

**NE Democratic Party
LGBT Caucus Meeting Minutes**

July 8, 2005, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Barb Baier (Secretary), Larry Wikoff (Treasurer), Victoria Lavin (1st District Chair), Michael Gordon (2nd District Chair), Tim Francis (Membership), George Wolf, Tom Dorsch, Melissa Rigney, John Taylor, Tyler Richard; Alene Swinehart; Lori Rennings; Chuck Rensink, Alan Drees

Absent: Lin Quenzer (Chair), Chris Shepherd (3rd District Chair)

Barb Baier called the meeting to order in the absence of Lin Quenzer, Chair.

Caucus officers recognized.

Introductions of those present

Meeting minutes for June were approved.

Chair's Report – Barb reported for Lin.

Lin attended the State Central Committee meeting on Saturday, June 25th, in Omaha at Metro Community College. Got provisional approval for caucus affiliation. Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting

Barb explained some of the history up to this point;

Previously only Labor, Women and Young Democrat's Caucuses

At the last convention were able to get the rules changed to allow more caucuses

The African American Committee are also forming a caucus

The LGBT Caucus will be officially affiliated in the next few weeks

LGBT Caucus sponsored a vehicle in the Nebraska Pride parade in Omaha. CFEP co-sponsor. Banners will celebrated Nebraska's first openly gay/lesbian elected official, Barbara Baier. Baier spoke at the Nebraska Pride Festival.

The LGBT Caucus has received a letter from State Party Executive Director, Barry Rubin, allowing us to establish a bank account. Because of the Patriot Act is necessary for the caucus to incorporate. Articles of Incorporation have been compiled.

First District Report - Victoria Lavin.

Lavin continues to meet with the Beatrice Public Schools to establish an anti-bullying policy in response to the incident there. They are planning to bring in a group to do some training for staff and students. The BPS principal has been supportive.

The "Daily Queer News" continues to grow. Lavin has seen several items from the Queer news picked up by others. All of those present at this caucus meeting will be

added to the news list if they are not already subscribed.

Lavin encouraged everyone to read the Robert F. Kennedy article on inoculations.

Second District Report - Michael Gordon.

LB 627 (Anti-Bullying)

There will be Panel presentations done across the state to present the proposed legislation and to rally support.

Michael is meeting with the GSA group in Lincoln. They are taking the Anti-Bullying legislation as their focus for the year. The State Chair of the PTA has also come out in support of the legislation.

Michael reported on a survey done by the University each year. It is a sample survey of 1800 Nebraskans. There were 4 questions on Housing Discrimination, Workplace Discrimination, Foster Care and Marriage. Across the state there was no place with less than a 60% approval rating for NON discrimination in both housing and workplace. The support fro LGBT Foster care was only averaged about 38-40%. The support for Marriage rights was just very low. There needs to be a plan fro using the results of this survey to educate legislators.

The Board members for CFEP have changed. Michael wants to continue with the formation of another CFEP group in Lincoln.

Michael presented a discussion on the involvement of national organizations with our local state organization in relation to fundraising. Although there is lots of name recognition and prestige with having national groups involved. The reality is that almost all the money goes to the national groups and the state organization are left fumbling for money. There is a feeling that if national organizations are involved, then there needs to be a contractual agreement that insures the state organizations receiving a valid share.

“Seriously Funny,” the annual CFEP fund raiser, will happen on September 24th in Omaha. .

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Web-site. The web-site is up and functioning at: www.lgbtdemocrats.org. Barb passed around an article she had written that will be posted on the webpage. Everyone was encouraged to submit articles. All articles have to be reviewed for grammar and basic credibility by the caucus Executive Committee prior to posting. Generally, articles need to be 750 words or less.

It is necessary to get information to keep the webpage updated frequently.

Fund Raising/Events. We need to do some Fund Raising. Barb suggested the reestablishment of the LGBT Film Festival that used to be done at UNL. Discussion ensued about the cost, type of films, venue, timing, etc. Suggested locations were the Ross Theatre, the Rocco and the Joyo. It was decided that they did not want to interfere

with “Seriously Funny” from CFEP in the Fall, so the film festival would be planned for the Spring. “Seriously Funny,” the annual CFEP fund raiser, will happen on September 24th in Omaha. .

Motion was made to form a Fundraising/Membership Committee. Motion passed

Volunteers to work on this are:

John Taylor
Michael Gordon
Tim Francis
Melissa Rigney
Chuck Resnick
Tom Dorsch

Membership. Tim Francis proposed that the plan for membership be to recruit large numbers of people and make it easy to join, inexpensive and easy to renew membership. He proposed that the membership fee be \$10 or less annually. It was decided that it is also important that people receive something for their money to indicate they are a member. Like a membership card. It was decided that a combined membership with another organization would also boost membership in both organizations. And that there could be a monetary benefit to joining two organizations at once. Other organizations considered were CFEP and NAJA (Nebraska Advocates for Justice and Equality)

Motion was made by Tim and seconded by Tom to establish Membership Fees at \$10/Adult, \$5/Student, and fro an extra \$% for membership in CFEP. Motion Passed.

Forum/Issues Committee. September 11-17 will be Anti-Bullying Week. There will be forums across the state to raise awareness and support fro Se. Gwen Howard’s bill. Michael reported that there is some one in the state who is supposed to be a Diversity Coordinator for the state. He will find out who that is and what they are supposed to be doing with issues like anti-bulling.

Motion by Tom and seconded to do a caucus sponsored event during the week of Sept11-17 Anti-Harassment Week.

Volunteers to work on the event are:

Michael Gordon
Tom Dorsch
Tyler Richard
Melissa Rigney
Victoria Lavin
Lori Rennings
Barb Baier

George Wolf : David Johnson, the author of “The Lavender Scare,” will be in Lincoln on October 25th for a 7 or 7:30 presentationat the Great Plains Art Center, Hewlitt Center,

1155 “Q” St. This is the story of the Cold War persecution of Gays and Lesbian by the federal government. October is Gay & Lesbian History Month so it would be nice to do several things bringing more attention to David Johnson’s presentation. We will invite some state senators to attend the presentation. Proposed having the presentation taped for channel 13 TV. Possibility of finding anyone locally who was affected by the Lavendar Scare. George will follow up on this.

Public Relations.

Pride Pictures – The Booth, The parade

Barb reported that the Lincoln Arts Council is doing a project called “Stories of Home” They are selecting 12 Families with whom they will work to present their story. They are trying to focus on the diversity of families within Lincoln. There are many new immigrant families here that they want to showcase. And they really want an LGTB family. Applications are available at www.artscene.org Look for “Stories of Home”

Old Business.

In order to establish a bank account the caucus needs to be incorporated. Barb presented a copy of the proposed articles of incorporation. John Taylor reviewed the proposal and suggested some changes.

It was moved by Tom and seconded to approve the Articles of Incorporation as amended by John Taylor. Motion Passed unanimously.

New Business

Jeff has resigned as Vice-Chair.

Nominations were opened for the selection of a new Vice-Chair.

Tom Dorsch was nominated.

Nominations will remain open until the next meeting

Victoria presented two of the designs for the Caucus Logo. We need one logo on everything to be consistent and recognizable. Will continue to work on designs.

Announcements.

Reverend Wayne Moore is the new pastor at MCC in Omaha.

Tyler made announcements about two events at Wesleyan:

There will be a Cultural Fair as part of New Student Orientation. The goal is to inform students of all the resources available to them in the community. The LGBT Caucus will do a booth with CFEP.

The United States Student Association (the group that spearheads the Day Of Silence

Project) will do a program at Wesleyan around November 9-11. The focus will be Grass roots organizing. It will cost around \$4,500 to bring the program in. They are looking for co-sponsors. He will talk more about this at the next caucus meeting

Next Meeting will occur Friday, August 26 at 7 p.m. It was decided to keep the meetings in Lincoln for the time being. The next meeting will be at the CWA Union Hall, 25th & N.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Barbara Baier
LGBT Caucus Secretary