

Meeting Minutes

Nebraska Democrats LGBT Caucus

June 14, 2007
Thursday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
The Reading Grounds, Omaha

In Attendance: Lin Quenzer, Michelle Bang, Barb Baier, Ryan Fette, Fred Schneider, Eric Fought, Steve Griffith, Ryan Schliesser, Denys Steele, Michael Gordon

Caucus Officer Reports:

Michael Gordon- Congressional District 2

Just started having a LGBT Professionals group. LB 475 failed, and is the next major issue we're working on next session. HRC has contacted Michael about convincing Hagel and Nelson to vote for Hate Crimes legislation. Sen. Ashford who worked on hate crimes legislation and others who are supportive will help. Also, they sent two Ministers to a lobby day in Washington that talked about hate crimes legislation and had some support with that. Working on next seriously funny that will probably be held in October this year. Also, UNL and many other groups will be putting together a speaker's bureau for Lincoln and surrounding areas.

Lin Quenzer- Chair's Report

We've elected a new mayor and city council in Lincoln. We got mayor Chris Beutler, and City Councilmen Doug Emery, Jonathan Cook elected to positions. This was the first time that the Caucus had actually been able to make contributions to political races. We had a good show at the Unity Celebration, Youth Leadership, and Omaha Pride.

Ryan Schliesser- Events in June

Had tables at both the Celebrate Unity!2007 event and also at Nebraska Pride. First time we actually had a float in the parade as well.

Barb Baier Treasurer Report (For Larry Wikoff)

Balance from May 4: \$1103.53. After payouts for summit and booths and old liabilities, we have a new balance of 948.53, with revenues exceeding total liabilities by 248.58.

Old Business

Fundraising Update: Lin Quenzer

We need to have more fundraisers.

- Golf Tournament Fundraisers?
 - Raffle Prizes needed as well.

- Michelle Bang may help put together a committee
- Coffee shop Jam Sessions?
- Prom like dance

New Business

Welcome Eric Fought, Volunteer to Improve Caucus Web-site- Lin Quenzer:
Send Eric things you want put onto or updated on the website.

Co-organizing Town Hall Meetings with CFEP- Michael Gordon

We need to start having town hall meetings specifically around legislation next year. We're losing Ernie Chambers. We need to have a big informational campaign for senators. Iowa and Colorado have passed non discrimination legislation, we can too. We need to do meetings in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, really keep talking as much as we can until January. Wants to identify all non-profits in the state and ask them if they will consider non discrimination policies if they don't already have them. We really need a town hall meeting in fall. We need to have some one on one kinds of talks with senators.

- Barb wants to have it like an ally and community kind of a thing. We'll have a few senators there, and try to get a few people who we need to get onto our side who we need to convince to pass legislation like this.

Expanding LGBT youth's role in the Caucus- Denys Steele and Ryan Schliesser

We've had booths at different events. Also, we had a float at Nebraska Pride. We're looking for different kinds of fundraising that we can do to incorporate families

Lincoln Pride- What we can do to help?

They have been working with Lin, through the city since she's the Ombudsman with getting a permit and things like that. We need to help them out. Denys will be contacting Tammy Ahrens and asking what kind of help they need getting off the ground with Lincoln Pride. Pride will be held on July 20, 21 and then on the 22nd at 8th and D street at Cooper Park.

Caucus events for October?

- Town Hall meetings.
- Coming out Events
 - October 8th there will be a coming out dinner, to attend will be decided at next meeting
 - Formal dance might be held.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at CWA Union Hall, Thursday July 19th from 7-9pm.

Treasures report approved. Motion approved and seconded.

Adjourn