 2.

Seconded.

Lear--

Motion to amend. Delete words "are oppressed" in paragraph 3, line 1. Add word "whereas" deleted by Jablonski amendment. Delete word "all" and use word "most" in paragraph 3, line 1.

Seconded.

Jablonski--

Motion to withdraw ^{Jablonski} amendment from consideration, except that portion pertaining to paragraph 4, line 2. Seconded.

Question called on Jablonski amendment.

Voted on. Affirmed.

Question Called on Lear Amendment.

Voted on. Affirmed.

Question called on Resolution #7.

Voted on. Affirmed.

Resolution #8 adopted, as amended.

Chair--

Introduction of Resolution #9.

Hoyt--

Motion to amend. Change words "participate in" to "endorse" in paragraph 2, line 2. Addition of paragraph 3, to read: "Be it further resolved that Gay Pride Conference attendees urge similar support from other organizations to which they belong".

Question called on amendment. Voted on. Affirmed.

Question called on Resolution #9. Voted on. Affirmed.

Resolution #9 adopted, as amended.

Lear--

Motion to present a new resolution to read, " Resolved, in order to provide a full range of spiritual and religious opportunities for gay people, the 1978 Gay Pride Conference encourage the gay community and particularly gay religious organizations to take action to assist in the creation of such opportunities. Seconded.

Discussion. Question called. Voted on. Defeated.

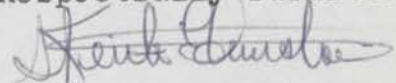
Jablonski--

Motion to adjourn.

Voted. Affirmed.

Meeting was adjourned by Chair at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Edmiston
Conference Secretary