

**NE LGBT Caucus
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2005**

Attendance: Melissa Rigney; Lin Quenzer; Barb Baier; Larry Wikoff; Alene Swinehart; George Wolf; John Taylor; Michael Gordon; Tom Dorsch; Jerry Loos; Tim Francis

Officers recognized. Introductions made. October 2005 Meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Chair's Report by Lin Quenzer.

Discussed possibility of raising pledges in support of State Party. Tim Francis will follow up and report back. Discussion emphasized need to keep LGBT Caucus donors contact information, etc. confidential. Also discussed need to ask candidates their platform on LGBT community concerns. Our support is tied to their support of the LGBT community.

Discussed recruiting candidates for Regents race.

First District Report by Tom Dorsch.

Reported on lack of candidates in LD, particularly to replace Sen. Byars who has been favorable toward the LGBT community.

Second District Report by Michael Gordon.

Reported on Citizens for Equal Protection activities and plan to expand services and develop a board for Lincoln and surrounding area. Everyone was supportive and wanted different people to serve on the CFEP-Lincoln Board as to involve a greater diversity of people.

Discussed upcoming Gay Summit on May 6, 2006 at Mahoney State Park. Gordon is looking for event sponsors, etc., also possibility of sponsoring a Gay Rodeo/Barn Dance with help from supportive churches, and upcoming 2006 legislation, which is looking promising.

Talked about changing the dates on Bullying Awareness Week to enhance impact on pending legislation. Paul Olsen has communicated a desire to recruit school board members to testify in favor of the Anti-Bullying Bill.

Third District (Chris Shepherd continues to miss meetings.) Discussed finding alternative representation for Third District. (Need contact information for these people.)

Committee Reports

Web-site - John Taylor has found someone who would likely maintain the web-site in a timely fashion. He would need \$50/month to do this.

Motion made by T. Dorsch and seconded by M. Gordon to accept the web-site maintenance arrangement.

Fund Raising - Melissa Rigney and Larry Wikoff are organizing a fund raiser for January 14th at

Reading Grounds in Omaha. There will be a silent auction.

Additional Fund Raising - John Taylor will contact Jack Saltzman to have a Chocolate Party for the Caucus next year. Contact will be made with Rick Swaink to see when another fund raiser could be organized. If needed, the coalition could lend \$700 to the Caucus to cover bills.

Membership - Tim Francis needs a list of the members of this committee.

Old Business

John Taylor will get the EIN # and other items needed to open a Caucus bank account.

New Business

A City-led Hate Crimes Task Force has been organized. A LGBT Task Force is working on these issues in partnership with minority communities. Lin Quenzer was part of a televised discussion regarding hate crimes in Lincoln with Mayor Seng and others. Show was televised on Channel 5.

Endorsing Candidates

A lively discussion regarding the probable success of an endorsement ensued. All agreed that endorsements may need to be silent for some candidates and publicized for others, depending on the impact on their particular constituency.

More discussion on Regent races. A request was made to get a map of the Regents Districts. It would be helpful to get a supportive candidate elected to secure domestic partnership benefits at the University.

Next Meeting

January 6, 2006 (Canceled due to closeness to fund raiser on January 14th.)

Meeting adjourned.

**Meeting Minutes
Respectfully Submitted By:
Barbara A. Baier**