

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

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**Title:** PA Rural Gay Caucus Meeting Minutes

**Date:** February 1977

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

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MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5th MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RURAL GAY CAUCUS

1977

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The February 5th meeting of the Rural Caucus was held at 1001-I2 N. Spring St., Middletown, Pa. The meeting was hosted by Metropolitan Community Church of the Harrisburg area.

The meeting was called to order by co-chairperson Mary Nancarrow at 2:20 pm. Officers absent were Joe Burns, co-chairperson; Sam Edminston, Secretary; and Jan Sweat, Treasurer. Dave Leas was temporarily appointed to take the minutes. Mary read the minutes from the last meeting. There were no changes to be made.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Jan and announced a \$50.00 donation in the past month bringing the treasury to \$137.05.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Woods, chair of the committee, reported that he had sent "media releases" to gay and alternative newspapers regarding the refusal of books donated by the caucus's book fund to the Lebanon high school which Kenneth Myers attended.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mary who chairs the committee stated that they have not met in the past month. Mary has been communicating with the PDE in regards to making the book fund more effective. She stated that we will be getting support from the PDE in having the books placed within the school libraries since the committee has been having trouble with the acceptance of the books.

Commonwealth Association of Students held their convention today at Shippensburg State College. Tim <sup>CWIEKSE</sup>~~WIEKSE~~ told how they were trying to obtain the cooperation of the 13 colleges who belonged to CAS on gay student issues. CAS passed a motion to support the addition of "sexual preference" into the non-discrimination clauses within

college administrations. Speakers have been suggested to the group from the Rural Caucus or the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities.

Tim asked the group to pass a motion in support of the repeal of the sodomy laws in Pa. The vote on that motion was scheduled for the following day. Gay students in the CAS were to speak on the repeal effort <sup>and SB 83</sup> before the vote.

Mary stated that the committee would meet within the next two weeks.

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At this point in the meeting there were no reports from the Committee on Health Concerns, Social Committee, or Legislative Committee.

Martin Rock gave an update on the state of his employment. There is a list of conditions by which Martin can stay at his place of employment. Martin who works for a church organization which deals with over-seas relief work has had his job in jepordy for the past two months since his employer found that he was homosexual.

His employer has finally come to a decision regarding his employment. There are two provisions by which Martin can stay there.

1. Dissociation from advocacy or promotion that would attempt to influence other persons toward your sexual preference.
2. No involvement in sexual activities during the remainder of the (church) contract.

**I** The memo to Martin followed **I**: It is our understanding that you will reply to (supervisor) on these two points. We hope that you will find it possible to continue until July 13. (the end of his contract).

Martin reminded cauc<sup>s</sup> members of the formation of the Mennonite/Brethern Gay caucus and that the information <sup>S</sup> should be passed on to interested persons.

Jerry <sup>Y</sup>oder from GCS Reading called on the phone to announce that GCS would be meeting with Sen. O'Pake from the Reading area in regards to the sodomy repeal effort. The meeting is scheduled on Monday, Feb. 8th @

4:30. Interested persons were asked to attend the meeting.

Bill Horn asked the support of the Caucus in regards to his recent ~~dismissal~~ dismissal from the ~~Resort~~ Treadway Resort Inn in Lancaster.

Bill explained that he was invited to attend a function at the Treadway as the date of one of the employees of the firm that was having the function. He was given permission from his immediate supervisor to attend the function <sup>who knew</sup> ~~knowing~~ that he would be dressed in drag.

The next day Bill received a notice ~~from~~ for improper attire which is one of the restriction place on employees while on the premises whther on duty or not. The person <sup>e</sup> who gave Bill permission was forced to sign the notice against his wishes saying that he was not given permission to <sup>t</sup> attend. ~~Bill~~. This was the second notice that Bill received. He received his first notice shortly after starting there for breaking a tray of dishes. The third notice was for arrivng late to work even though he called to say that he would be late. After three notices you can be dismissed at any time.

The <sup>Caucus</sup> caucus after discussing the matter suggested that a letters be written to his employers criticizing them for their discrimination against Bill. Letters should be written to:

Patricia Dohn, Gen. Mgr.  
222 Eden Rd.  
Treadway Inn  
Lancaster, Pa. 17601

Copies should be sent to: ( c/o of the Treadway)

- Tom Kelty, <sup>+</sup> Mgr Food & Bev. Mgr. (Person who fired him)
- Ted Ginsberg, (Owner)
- Steve Solms. (Owner)

@3:20

The caucus adjourned <sup>v</sup> for ~~break~~ break when Joe Bruns, Sam Edminston, and Drew Larson arrived.

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When the meeting was called to order at 3:45 Sam Edminston assumed the task of taking the minutes.

(over)

Joe,

I am apologizing to no one in the Caucus  
for being late. The circumstances were such  
that it is totally unnecessary.

Sam Edmiston

Enclosed find the remainder of the minutes  
86

P.R. G. C. 1001 Spring St., Apt. I-2, Middletown, Pa.

After recess for coffee

Bill Horn related an incident causing his loss of employment. He was given permission to attend a social function in feminine attire. Permission given by immediate super. After he attended, the permission was withdrawn due to a technicality in the dress code. Bill was fired. A motion was forwarded for P.R.G.C. to institute a letter writing protest to his supervisors and the owners of the motel ~~XXXXX~~ chain. The motion was seconded and affirmed.

Address; Lancaster Treadway Inn  
222 Eden Road  
Lancaster, Penna.

Bari Weaver gave a moving account of some correspondence he has had with a ~~XXXXX~~ prisoner on death ~~XXXXX~~ row in a Fla. State Prison. A Governors Review Board meets in March to commute sentences or give pardons. There are usually 5 or 6 prisoners on death row under consideration. A clemency appeal is usually commuted to life imprisonment. The MCC of Harrisburg will contact the nearest MCC to the prison and get gay materials to the ~~XXX~~ prisoner, who is gay. The members present at P.R.G.C. made a voluntary monetary contribution toward his immediate personal needs.

Joe Burns--SB 83 (anti-gay)

Urging a ~~XXXXXXXX~~ stronger and more impressive letter ~~XXXXX~~ campaign against such repressive legislation. There will be a meeting of the Legislative Committee on 2-19 at noon.

Address: 562 Cedar Hill Dr., Allentown, Pa.

Dale Masterson stressed the need for the P.R.G.C. to become active in the youth movement. The need for youth to have a positive label for their pains in 'coming out' could be met by making educational materials and positive counseling available in the high schools and communities. A motion was made to form a Youth Committee to study this problem and come up with some workable solutions. Seconded and affirmed by acclaim.

Drew Larsen-~~XXXXX~~ Social Committee

Definitely separate from Finance Committee. An ad hoc committee of interested persons to be handled by the ~~XXX~~ co-chairs of P.R.G.C..

March P.R.G.C. will be 3-5-77, at 1 PM, 3002 Marietta Ave. Lancaster, pa.

April meeting will be 4-2-77 in Reading (address later)

May meeting on 5-7-77 in State College in HUB, College campus

June P.R.G.C. on 6-4-77 at MCC headquarters in Harrisburg

All meetings will get underway at 1:00 PM.

We ~~XXXXXXXX~~ WELCOME Le-Hi-Ho back to the ranks and look forward to renewing old friendships and family ties.

The Education Committee has forwarded the Caucus Report to the Dep't of Education

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM. Party afterward at Jonathan Smith-Cousin's Home on Second St.

Respectfully,  
Jan Edwiston Sec.

2-23-77

Dear Joe.

I am sorry I did not get down to your home on my weekend off. The weather was quite nasty up this way and I have been having a few auto problems in addition to the existing ones. I may not be able to make it to the march meeting as my car will be in the body shop all that week. If the parts do not come in or if they get done with the car by Friday I will be able to attend. I am so sorry I have to miss the meeting. Would you request a stand-by secretary in case I cannot make it? If needed, have them forward the minutes to me at 723 1/2 Edison Ave. } my phone #  
Lebanon, Pa. 17801 } 286-8720.

Hope everything has been well with you all.

God Bless

Jan Elvinstan