

COMMUNIQUE

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What's Going On!

by Sheila Everett, Director, Northern Lambda Nord



As Director of Northern Lambda Nord, I want to let you know that Susie Bowman and Terry White have resigned from our Steering Committee for personal reasons. Donald Weatherford has agreed to fill Terry's position as Phoneline Coordinator. This leaves two Members-at-Large vacancies which need to be filled. Anyone wishing to offer her or his time and energies to serve on the Steering Committee should contact me prior to the next Steering Committee meeting April 21ST (Sheila Everett, 207/764-7838; 13 Third Street, Apt. 2, Presque Isle ME 04769).

Jim Fotter and Jim Carroll will be relocating to the Augusta-Brunswick area in May. Jim F. has been Lambda's representative and the Region One (Aroostook County) delegate on the Board of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA). Any member or members who are interested in filling this vacancy, either full-time or on a rotating basis (sharing the Board seat, thereby taking turns representing us at the meetings), should contact a member of the NLN Steering Committee. *Note:* The MLGPA Board meets once per month on a Saturday afternoon in Augusta; they give some financial reimbursement for mileage.

On a more positive and up-beat note, here's what's going on within Lambda. Our Secretary, Diana Campbell, is on a temporary transfer from her job in Florida; she'll return some time in April. She's been busy requesting grant information and researching possible funding sources for NLN, plus she's doing what she can – when she can – to enhance the overall safety and comfort within our family. Phil Bushey, NLN Treasurer, is keeping our finances in order. He's re-organized the format of the monthly financial statements; the new format is easy to understand and gives us a snapshot of our financial health. Walter Fournier, a new Member-at-

Large, is attending meetings regularly and finding his niche on our board. You'll see his smiling face at many of our social activities. David Nadeau, the new Social Director, is busy with new ideas and making things happen for NLN and our community on a larger scale (the May 4TH Spring Bash Beach Party with Karaoke is just a beginning!); he's always open to suggestions for new activities. Let's support his creativity and commitment! Dick Harrison, newsletter editor, keeps us informed on a regular basis. He's responsible for *Communiqué*, the members' calendars, and other special flyers. Librarian Ray LaValley has completed the total listing of our resource library *Bibliothèque Lambda*, making sure that all the books are correctly entered into the computer. His next goal is to have sign-out cards for each volume in our library printed and then put in the pocket in the back of each book. Yours truly is working on fundraising activities and ideas, and trying to promote a healthy atmosphere of respect and appreciation within our family, touching base with as many family members as possible on a weekly basis. And as Phoneline Coordinator, Donald is busy with the expansion of our telephone service: expansion both in number of hours per week (a three-fold increase from the current Wednesday, 7-9pm Maine time to Monday-Wednesday-Friday 7-9pm) and the type of service we offer, now providing HIV-AIDS prevention information. He's also acting as Secretary during Diana's absence, so he's handling the meeting's minutes, too.

There's a calendar change: Our April meeting will be on the 21ST rather than on the 14TH, and will be on our summer schedule, starting at 3pm rather than 1pm Maine time.

That's it in a nutshell – what's happening with all of you, my brothers & sisters?

Thought for the day: Live and Let Live.

Yours in reclaiming Pride and Life, /s/ Sheila

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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 River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.

Steering Committee
Comité Exécutif

Sheila Everett.....*Director/directrice*
 Phil Bushey.....*Treasurer/trésorier*
 Diana Campbell.....*Secretary/secrétaire*
 Ray LaValley.....*Librarian/bibliothécaire*
 Donald Weatherford

Phoneline coordinator
coordonateur du téléphone

Dick Harrison

Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin
 Walter Fournier

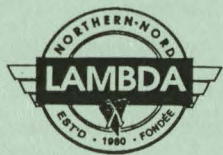
Member-at-large/membre en liberté

COMMUNIQUÉ

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COMMUNIQUÉ

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Our Phoneline changes & grows

by Donald Weatherford, Phoneline Coordinator

Editor's Note: *In early winter, Northern Lambda Nord and Health 1ST, a division of ACAP – Aroostook County Action Program – received a \$4000 grant from the Maine Office on AIDS to provide HIV & AIDS awareness and prevention information to a targeted group: men in Aroostook County ages 18-24 who have sex with other men. This applies to men who may identify themselves as gay or not. Some of the means to this goal are to increase the staffed hours of NLN's Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine, expand the Phoneline to a toll-free 800 number, and give volunteers HIV & AIDS training and peer counseling skills. Jim Fotter helped write the successful grant application, and Donald Weatherford is coordinating the follow-through. Here is Donald's report.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the seven volunteers who have given of themselves and of their time to ensure this new venture is a success. I must admit that I was a bit disappointed with the lack of apparent interest in this new project. To say that I was frustrated would probably be an understatement. One evening at a recent social I was relaying my frustration to Jim Fotter, and his response struck a nerve. He

told me not to be too hard on people here because "they are not out." I thought and thought about this and a realization came to my mind. This is an HIV & AIDS Awareness Phoneline project. Granted, it will still cater to the Gay and Lesbian community, but we have a new focus now: to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS, especially with the young men in this region. Then another thought came to mind: If the Gay and Lesbian community cannot distinguish that HIV & AIDS is not a gay issue, then how in the world can I expect the heterosexual community to think otherwise? But it makes no never mind. I am a hard-headed individual, and I give people the benefit of the doubt. I know that by the next training session there will be more people willing to give of their time. For now, however, I want to thank Sheila, Dick, and Joe from the NLN family, and I want to thank Alma, Brenda, Margo and Kathy from UMPI and friends of NLN for all their support and enthusiasm. With your help I know that we can make this new service to humankind a success. A special thank you to Darylen and Deb and Margaret for their training and their patience. You are a part of our success. Thank you for listening. ▼

Maine Symposium XXII is coming!

The Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXII will be held on the campus of the College of the Atlantic in beautiful Bar Harbor. Dates are Saturday, August 17 at 10am through Monday, August 19 at 2pm. Some of the events planned by the local Symposium committee include a "gayla" tour of Mount Desert Island, hiking in

Acadia National Park, an evening boat cruise on Frenchman's Bay, swimming, kayaking, and a volleyball tournament. This is in addition to the workshops, meals, and dance. Keynotes will be Michaelangelo Signorelli, columnist for *OUT* and other gay magazines, and Pat Peard, leader of last November's *Maine Won't Discriminate* campaign.

Entertainment includes drag entertainer Musty Chiffon, whose father used to be Mayor of Bangor, and Canadian folk/pop singer Lucy Blue Tremblay.

On-campus housing will be available, as will camping and motel accommodations. More details here as they become available. ▼