

COMMUNIQUE

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Vote NO on #1

by Jim Fotter, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

Well, it's hard to believe that summer so rapidly drew to a close. Jim and I enjoyed our first glimpse of summer in Aroostook County. I have now witnessed and felt the dreaded black flies, managed to dodge moose on the roads, and survived the hotter-than-normal temperatures. I'm a little worried about asking for cooler weather. (Be careful of what you ask for!) Some of us managed to go to other lands for vacation (in my case, Boston and D.C.). I notice that in northern Maine many institutions seem to take a break. My church essentially shut down for the summer. No one is expected to regularly attend because the summer hours are so short and precious. I confess that I also have found myself disengaging from duties attached to NLN – I even spaced out and missed the July steering committee meeting!!! No one talks about the coming Fall and Winter. One gets dirty looks, if he/she dares to suggest that snow and sub-zero temperatures will be upon us before we know it.

So . . . it seems that summer is a time of escape and denial. I understand that. In fact, I think we can all afford some escape and denial in that arena. But there is another level of denial that I find much more troubling. Few of us seem to be spending any time thinking about the up-coming referendum. *The Maine Anti-Gay Referendum Is Coming!* There – I said it!

Some of us are in the closet and are inclined to think that it won't have any impact on our lives. Some of us are out to a degree and are lucky enough to have employers who don't consider sexual orientation to be a reason to discriminate. Many of us are sure that the referendum will never pass – at least, we think it won't . . . we *hope* it won't. This referendum

is about pushing us back into an invisible, lonely, suffering world that ignores us. *Don't Ask - Don't Tell* doesn't work in the military, *and it doesn't work in our lives either*. We are fighting for the day when we truly celebrate our differences rather than persecute each other for them. It is a very important fight; we shouldn't demean it because it belongs to us.

I don't want this article to seem preachy; maybe I've already violated that concept. What I want you to consider is what you are willing to do to help defeat the amendment. Here are some of things that you could do:

- VOTE NO
- Put a bumper sticker on your car that says "NO on 1"
- Assist in analyzing voter files
- Send a contribution to 'Maine Won't Discriminate' (POB 853, Caribou 04736)
- Write a letter to the editor
- Get friends and colleagues to VOTE NO
- Participate in the "Speak Out Project" (ask me or Dick or Sheila or Terry about it)

Maybe there is only one thing that you can do on this list. If you do nothing else, VOTE NO. You owe it to yourself. The fact is that there is no effort that is too small to make a difference. I'm asking that you think of this now because there is still much to be done. Together, we will make a difference for our generation and those who follow after us.

In closing, I have enjoyed my first year in "The County." You are much of the reason why Jim and I now consider this area to be our home. You have accepted us as part of your family, and we thank you for that. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Be well,
/s/ Jim



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NLN's Mission & Budget

by Dick Harrison, Editor, *Communique*

At a series of meetings in late August and early September, some of the Steering Committee members and some other concerned NLN members reviewed our constitution, the income and expense history of the group, and then put together what is known as "zero-based budgeting". Here's how it works.

First, the Constitution's goals were reviewed and discussed. We adapted the "Preamble" to fit what is now NLN's *Mission Statement*:

The mission of Northern Lambda Nord is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered community of the Upper Saint John Valley and Aroostook County.

Then we discussed the "Goals" as listed in the Constitution. We viewed them in terms of (1) internal goals (things to accomplish for our membership), (2) external goals (things to accomplish with other groups and individuals), (3) attaining financial stability, and (4) administrative needs. With these four factors in mind, here are NLN's *Strategic Objectives*:

1. *To help lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered people divest themselves of negative attitudes about sexual orientation, to become comfortable with themselves, and to celebrate & appreciate the diversity of our community.*

2. *To serve as an educational resource and a role model within the community at large in an effort to positively affect attitudes about lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgendered people.*

3. *To stabilize and advance the financial health of the organization.*

4. *To provide and maintain a physical site and to provide a steering committee to help facilitate the first two objectives.*

Finally, using these four Strategic Objectives as a guide, a budget was established to reflect and advance these objectives. The budget items listed at the right are numbered to correspond with objectives 1 through 4 above. We first looked at what income we anticipated for the year and then discussed what we wanted to do under each of these four categories to accomplish those objectives. Each budget line item started with zero dollars. We then put a dollar figure on each expense, making adjustments and compromises until the income and expense figures were balanced.

Our figures showed that at a \$15 membership fee with 50 members (actual 1995 membership is 60; we've averaged 57 annually since 1980) our income would be \$750; looking at our fixed costs (rent, phone, insurance, newsletter), our expenses are over \$3000. We knew this had to change. The first suggestion was to increase the cost of membership from \$15 to \$25 for an individual and from \$25 to \$45 for a couple. (This change was adopted at the September 10th business meeting.) The reserve/carry-over figure is what we have at the end of the 1995 fiscal year, money which we do not anticipate having available at the end of our 1996 fiscal year. (NLN's fiscal year is October 1-September 30).

The mission statement, strategic objectives, budget and new membership fee structure were all adopted at the September 10th meeting.

Northern Lambda Nord Projected Budget, FY 1996

October 1, 1995-September 30, 1996
all figures are in U.S. funds

Income

Dues.....	\$1,250.00
Events/Door Admission.....	100.00
Fundraisers.....	300.00
Donations.....	2,500.00
Reserve/carry-over.....	2,800.00
TOTAL Projected Income ..	\$6,950.00

Expenses

1 - Internal

1.1 Two social activities/month.....	\$450.00
1.2 Women's night.....	50.00
1.3 AA meetings.....	0.00
1.4 Focus groups (discussions).....	100.00
1.5 Guest speakers.....	150.00
1.6 Send people to conferences.....	100.00
1.7 Newsletter.....	600.00
1.8 Spiritual activities.....	0.00
1.9 Maine/N-B networking.....	50.00
1.10 Library.....	50.00

SUBTOTAL.....\$1,550.00

2 - External

2.1 P-FLAG group.....	\$50.00
2.2 Teen Conference.....	50.00
2.3 Advertising.....	700.00
2.4 Start a youth group in cooperation with other organizations.....	50.00
2.5 Non-gay coalitions.....	100.00
2.6 Speakers bureau.....	100.00

SUBTOTAL.....\$1,050.00

3 - Financial Stability

3.1 Membership.....	\$350.00
- 3.1.1 Membership information packets	
- 3.1.2 Membership drive party (October)	
- 3.1.3 Meetings in New Brunswick to encourage more Canadian participation	
3.2 Grant writing/consultant fees.....	200.00
3.3 Fundraising.....	200.00
3.4 Donor database.....	100.00

SUBTOTAL.....\$850.00

4 - Administration

4.1 Office rent.....	\$1,500.00
4.2 Telephone.....	550.00
4.3 Insurance.....	150.00
4.4 Bank expenses.....	100.00
4.5 Office supplies.....	200.00
4.6 Contingency fund.....	1,000.00

SUBTOTAL.....\$3,500.00

TOTAL Projected Expenses \$6,950.00

Au N-B, on marche pour la vie

Au Nouveau-Brunswick, la 3^{ème} marche annuelle pour le SIDA aura lieu le dimanche 1^{er} octobre dans le cadre de la campagne nationale de la marche pour le SIDA. Le N-B se joindra à ses homologues des provinces atlantiques pour promouvoir les marches de l'Atlantique sous le thème «*La Marche, parce que le SIDA nous concerne tous*». En Atlantique, les marches visent principalement à apporter du soutien aux personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA, ainsi qu'à leurs familles, et à sensibiliser les gens au fait que le SIDA touche tout le monde, non pas seulement les personnes qui en sont atteintes.

Parrainées par les organismes qui se consacrent à la prévention du SIDA, à l'éducation et à la promotion de la santé, les marches se dérouleront partout dans la province et inaugureront la Semaine de sensibilisation au SIDA, du 2 au 8 octobre 1995. Bien que nous invitions tout le monde à participer à la collecte de fonds visant à soutenir les services de prévention, d'éducation et de promotion de la santé de SIDA NB, il n'est pas

nécessaire de solliciter des dons pour participer à la marche. La participation témoigne de la sensibilité à l'égard de ce problème de santé des années 90 et des gens qui en sont directement touchés.

«Les marches prennent de l'ampleur partout au Canada» dit Joseph Gauthier de SIDA NB. «Jusqu'à maintenant, plus de 40 communautés canadiennes ont confirmé leur participation en 1995. En 1994, plus de 50 000 marcheurs ont amassé plus de 2,3 millions de dollars au pays. Au Nouveau-Brunswick, 1 900 personnes dans 13 différents endroits ont atteint plus de 32 000\$. La campagne nationale de 1995 est la deuxième marche à être coordonnée à la grandeur du pays. On aimerait voir 70 000 Canadiens dans les rues.»

New Brunswick walks for life

The third annual AIDS Walk will be held across New Brunswick Sunday, October 1 as part of the national AIDS Walk campaign in Canada. New Brunswick will join its Atlantic counterparts in promoting the Atlantic walks entitled, "*The Walk... because AIDS touches everyone.*" The Atlantic walks' primary goal is to demonstrate support for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families within the community, and to show that it affects everyone, not just those living with the virus.

Sponsored by NB AIDS agencies involved with AIDS prevention, education and health promotion, "Walks" will occur across the province and will kick off AIDS Awareness Week, October 2-8. Although individuals may assist in raising funds for continued HIV/AIDS prevention,

education, and health promotion services provided by AIDS agencies, it's not required to raise funds to participate. One's involvement provides a physical sign that the community cares about this health issue of the '90s and the people it has directly affected.

"The Walks are growing nationally," commented Joseph Gauthier of AIDS/SIDA NB. "To date over 40 communities across Canada have indicated that they'll be participating in 1995. Nationally in 1994, the Walks raised over \$2.3 million by over 50,000 walkers; New Brunswick raised approximately \$32,000 through 1,900 individuals in 13 communities. The 1995 National AIDS Walk is the second Walk to be coordinated at a national level, and targets to place 70,000 Canadians on the streets.

Coordinateurs/Coordinatrices de la Marche – Walk coordinators

- **Edmundston**

Maurice Forest, 737-1015
Marc Gendron, 739-6536

- **Grand Falls/Grand-Sault**

Eddie Rioux, 473-6994
Joanne Moreau, 553-6487

- **Plaster Rock**

Janice Black, 356-2075

- **Woodstock**

Vanessa Hubbard, 277-1014

- **Bureau SIDA N-B/AIDS NB Office
Fredericton**

1-800.561-4009, 459-7518

• Some Lambda members from the Caribou-Presque Isle area will be car-pooling to the Grand Falls Walk. Contact someone from the Steering Committee if you want to go.

Grassroots Organizing

"Changing Maine" is a gathering for grassroots organizers and educators. This is billed as "an exciting opportunity for activists throughout Maine working for social change to gain mutual support and discover new ideas and strategies to help them to do their organizing and educating more effectively and energetically."

It will be Saturday, October 14 in Augusta. If you want more details and a registration form, contact Larry Dansinger at INVERT, POB 776, Monroe ME 04951-0776, or call 525-7776.

Symposium Is Coming!

The Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXII will be held Friday through Sunday, June 21-23, 1996 at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. Hosts will be members and friends of the Mount Desert Island group "Out On MDI". Organizers are planning a number of outdoor activities, including a sunset boatride, hikes, and bike rides. These will be in addition to the regular Symposium events such as the dance, keynote speakers, entertainment, workshops, and discussions. There is limited on-campus housing at the College of the Atlantic, so the planning committee hopes to make arrangements with a local campground for one "Symposium Section." People wishing to stay in motels will be provided with Chamber of Commerce information brochures. Bar Harbor is accessible from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia via the Marine Atlantic ferry. Fairies on the ferries. Look here for more details as they develop!

Who's Your Phone Company?

The Gay & Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine, a 13-year old project of Northern Lambda Nord, is hoping to expand this service by installing a toll-free 800 number. One of the sources of funding for this goal is from *The Pride Network*, a gay & lesbian "affinity group" telephone service which is operated by Trans-National Communications. They give 3% of all long distance calling charges subscribers incur to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or AIDS service group of their choice. Designated groups only need 10 people to sign up and indicate that they want The Pride Network to give money to that group. Northern Lambda Nord is one of the groups that subscribers may designate to receive donations. But after more than two years of solicitations for support, including a mailing of about 1,400 sign-up forms, The Pride Network informs NLN that *there are only three people donating money to help NLN and the Phonenumber*; this means that NO money from these three supporters is getting to Lambda

because we need at least 10 people!

Helping the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine and using The Pride Network doesn't cost you any extra in terms of your phone bill. The 3% is not any extra charge you may be asked to pay by The Pride Network; they take it from their revenue and give it back to our community. Most phone company services are about the same. They're all pretty competitive. The Pride Network buys time from MCI, Sprint, AT&T, from whomever has the cheap rates at the moment. They have calling cards and all those other things. Their monthly bills don't say "GAY" on them.

Using The Pride Network and designating NLN as your beneficiary is a painless and easy way to help Lambda pay the phonebills and to build up the fund for the 800 number. What are you waiting for? Call The Pride Network at 800-xxx.xxxx and tell them you want to help Northern lambda Nord. Or pick up a sign-up form at the Community Center. Do it today, will ya?!

Brief Notes

- **Save Your Bottles & Cans** Northern Lambda Nord's building fund (designed to raise money to purchase our own building) grows from your bottle & can deposits. Please donate bottle & can money to the fund; either bring your empties to an NLN event or bring in the money. **The Building Fund stands at \$3675.84^{us}.**
- **Quilt panels** - In the past few years, a number of people in northern Maine and New Brunswick have died from the

effects of AIDS. Lambda members have made three panels to remember our friends, but more could be created. If you are interested in making a panel in memory of someone who has died, contact the Steering Committee.

• **Look at your Mailing Label!** If you're an NLN member, the first line on your label will say "MEM" with a four-digit number, either 95xx or 96xx. **If it's 95xx, your membership expires Sept 30th. Please renew today!**