

NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS LGBT CAUCUS

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Kurt Nisley; Cupid Nicholson; Melissa Rigney; Carmen Sandell; Stacie Schultz; John G. Taylor; Larry Wikoff; Troy Ferrill; Kacie Groothuis; Tom Dorsch; Victoria Lavin; Diane Perry; Michael Gordon; Dustin Ross; Barb Baier; Lin Quenzer

Officers recognized.

Introductions, indicating Legislative District (LD).

Importance of knowing a person's LD was explained. Briefly, all Party politics revolve around an individual's LD, precinct, etc. To know who is your elected representative, you need to know your LD, etc. To become effective politically, you must know who to lobby on issues. To be active at county and state level conventions and meetings, you need to know your LD. To run as a delegate for your LD to serve as a representative at county and state conventions and meetings, you need to know your LD.

March 24, 2006 meeting minutes were approved with one correction: Larry Wikoff did not attend the meeting.

REPORTS

CHAIR, LIN QUENZER - Discussed the recent overturning of Judge Battalion's ruling regarding 416 (Nebraska's Defense of Marriage Amendment).

Discussed recent efforts by conservatives on Lincoln's City Council to target her job mostly because of her status as an out lesbian. Democrats on the Council voted against the measure and her job was saved. Political involvement helps lesbians and gays so they do not have to wage these battles alone.

Caucus members will be meeting with Gubernatorial Candidate David Hahn to discuss community issues and to provide help for his campaign.

Caucus representatives and other supportive Democrats will be meeting with Sen. Ben Nelson on Friday, August 25th to discuss our community's issues.

VICE CHAIR, TOM DORSCH - Dorsch is working hard on Norman Wallman's campaign for State Senator from the Beatrice area. Things are going well. Wallman is supportive of the LGBT community.

FIRST DISTRICT, VICTORIA LAVIN - Continues to publish the e-zine, "Daily Queer News," and assist with Wallman's campaign.

SECOND DISTRICT, MICHAEL GORDON - Lost the 416 case. The case will be appealed. The case is trying to establish precedent that marriage is for procreation. Case has many

similarities to the New York state case regarding same-sex marriage. Discussion ensued regarding the Nebraska DOMA case.

Gordon, as Citizens for Equal Protection Executive Director, continues to work on Anti-Bullying legislation to require all school districts pass and follow anti-bullying policies. Nebraska Department of Education is supportive. Nebraska Association of School Boards is not, but many are working to soften their position. Sen. Gwen Howard will meet with Virgil Horne, Lincoln Public Schools Legislative Liaison, on the matter.

Discussed the possibility of developing an on-line bullying and harassment reporting web-site for LGBT and minority students to be able to provide data that indeed bullying and harassment are an issue in Nebraska and to link students to resources to help them deal with the problem.

Discussed reaching out to Third Congressional District families with LGBT children and family members.

Approximately 600 to 700 people rallied and formed a human chain around the State Capitol today to protest the 416 court decision. Lots of good energy.

Please send messages of support to Alita Fence Roy who used to publish the e-zine, "FenceBerry," reporting LGBT news from around the country. E-mail: fenceberry@cox.net.

There's a job opening in Omaha with NE AIDS Project for Sex Education for and by Gay Men.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FILM FESTIVAL, MELISSA RIGNEY - Rigney is working on establishing a caucus database to start fund raising efforts to support an LGBT Film Festival. Suggested installing "Click & Pledge" on caucus web-site.

FUND RAISING - John Taylor will secure a Holiday Chocolate Party with proceeds going toward the caucus.

DRAG SHOW, PETER NISLEY - Nisley will organize this fund raiser.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership dues - As database is established, membership dues will be gathered. (Suggested donation of \$20.)

NEW BUSINESS

STATE PARTY PLATFORM - Discussion to introduce a platform statement against the U.S. Military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Policy.

Concerns raised about the building of an oil pipeline through Knox County and other counties in Nebraska. The pipeline would go through the aquifer, endangering the quality of our water supply. Some wanted to introduce a platform statement against the pipeline.

STATE PARTY CONVENTION: NE Democrats State Convention is the weekend of August 18th in Grand Island. The Caucus will meet to elect officers and will host a hospitality room for convention delegates.

Chair has continued to advocate within the State Party to retain recent rules changes that allow minority caucuses such as LGBT, African American, etc. to be formed.

The Caucus needs to organize “Meet and Greet the Candidates” opportunities prior to elections, particularly in Lincoln and Omaha.

NEXT MEETING

STATE CONVENTION, AUGUST 18TH, 6:15 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Respectfully Submitted By;
Barbara Baier