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Title: PA Rural Gay Caucus Meeting Minutes

Date: April 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

MINUTES--P.R.G.C.

The regular monthly meeting of the P.R.G.C. was held at Reading, Pa., April 2, in the dining room of 'THIS IS IT; 801 Walnut St. The caucus was opened at 1:45 PM by co-convenor, Mary Nancarrow. The minutes of the previous caucus were read and accepted. The Treasury balance of \$159.24 from the Treasurer's report was accepted.

Communications Committee--Bob Woods

The news conference sponsored by the caucus on 3-10-77 in Harrisburg was carried by most local stations. The protest add Lobby Day concerning Gay Rights held on 3-14-77 also had wode coverage by the media and generated a lot of public reaction and interest. Human Rights Day has been postponed indefinitely.

Education Committee--Mary Nancarrow

The committee has been involved and influential in having 'sexual and affectional preference' clauses placed in Affirmative Action policy statements. The Office of Equal Rights at the Capitol in the Dept. of Ed. is not very supportive of in-service training on Gay Rights issues. A meeting of the Committee is expected within 2 weeks.

Proposed agenda of today's caucus

Status of SB 83 and SB 531
Human Rights Day status
Anita Bryant ~~xxxxxx~~ letters
Counseling Center in Reading (EROMIN)
Allentown town council
Arnolds(Hutchings) proposal

Youth Committee--Dale Masters

McClay and 3rd Sts. in Harrisburg has been proposed as the site for a Gay Youth Community Center or Coffeehouse. It is hoped that MCC of Greater Harrisburg Area will become ~~xxxxxx~~ an affiliate. Jonathan Smith-Cousins and Sue Butler have been elected co-chairpersons of the youth Committee. Some fund-raising activities have been proposed and one has been implemented. Candy is being sold @ \$1.00 per box (it's delicious) and comes in 4 delightful ~~fixxxxx~~ selections. We're not felling here, you have to ask to see the list.

Legislative Committee--Joe Burns

The 3rd reading of SB83 will be on April 19 and automatically will pass the Senate and go to the house. The Appropriation Committee study of cost of enforcement has been denied. A new phrase has been added which provides for automatic termination or transfer for any homosexual in a sensitive position as defined in the Bill. The Bill cannot be fought on Federal grounds since it is couched in residual police powers inherent to the state.

Arnold Hutchings requested official Lobbying status from the caucus in the form of a motion 'that he be named a Registered Lobbyist in the House and Senate representing P.R.G.C. and other organizations'.

It was seconded and affirmed. A second motion generating a lot of debate was the result of the recent Lobby Day. Some persons felt that inadequate preparation and ^{non-}delivery of important literature detracted from the effectiveness of the demonstration and Lobby. Some persons also felt that a demonstration was not in order and that shouting for rights is not the way to get them. All arguments have their antagonist and protagonists. It is up to the individual conscience of each member of the Caucus and of the Gay world at large how to best change law and public opinion, if indeed opinion can be changed. The controversy raged for some time and settled in the form of the following motion 'that the ~~FREE~~ P.R.G.C. support further lobbying activities with enough preparation, time, and material given to demonstrate effectively'. ~~XXX~~ Demonstrations, being recognized for the transient phenomena they present, will be supported as each member, in good conscience, feels best. The motion was 2nd and affirmed with 1 abstention. PEACE! SB 368 ~~is~~ is similar to 83 but pertains only to employment practice and is unconstitutionally discriminatory by EEO guidelines. SB531 (sodomy repeal) should come up for a vote in May. The Senators have already been tipped off due to some backroom politicking. It will face a stiff fight and perhaps an ignominious fate if letters don't come pouring in favoring the repeal.

Citrus and Anita

The letter writing campaign is faltering but alive. The grass roots response to E.R.A. legislation on gay issues has been the usual. It is a Communistic plot, Un-american, unwholesome, backed by foreign monies (God, where is it, we're as poor as ever!!), and decidedly unpatriotic and un-Christian. Mc-Carthyism is alive and well in Florida, Bryant, Boone, et al.

Maria Brant--Representative of EROMIN, PHILA. would like to know if a gay counseling center in Reading would be feasible and generate enough interest to be pursued further. A study of attitudes among the local gay community will be done.

The question of the 3rd World Committee has been tabled to a future meeting because Jonathan did not let anyone else in on ~~xxxx~~ his ideas. He was absent today.

April 6th at 7:30 PM the Allentown town Council will consider the new Human Relations ordinance and arguments will be heard re: gay discrimination in employment and housing.

"Joe", a personable young bachelor, has been fired from his position as apartment house manager, because of his sexual preference. The caucus advised him of his constitutional and certain procedural rights and took the matter under consideration until it's hopeful happy resolution.

The convenors of All Caucus committees are to submit semi-annual budgets and requests for funds at the next meeting.

A long overdue motion was presented to the Caucus ~~with~~ right before dismissal. 'That the Caucus pass the hat at each meeting to defray the cost of ongoing programs.' It is hoped that ~~regular~~ regular 'dues' are not levied since our organization is open to any one regardless of economic status. We have, however, extended some of our programs quite aggressively and would appreciate contributions. The first motion was followed by the logical second one 'that all monies thus collected are to be deposited with the Treasurer.' Both motions were passed without demur after being seconded.

A letter was received by the Caucus Convenors that Tony Silvestre, Chair of the Governor's Council, appreciated the efforts of the Rural Caucus on the recent Lobby Day. The Caucus thanked Tony for his interest and appreciative remarks. We all worked together.

The meeting ended at 4:30 PM by a motion of adjournment.

Respectfully,

S.K. Edmiston

S.K. Edmiston, Sec.

Joe,
As you can see, I added a bit of personal opinion to the minutes again. You may edit them in or out, as you wish. To avoid an embarrassing situation later on, I would like to apprise the co-convenors of the Caucus (you + Mary) of a personal decision. I will be resigning as Sec. on June 4th 1977. Elections can be ~~held~~ ^{held} that day and a replacement voted in at the July meeting. Please don't remonstrate with me and please don't beg me to stay. The caucus is a very viable organization and some of the new people can give the energy and talent to keep it that way. I have not made my decision without a lot of soul-searching questioning. I would

like to return some order and simplicity to my
fragmented life and devote some time to the Lay
Lib movement in a very concentrated and personal
way. I intend to stay in contact and attend meetings
from time to time as circumstances permit. I feel like
crying but it would not do any good, I have reached
the limits of my natural endurance and there are
no tears left. May the cause continue to grow and
prosper and may our young people take the initiative
to keep their minds ever open to new ideas & directions

Love, and peace.
Sam.