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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Report*

Date: September 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus

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IMPORTANT

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PLEASE NOTE THE THREE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN THE NEWSLETTER:

1. Change of meeting location
2. Nominations for Rural Caucus Officers in October, Elections in Nov.
3. The date, location, and principal speakers of the planned conference have been set.

The October Meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus will convene at the Friend's Meeting House Sixth and Herr Streets in Harrisburg on Saturday, October 1st, at 1:00 P. M. This location is most easily reached from Interstate 83, Exit on 2nd Street. The Meeting House is a red brick building on Sixth several blocks west of the Capitol Building. Parking is available at the rear of the Meeting House.

The November meeting will again be in Lancaster, and following that meeting, all are invited to stay for a weekend of fun, relaxation, gay supportiveness, and let's-forget-about-business. Bring your sleeping bag or bed roll and someone to share it with on November 5th. You will also need a couple of bucks to throw in the kitty for food (or whatever), and some old clothes to help bring in the fire wood.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The By-Laws designate that elections be held in November for terms of one year, and nominations be open for one month prior to elections. Officers are two Co-Chairpersons (one male, one female), a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers must be voting members. Membership is defined as any person who attends the Caucus, and voting membership is defined as any member who has attended the Caucus in the preceding six months.

Nominations may be made ~~from the officers~~ by self or others and may be made at any time before the actual elections.

There is considerable doubt that any of the present officers will seek reelection, and some concern to be expressed that the Caucus has not been blessed in the past year by an overwhelming number of women, though three of the present officers are women.

Copies of the By-Laws will be available at the meetings in October and November.

The September Minutes

The September meeting of the Rural Caucus was held at 3002 Marietta Avenue in Lancaster on Sat., Sept. 9th. Sixteen persons attended. Business opened at 1:50.

The agenda included the Rural Conference, the NOW conference, Candy Sales, By-Laws amendment, Correspondence, Gay prisoners, and a Social weekend.

1) Education Committee- Mary Nancarrow informed us that the new Secretary of Education, Carol Kline seems responsive to gay rights. The Gay Rights Advisory Committee composed of personnel from the Department of Education, members of the Council on Sexual Minorities, and members of the Rural Caucus would soon be reactivated within PDE.

2) Documentation of Discrimination Project- Bari Weaver gave Mary and Joe two final drafts of the project which centers on the experiences of discrimination gays feel in education. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this project may still do so. No names or addresses are required on the

testimony, though it would be helpful to have them included. When completed, the report will find its way to PDE. Contact Mary, or Bari for more information.

3) Communications Committee- a discussion of media projects once started in the Caucus led to a referral of the question of making Public Service Announcements representing the Gay Community. This committee under Bob Woods is to investigate, and if possible enact the project.

4) By-Laws Amendment- the Caucus agreed unanimously to an amendment to the By-Laws which read, "that the deadline for mailing the newsletter be set at no less than fourteen days before the scheduled meeting, and if this deadline cannot be met, the Co-Chairs be notified and thereafter be responsible for no less than a simple notification by mail of the time and place of the next meeting within ten days of the meeting date.

5) Candy Sales- Bob Woods announced that he had received most of the monies from candy sales, and that we might have a small profit. However, he had also returned 5½ cases of candy to World's Finest Chocolates which had not been sold, and their response was that the deadline for return of any candy had been passed, and that the Caucus owed \$36.71 in shipping charges. Since the 5½ cases represents a lot of money, Bob has been instructed to reply to World's Finest Chocolates that they should return to us the candy we returned to them, and when we have received it, we will pay the charges owed. Anyone who has not turned their money or candy into Bob, please do so immediately.

6) NOW Conference- Those Caucus members who have volunteered for childcare and/or other services for the NOW conference must register for the conference. Unless one is a NOW Member, or has other good reasons for supporting women's Liberation financially, it is reasonable to register for the volunteers to register for the minimum \$3.00 fee as we are rendering services. Caucus volunteers may be housed free of charge in Allentown at the homes of gay persons. Please contact Joe Burns for housing, or to volunteer to help. (437-2642)

A resolution was passed for the Caucus to take a booth at the conference for the Caucus and other gay organizations to use in disseminating information of gay groups, and to insure the gay presence. The possibility of a bake sale (baking by men only) was raised and Joe Burns was to see about the booth.

(NOTE: The Hotel will not permit a bake sale. And invitations are being sent to all Rural gay groups to send literature to pass out, or if they have items for sale to send a person who will be responsible for the sale of their items.

-Joe) The resolution passed unanimously.

7) S.B. 531- Craig Lewis, the prime sponsor, has been the target of strong letter writing campaigns from churches in his constituent area and has weakened his support of the bill. Despite the recent changes in leadership in the Senate and House, which tend to favor us, S.B. 531 will not come out of Committee this year. It was decided to contact the Council for Sexual Minorities about strategy, but the general feeling is that the Caucus should keep pushing for 531.

8) Rural Gay Conference- rescheduled for January or February, probably at a Hotel. It was decided to spend more money to get a big-name speaker such as Elaine Noble or Frank Kameny. (SEE BELOW- STATE CONFERENCE)

9) HEALTH Concerns- The Caucus has received a letter confirming that Martin Rock is officially on the PA. Dept. of Health Advisory Committee on Sexual Minorities Health Concerns.

10) Social weekend(3) - we discussed having a social weekend in November. At the same time, Gary Norton announced that Homophiles of Williamsport is having a similar event on Oct. 22nd to celebrate their first anniversary. They have sent invitations to all the people they have come into contact with their first year. Many of these are Caucus members, others are Pennsylvania movement people who have addressed HOW, or sought them out for other reasons. They expect a hundred at their dinner.

11) the next Caucus was announced for Harrisburg (MCC-since changed) on October 1st. And the Caucus adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully, Char Krasnai

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
M.C.C. in Hbg. every 8:00pm Sun. service			M.C.C. Hbg over Wed. 7:30 prayer meeting 8:00 C.R.			PRGC meeting 1:00 pm Harrisburg
2 Hbg	3		5	5 HOW meeting 8:00 pm	7 Penna NOW Convention Allentown	8 NOW Convention continued
9 NOW Convention Continued	10	11	12 Hbg A.C.L.U. 7:30pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 HOW meeting 8:00 pm	21	22 H.O.W Dinner- Party res-by Oct. 10
23 30 (23)	24 31	25	26	27	28	29
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STATE CONFERENCE

The conference long anticipated in these pages has become at last a reality. Originally billed as a mainly Rural affair, the scope of the plans has necessarily grown with the location and expenses.

It is now official that the sponsorship is by the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities as well as the Rural Gay Caucus.

The Conference is scheduled for January 20, 21, 22 at the Hotel Americas in Allentown, that is, Friday Evening, Saturday and Sunday. This huge hotel is also the site of the Pennsylvania NOW Convention Oct. 7, 8, and 9th. Several nearby gay bars and a number of other resources make an ideal location.

Representative Elaine Noble, Tony Silvestre, and Dr. Bruce Voeller of the National Gay Task Force have agreed to act as the principal speakers for the Conference.

Always more than a conference, a festival atmosphere of gay business booths, gay entertainers, gay craftpersons, and gay artistry is being sought to supplement the conference.

In addition, a banquet is being considered by the committee. But, no more can be said until the discussion is completed.

Anyone who has ever worked on even the smallest conference knows that the task is a big one, and grows in proportion to the size of the event. We have grown from an anticipated maximum of 150 persons to a body which must be twice that size to be successful. The task is staggering.

We welcome all ideas, especially resources for talent, workshop leaders, craftpersons, and others who might add to the conference, as well as any advice on things we might overlook if we are not reminded.

As usual, the Caucus Committee on the Conference is open to anyone who joins it, regardless of membership in the caucus or other bodies. And we need all the help we can get.

The next meeting of the Committee will be following the Rural Caucus at Harrisburg, and a number of major decisions made at it.

A post office box has been taken in Lancaster for the purposes of handling the conference mail. Until, however, the name is decided, please direct correspondence to the Pa. Rural Gay Caucus, P. O. Box 1505, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

Registration forms and other publicity in connection with the conference should be available by the next newsletter.