

# COMMUNIQUE

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DÉCEMBRE/DECEMBER 1997

*From the Director's Pen*

## It's the end of the year; Thanks, and Vote NO

*by Donald Weatherford, Director*

Hello, everybody! It would be safe to say that Winter has certainly arrived, just in time for the holiday season. Let me just say that I wish all a very special holiday season and a very prosperous New Year.

With a new year just days away, it is time to say, "goodbye" to the 1997 NLN Steering Committee. I want to take this space to just say, "Thanks!" to each and every one of the Board members. This has been a phenomenal year, and it has been a pleasure working with each and very one of you. The NLN family has been lucky to have each of you in their corner. We, as a board, have made great strides in making NLN a more viable part of the community.

On a sad note, it is my duty to report to the family that, for personal reasons, Sheila Everett has decided not to run for office for the 1998 Steering Committee, our Board of Directors. Her decision will be a loss for the entire family. For the past three years, she has been a viable asset to NLN and to the community. First, as a Member-at-Large, then as Director, and then as Social Director. I have had the pleasure of working with her for the past two years, and I will miss her presence on the Board. So I say to Sheila, thanks for being the Outspoken Token Lesbian from the Inner City. Thanks for being you, and I will miss you. Take care of yourself, and remember I love ya. Don't be a stranger.

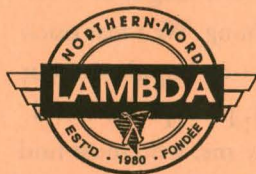
With that, let me say that the nominations for seats on the Board have not been pouring in. We have nominations for all the positions except for Social Director and for one Member-at-Large. Enclosed with this last mailing of the year you will find a ballot. These positions have been left blank. If anybody is interested in running for either position, or if you know of anybody who you think

might be an asset to the Board, please write in their name. If any of you has questions as to what either position entails, please give me a call. I would hope that we can have a full staff on the Board. Nineteen ninety-eight promises to be an exciting year, and just one more note: NLN is here for you. This is your organization. At this point and time, your involvement is needed. Enough of that.

As I prepare to close this final article for the 1997 year, let me say thanks to all members of NLN. This has been a phenomenal year. Great strides have been made in educating Q-public about what it is like being gay in Aroostook County. NLN has become members of four local Chambers of Commerce. HIV-education has been a constant. There is a revitalization of unity between family members. With the welcome arrival of our gay/lesbian members from Job Corps, we have a new sense of youth and vitality. Indeed, 1997 has been a great year, and I look forward to 1998.

Speaking of 1998, REMEMBER FEBRUARY 10TH! Place that date on your calendar! We Must Vote! Vote NO, against repeal of the amendment to Maine's Human Rights Act which adds "sexual orientation" to the non-discrimination statute. Try to stress the importance to all persons in your life to get out there and vote! This referendum is a key to our survival in Aroostook County and Maine. Many people who do not feel that this issue affects them will not vote. These potential friends need to know the importance of this issue and their vote. Enough of this topic for now.

I was going to end this two paragraphs ago, so let me do this now. Wishing you a very special holiday season, whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza. Remember this time of year is a reminder that LOVE is the key to ending



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all forms of hate. So love yourself first, then love those around you. Even those who may not love you. Only through example can a society based on hate and discrimination learn the true meaning of LOVE! Boy, how I ramble. The best to you all during this holiday season; and have a Happy New Year.

Until next year, /s/ Donald ▼

## brief notes en bref

• **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.

• **SPEAKOUT PROJECT TRAINING** - If you want to participate in an educational project which builds self-confidence and at the

### NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, INC.

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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 haute St-Jean au Nouveau-Brunswick et de la comté Aroostook au Maine.

### STEERING COMMITTEE ▼ COMITÉ EXECUTIF

#### Director/directeur

Donald Weatherford, Caribou, Maine

#### Treasurer/trésorier

Phil Bushey, New Sweden, Maine

#### Secretary/secrétaire

Diana Campbell, Limestone, Maine

#### Members-at-Large/membres en liberté

Walter Fournier, Sinclair, Maine,

Wayne Morrow, Van Buren, Maine

Karen Smith, New Sweden, Maine

#### Social Director/directrice des activités sociales

Sheila Everett, Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick

#### Librarian/bibliothécaire

Chris Levasseur, Van Buren, Maine

#### Phoneline coordinator/coordonateur du téléphone

Debra Madore, Presque Isle, Maine

#### Newsletter editor/rédacteur du bulletin

Dick Harrison, New Sweden, 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 déductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le CommuniQué sont disponibles. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenus.

## COMMUNIQUÉ

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same time gives others a better understanding of people of different sexual orientations, the Maine Speakout Project is for you. Volunteers share their experiences about discrimination with local community groups: churches, clubs, and other organizations. Speakout training is an effective tool for dealing with homophobia in our daily lives, and can help you become more comfortable when countering the everyday homophobia we face. Speakout is for anyone, gay or straight. The next Speakout Training will be Saturday, January 17, 9am-5pm at the Loring Job Corps Center. (snowdate, January 24). A \$10 registration fee is requested, but can be waived and should not deter anyone from participating. To register, send a check and/or your name, address and a contact telephone number to The Maine Speakout Project, POB 15303, Portland ME 04112, or call 879-0480 for information.

• "I THANK THE HETEROSEXUALS WHO RAISED ME. They did the best they could with what they had to work with. But they can stop trying now. That's what gay pride is all about. It's a kind of crash course in survival techniques for those of us whose basic training in life no longer works. No one taught us what we would need to know when we were young. We must teach each other to trust the deep instincts and true impulses of our souls. When enough of us have done that, perhaps the world will be safer for the boys and the girls, like me, who must find their way home by another way." -- from "A Temporary State of Grace", meditations by David S. Blanchard, Skinner House Books ▼

**Vote NO February 10th - NO!  
Maine still Won't Discriminate!**

## New Sweden Mini-Mall

- **4 Corners Café** serving homemade soups, stews, pizza, sandwiches; breakfast served all day; daily specials
- **Dollar Store • Video Rental • Gift Shop • Redemption Center**
- **Game Room** with pool, electronic darts, trivia games
- **Monthly Pool Tournament** - Cash Prizes, men's & women's divisions; register by the first of each month

Open 7 days, 11am-1am

**New Sweden Mini Mall** West Road at Route 161

in the former New Sweden School

896-3202

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with option to buy

2-bedroom home in Westmanland

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unfurnished; stove & refrigerator included

oil heat; available immediately; call Barb 896-3202