

COMMUNIQUE

VOLUME XVIII: NO. 3
JUILLET-AOUT/JULY-AUGUST 1997

From the Maine Community Foundation

NLN Receives \$5000 Grant

by Dick Harrison, Editor

The Board of Directors of Northern Lambda Nord is very pleased to announce that this organization has been awarded a grant-in-aid of \$5000 from the Maine Community Foundation's MAINE EQUITY FUND. NLN submitted an application in late March and was notified of the grant in early June.

The Maine Community Foundation agreed to fund six NLN projects. Here's a breakdown of how the money will be spent:

✓ RENT FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER - \$1500
Our rent for one year is \$3000. NLN's Board felt that through our current fundraising efforts (raffles, bottle drives, donations) we could raise \$1500 so we requested – and received – matching funds.

✓ INTERNET WEB SITE - \$350 - Lambda will pay for a dedicated phoneline for the computer (freeing up the Gay & Lesbian Phoneline's line) and establish a presence in cyberspace.

✓ OFFICE MANAGER - \$1600 - This money is for a stipend for a part-time office manager to do the myriad of things that need to be done at the community center - from taking care of filing to taking out the trash. The position is for four hours per week.

✓ SELF-PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE - \$600 - NLN has not had a printed brochure for many years. This money will pay for the design and printing of a pamphlet which will explain who and what Northern Lambda Nord is - including our history, our service area, and our goals.

✓ OUTREACH - NEWSPAPER ADS - \$550 - Small classified ads will be placed in each of the area weeklies (there are 5 in Maine and 5 in New Brunswick) noting that NLN is here. We'll advertise as long as the money permits.

✓ DISCUSSION GROUPS - \$400 - This money is for stipends to bring discussion group leaders "from away" (as well as local people) to facilitate discussions around a variety of issues. Lambda

held regular discussions years ago, but has not done so in the recent past. The Board felt that for a discussion group to be most successful, having a leader who was not part of the group would be best. At the July 10th Board meeting, they talked about initiating these discussions after Labor Day with a talk about religion, and how we as gay people deal with the issues that raises.

Since 1984, Northern Lambda Nord has been the recipient of 11 grants, ranging from \$265 to \$7500. With receipt of this most recent Maine Equity Fund grant, it brings the total of outside funding that NLN has received over the last 13 years to \$36,600. In addition to the Maine Community Foundation, our funding sources have included the Chicago Resource Center, the Maine Board of the Haymarket People's Fund of New England, and Resist.

The Maine Equity Fund was established by the Maine Community Foundation in 1996. It receives a two-year \$60,000 matching grant from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership. The purpose of the Maine Equity Fund is to promote greater understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in Maine, and in so doing address issues of diversity, inclusiveness and acceptance of difference. The Maine Community Foundation's main office is in Ellsworth.

Let's Get Involved!

by Donald Weatherford, Director, Northern Lambda Nord

Howdy, folks! Has this been a beautiful summer, or what?! I can only hope that it lasts. I really would not mind it if this weather insists on staying until late September or even October. Do you think I ask to much?

Well, we have entered the seventh month of this Steering Committee's run, and I just want to say how proud I am to be a part of this organization. A lot has been accomplished, and it is due



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to the dedication of your elected officials. I am going to take some of this space to thank the Board individually and to let you know about some of the activities that your Board has been involved with, working for *you*.

Phil, the treasurer, has kept our finances intact, and keeps a tight handle on them (which we need). He has set up NLN's computer, got us on-line, and is in the process of setting us up with a web page – all things needed for the future of NLN.

Dick, our newsletter editor, has so many handles that editor just does not seem to fit sometimes. Not only does he get out the *Communiqué* and our events calendar, he also is the fundraising coordinator, NLN's PR person, the public voice of NLN, and my occasional secretary.

Chris, our librarian, has catalogued the books within the library and provides us with a youthful outlook at life.

Diana, our secretary, keeps all records of what it is that we are doing, just in case we forget.

Deb, our Phoneline coordinator, has continued with the

growth of this important outreach program, and she provides a different kind of viewpoint for the Board. She is on the ground floor of setting up an Outright youth support group, which is desperately needed in this area.

Sheila, our social director, keeps NLN dancing and having a good time. She sets up functions that hopefully all can enjoy, and she is always there with an encouraging word, which everyone needs from time to time.

Then there are our three members-at-large. Wayne is always there to provide us with and to set up our entertainment system for NLN functions, and he helps keep the Board's feet on the floor. Walter provides us with wisdom and is always there to help when it is needed. He attends almost all of the functions and provides us with a youthful outlook on life. Then there is John. He has been our DJ, our food committee, and has helped in any way that he can.

This your Board. Your elected officials. People without whom NLN would not be growing the way that it is. People with whom I am proud to work and to be associated with.

These people are volunteers. They do their jobs for the good of all; they are not in this just for themselves. They are not glory seekers; they are trying to make a difference. There is a down side to this, though. As volunteers, people get tired, and at times feel used. Especially if the volunteer numbers are low, which – unfortunately for Northern Lambda Nord – is currently the case. The number of volunteers who are not Board members is very low.

What am I getting at? Well, it's like this; out of 67 members of this organization, only 15 or so actually volunteer to help with things. I certainly understand that there are reasons why a person cannot volunteer. Whether it be fear of disclosure, not living in the area, distance is too far, not having the time, or simply choosing not to help. Whatever the reason, I am not here to judge. What I am going to do is to ask those of you who are in the area, who do not live out-of-state or "down country" to consider your stand on volunteerism.

It would be wonderful to have more than one person to help with the newsletter "fold and stuff" which happens every third Friday of the month at the Community Center. This might consist of an hour of your time. Perhaps this is pushing the gauntlet a tad, but what a relief it would be to have people volunteer to be on decorating committees, food committees, or clean-up committees for the functions that occur at rented halls. (We have one coming up at the end of August.)

I guess what I want to say is a big "Thank You" to the Board and to the members that do volunteer for all that you do. Please never think that your efforts go unnoticed. It is not only appreciated by me, but it is appreciated by the member-

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, INC.

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Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center Centre communautaire des gais & lesbiennes
398 Main Street (mail: POB 990) 398, rue Principale (postes: CP 990)
Caribou, Maine USA Caribou, Maine USA
Gay & Lesbian Phoneline 207.498-2088 Télégai 207.498-2088
toll-free within Maine 800.468-2088 sans frais de l'intérieur du Maine 800.468-2088
e-mail: nlmban@agate.net e-mail: nlmban@agate.net

OUR MISSION 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.

NOTRE MISSION: Développer les intérêts et le bien-être de la communauté des gais, lesbiennes, bisexuelles et transgenres de la vallée de la haut St-Jean au Nouveau Brunswick et de la comté Aroostook au Maine.

STEERING COMMITTEE ▼ COMITÉ EXECUTIF

<u>Director/directeur</u>	<u>Social Director/directrice des activités sociales</u>
Donald Weatherford, Limestone, Maine	Sheila Everett, St-Léonard, New Brunswick
<u>Treasurer/trésorier</u>	<u>Librarian/bibliothécaire</u>
Phil Bushey, New Sweden, Maine	Chris Levasseur, Van Buren, Maine
<u>Secretary/secrétaire</u>	<u>Phoneline coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone</u>
Diana Campbell, Limestone, Maine	Debra Madore, Presque Isle, Maine
<u>Members-at-Large/membres en liberté</u>	<u>Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin</u>
Walter Fournier, Sinclair, Maine	Dick Harrison, New Sweden, Maine
Wayne Morrow, Van Buren, Maine	
John Nelson, Fort Fairfield, Maine	

COMMUNIQUÉ

Communiqué publié six fois par année par Northern Lambda Nord, une organisation pour la communauté gaie-lesbienne-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska, Victoria, Carleton et Aroostook). *Abonnement*, 15\$ par année. *Adhésion NLN*, 25\$ par année (fonds E-U), dans lequel inclus l'abonnement. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peuvent être organisés. NLN est une organisation à but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le *Communiqué* sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenues.

COMMUNIQUÉ

Communiqué is published six times yearly by Northern Lambda Nord, an organization serving the gay-lesbian-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook, Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton counties). *Subscriptions*, \$15 per year. *NLN Membership*, \$25 per year (U.S. funds), which includes a subscription. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax deductible. Advertising rates in *Communiqué* are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.

ship at large (whether they know it or not).

Keep on enjoying this gorgeous summer, and I do hope to see more of you participate with the growth of your organization.

Until next time, /s/ D. ▼

Brief Notes

• **SAVE YOUR BOTTLES & CANS** -Northern Lambda Nord has an on-going Building Fund Drive, designed to raise money to purchase our own building. It grows, in part, from your bottle & can deposits. Please donate bottle & can money to the fund; either bring your empties to an NLN event or to the Community Center Office where there's a can for empties, or bring in the money.

• **NLN MAKES "THE ADVOCATE"** -If you subscribe to *THE ADVOCATE: the National Gay & Lesbian Newsmagazine*, take a look at the June 24, 1997 issue. They have a series of articles about living outside large urban centers. In a sidebar on page 68 entitled, *You can go home again - Building a community*, they discuss the growth of community centers around the country. "Today, there are some 75 lesbian and gay centers and center-organizing committees throughout the country, including some in such relatively remote places as Caribou, Me., and Scottsbluff, Neb."

• **JOIN THE CHRISTIAN COALITION!** -Northern Lambda Nord received a letter from (former) Executive Director Ralph Reed, "to introduce you to the powerful and positive work of the Christian Coalition" urging us "[to become] an active member of the Christian Coalition wherein you can participate in our grassroots lobbying and grassroots campaigns that will truly change America." For only \$15, we can join the ranks of "pro-family activities who are taking greater command of their lives." The NLN Board carefully reviewed the invitation but decided to pass on this golden opportunity; our money was better spent supporting our pro-family activities.

• **WOMEN - TAKE NOTE!** -If you're looking for a fun, peaceful and caring weekend on the coast of Maine, don't miss the annual "Fallfest" Friday-Sunday, September 5-7. It's twice-yearly ("Springfest" and "Fallfest") women's camping weekend. Previous events have featured entertainers such as Lucy Blue Tremblay; this fall will be different. The weekend will have an open mike (bring your musical instruments and your singing voices), a dance, sports, and a relaxing atmosphere at one of the most beautiful campgrounds in midcoast Maine. The cost is \$30 per person for two nights of camping. Of course you supply your own camping gear and food. For information, 207.737-0930.

• **LESBIAN HEALTH PROJECT** -The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center in Bangor is looking for women interested in serving on an advisory board to their Lesbian Health Project. They have secured a grant from the Maine Equity Fund to survey health care providers in seven northern and eastern Maine counties to identify health care providers' attitudes and knowledge regarding lesbian health issues, and to develop a list of lesbian and lesbian-friendly health care providers. A monthly lesbian health clinic will be held at the Center in Bangor starting in October. For more information, contact Suzanne Brunner, 207.581-2672 or e-mail brunner@maine.maine.edu.

• **"GAY RIGHTS" LEGAL INFORMATION** -Now that the Maine legislature has passed a bill amending the state's Human Rights Act to include protection from discrimination based upon one's sexual orientation, GLAD - Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders of Boston - is prepared to ensure that it is enforced in the courts. If you think you have been discriminated against because of your orientation, you can call their hotline for legal information, support and attorney referrals, 800.455-4523.

• **SUPPORT THE MSOP PROJECT** -The Maine Speak Out Project is a statewide group of volunteers, straight and gay, who share their stories about discrimination - primarily anti-gay discrimination - with local church, civic and community groups. They make 3-5 minute presentations and then answer questions. The purpose is to put a human face on the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities. Members of the Aroostook County chapter have made presentations to many local groups including the Presque Isle Kiwanis, Caribou Historical Society, and the Fort Kent Senior Citizens. Volunteers are always needed. You participate in a one-day training session. You are not required to do any public speaking, only if and when you feel ready. The MSOP project is of vital importance in the effort to create a more accepting society. It will be even more important if the Christian Civic League of Maine, along with the Christian Coalition, succeed in getting another anti-gay ballot initiative on November's ballot, seeking to repeal the recently-passed "gay rights" law. The next NLN dance is a fundraising benefit for the Aroostook County chapter of MSOP. It's Saturday, August 23 from 8pm-1am at the Caribou Country Club. Please support this important event.

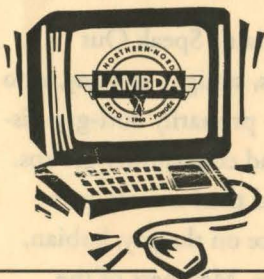
• **SUPPORT FROM THE WEST** - "Whereas, ... Whereas,... Whereas,... RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors do hereby declare support for the state of Maine for passing a bill outlawing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation with regards to employment, credit, housing and public accommodations." June 6, 1997 ▼

The Southern Baptists and the Walt Disney Company

"So the Southern Baptists are going to boycott the Walt Disney Company because Disney is too 'gay friendly.' This isn't the first time Southern Baptists have taken the wrong stand in the name of their religion. The Southern Baptists were founded because they were absolutely certain that God supported slavery. They went on to oppose the right of women to vote. (They said it would destroy the family. Where have we heard *that* before?) They also opposed integration because 'God didn't mean for Negroes and whites to comingle,' supported segregation, supported the Vietnam War, and now they oppose a women's reproductive rights and the rights of gaymen and lesbians. At least they're consistent. Consistently wrong."

— Paul David Wadler, Chicago

Chicago Tribune, June 22, 1997



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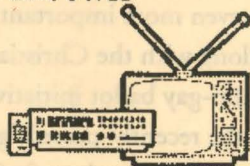
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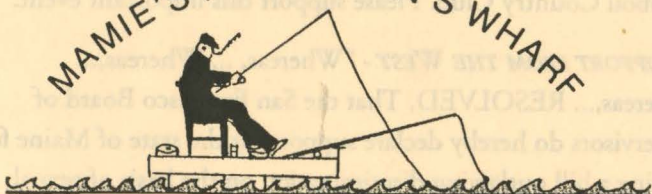
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Fredericton Lesbians & Gays (FLAG) POB 1556, Station A, E3B 5G2, 506.457-2156 (Mon & Thurs 6:30-8:30pm), **e-mail:** u5mc@unb.ca **or website:** <http://www.unb.ca/web/gala>

Gais.es. Nor Gays (GNG) CP/POB 983, Bathurst E2A 4H8, 506.783-7440, **e-mail:** andre@nbnet.nb.ca

Maine Bisexual People's Network POB 10818, Portland 04104

AIDS New Brunswick 65 Brunswick St., Fredericton 800.561-4009 or 506.459-7518

HIV & AIDS Awareness & Prevention Project, Caribou 207.498-2088 or in Maine 800.468-2088 Mon, Wed, Fri 7-9pm

AIDSLine/Maine 800.851-AIDS - Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Mon & Wed till 7:30pm

Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force POB 47049, Halifax B3K 2B0, 800.565-4255, 902.492-4255

Eastern Maine AIDS Network POB 2038, Bangor 04401-2038, 207.990-EMAN

Health 1st anonymous HIV tests (northern Maine) 800.432-7881

SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick 65 rue Brunswick, Fredericton 800.561-4009 ou 506.459-7518

Community Pride Reporter newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Maine, published monthly, POB 178, Saco ME 04072, 207.282-4311, fax 207.282-4551 **e-mail:** cprpride@ime.net

Fruit Cocktail radio program, 7pm Mondays on CHSR 97.9fm Fredericton, 506.453-4985

Wayves serving Atlantic Canada, 10 issues per year, POB 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax NS B3J 3S1, 902.423-6999

e-mail: wayves@fox.nstn.ca **or website:** <http://www.cglbrd.com/accounts/wayves>

Maine Gay Network -

<http://www.qrd.org/QRD/www/usa/maine/gaynet.html>

Am Chofshi Jewish, meets monthly, c/o Horowitz & Kass, RR#1 Box 686, South Harpswell 04079, 207.874-2970

Dignity/Maine Catholic, POB 8113, Portland 04104

Integrity Episcopalian, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell 04347, 207.622-6631

New Hope Community Church c/o Unitarian House, 749 Charlotte St., Fredericton, 506.457-4675

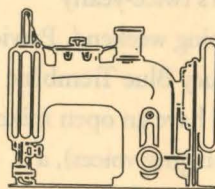
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