



COMMUNIQUE

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From the Director's Desk

Greetings from your new director!

by Duska Day, Director

Greetings from Duska Day, your newly-elected Director of Northern Lambda Nord for 1999. Actually, I prefer "Queen" if I get anything to say about the title. I have been an NLN member for over a decade, and have watched NLN change as friends join our community and grow with us, and then move on to new chapters in their lives. The primary mission of NLN is to advance the interests and well-being of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities of the Upper Saint John River Valley of New Brunswick and Aroostook County, Maine.

I would like to thank the retiring committee members for all their hard work and commitment to the mission of NLN. Out-going members include: Julia Solomon, Sheri-Lynn Gagnon, Diana Campbell, Chris LeVasseur, Laurie St. Peter, and Terry White. At the same time I want to welcome the new members who include: Lee Cote, Julie Cyr, David Rolloff, Karen Smith, Nicole Tremblay and Donna Murphy. I am very grateful for the continued support of members Phil Bushey, Walter Fournier, Dick Harrison, Wayne Morrow and Donald Weatherford. It is always hard to follow in previous royalty's footsteps, but I am honored to lead the new Steering Committee into the year 2000.

Many thanks to the host of the New Year's Eve Party! It was a wonderful gathering of some old familiar faces and some new neighbors who have recently joined our community. The food was great, the music was rocking, and the company was very comfortable. I really had a "Crack-Up" time, no "bun" intended.

I recently attended a conference at the University of Maine at Presque Isle put on by Health 1st entitled, *OPEN HEARTS - OPEN MINDS: Toward Safer Communities*. As a result of that workshop, a local committee has been formed [Ed. note: the committee meets again February 23rd] to look at ways to promote safer communities here in Aroostook County. Promoting tolerance is one way to support that effort; celebrating diversity is another. It is time we all become positive role models for our community. It is important to honor each other in our efforts to create safe communities and to respect each other's need for confidentiality and privacy.

Some of the things I'd like us to work on in the coming year, which I found in the NLN Constitution, include:

1. stabilizing and advancing NLN's financial health.
2. increase membership and participation by uniting the community.
3. serve as an educational resource and a positive role model within the community-at-large in an effort to positively affect attitudes about GLBT people.
4. develop a Vision for the future.
5. have some fun with my friends and family along the way!

So join me in creating safer places in our community for our family to grow, and watch as people become enlightened. Here's to a great year.

/s/ Duska ▼

Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine/HIV/AIDS Prevention Project

Volunteers Needed

by Donald Weatherford, Phoneline director

The HIV/AIDS Phoneline Project of NLN needs volunteers. If you have four hours to spare each month, and if you are concerned about reducing the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, then this is the place for you! You will receive a basic "HIV/AIDS 101" course; you will be trained to handle any and all calls that may come your way; you will have the opportunity to meet interesting people and join a group of talented volunteers already in place. If you are interested, just give us a call at the Phoneline. The number is 498-2088 or 800-468-2088. The next training begins Tuesday, March 2, 1999. For more details, give us a call. ▼

Reporting names of HIV+ people?

Names Reporting

by Donald Weatherford, HIV Educator

The Maine Bureau of Health is considering implementing a "Names Reporting" system for HIV tests. *What does this mean?* It means that if your HIV test comes back positive, your name would be reported to the Bureau of Health (BOH). I can tell you that this comes as a shock to me. As an HIV educator, this is the first time I have heard that Maine was considering this sort of reporting system. Apparently the BOH has had several meetings – with invited guests – to form some sort of "focus group." They are going to have one more meeting, and then there will be a public hearing about this issue. According to one source, however, the BOH seems to be determined to go through with this, regardless of any input that they receive.

I must concede, though that the BOH *does* have a legitimate reason for wanting a better reporting system for tracking HIV infection. With better treatments now available, the time between infection and when an actual AIDS diagnosis is made is much longer than it had been before the combination drug therapies were available. With the new drugs, many may never develop AIDS, but all infected with the HIV virus will be able to transmit it to others. Thus far, the only way Maine has tracked HIV/AIDS is when a doctor reports when he/she makes an AIDS diagnosis. So, better information about HIV infection can help those who offer prevention education, treatment, and services.

It is not clear exactly how the BOH would implement a Names Reporting system for HIV infection, and I am not sure if they have something specific in mind. They may require the HIV testing sites or doctors to report – by name – anyone who either tests positive for the HIV virus or who seeks treatment for HIV infection. Either way, Names Reporting is a definite deterrent for anybody who may have

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Gay & Lesbian Phoneline of Maine established/fondée 1982 • 207.498-2088 • 800.468-2088 • (TTY/Voice • Vox)

Centre communautaire gai & lesbienne • Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine established/fondée 1995 • 658 Main St, Caribou (mail to POBox)

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been exposed or who engages in behavior that may put him or her at risk for the HIV virus. If a name has to be reported, then the chances of someone getting tested or seeking treatment for HIV infection will be affected.

Can you imagine the implications of this decision? There is already a fear about getting tested. If this DOES come to pass, there will be fewer people getting tested, especially here in The County. *What are the long-range implications for this decision?* It is entirely possible that the BOH would eliminate any funding for anonymous test sites. As it stands right now, there is only one such site in Aroostook County. We have to deal with a great deal of homophobia, whether it be internalized within our own community or in the public at large. I cannot imagine how far this would put us back in the battle to educate and to test those at risk of HIV infection.

Here are a few staggering facts: ✓ In Florida, after they went to a Names Reporting system, a list with 7,000 names of HIV-positive people was leaked and published in a newspaper. ✓ In Illinois, names were also leaked. ✓ In South Carolina, once Names Reporting was established, 50% fewer MSMs (men who have sex with men) were being tested. ✓ Seventeen of the 28 states that now conduct Names Reporting have abolished their funding for anonymous HIV testing.

I do agree that there has to be a better way to track HIV infection. Another way which has been suggested is a Unique Identifier system, which could be implemented and would achieve the same goals that the Names Reporting system would. This Unique Identifier system could be devised so that codes relayed all the necessary information to the BOH, without placing the person who has been infected with HIV at risk of exposure or discrimination. For example, if the state needs to know age range, ethnicity, specific risk behavior, etc., then the state could set up a tracking system utilizing unique codes to that person, but not traceable. If everybody in the world can have a unique e-mail address, why do we need to use names for HIV reporting? It is my opinion that NO NAME should be used to track HIV infection. This would only increase the fear factor and the possibility of discrimination.

This decision does not only affect MSMs; this would affect everybody. If this is disturbing to you, then I would ask that you write your concerns and your input to: Sally Lou Patterson, HIV/STD Program, Maine Bureau of Health, 157 Capitol Street, State House Station 11, Augusta, Maine 04333. ▼

January Steering Committee meeting

Board Report

David Rolloff, Secretary (summary prepared by newsletter editor)

SUMMARY of the Thursday, January 14, 1999 meeting, held at the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine; this was the first meeting of the new Steering Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Duska Day, <i>director</i>	Donald Weatherford, <i>phoneline</i>
Lee Cote, <i>member-at-large</i>	Dick Harrison, <i>newsletter</i>
Julie Cyr, <i>member-at-large</i>	Karen Smith, <i>social director</i>
Wayne Morrow, <i>member-at-large</i>	David Rolloff, <i>secrétaire fabulaire</i>
Nicole Tremblay, <i>member-at-large</i>	Donna Murphy, <i>librarian</i>

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Walter Fournier, *member-at-large* Philip Bushey, *treasurer*

TREASURER'S REPORT - (presented by Dick, in Phil's absence) NLN's balance is in the black. Renting the Community Center space was discussed. We currently rent month-to-month (no lease). A consensus had been reached at a special December discussion meeting that the Center was important and that we would continue to maintain it.

NEWSLETTER - The fold-'n'-stuff has been the last Friday of the month, and that will continue. *Discussion about newsletter content:* a summary of the monthly board minutes will be included, whenever possible; interesting news items from the Web will be added, space permitting. Anyone may send articles to Dick at graphique@mfz.com

PHONELINE - Another training for new phoneline volunteers will be held at the end of February. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Donald at home (496-3215). During the last quarter of 1998, the Phoneline received 97 "live" calls, which Donald felt was pretty good. He's working on getting additional funding for advertising the Phoneline. When ads are on the radio, there is a noticeable increase in incoming calls.

LIBRARY - Donna was welcomed as the first NLN librarian in three years. (Yeah!) The NLN computer houses the database of the collection, but until the computer is repaired, it will sit idle.

OTHER - David, faculty advisor of the new gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered-questioning & allies group at UMPI, explained a number of activities that the group has been involved in.

OLD BUSINESS:

FUNDRAISING - Dick is the fundraising chair; efforts are now focused on raising \$3000 for 12 months' rent for the Community Center. Dick has prepared, distributed, and mailed a fundraising letter with a rainbow flag decal included as a thank you gift. About 35 letters were initially distributed; four donations were received, from people in Ellsworth and Portland (total: \$580). A mailing went out to 50 local people, both past NLN members and non-members who attend NLN events; amazingly, NOT ONE PERSON responded with a donation. NLN members will likely be the next target of the fundraising letter; other "ally" communities will be asked for assistance. If you have names of individuals or organizations who you think might be potential supporters, please contact Dick at 498-0900 or graphique@mfz.com with their names and addresses. One factor in the decrease in fundraising was due to the fact that NLN used to participate in the twice-yearly "Community Day" at the Aroostook Centre Mall (where we would raffle a tv or satellite dish - items that had been donated by Rentown). The event was held on weekdays during 1998, rather than on weekends, as in years past, and so we did not participate. Our internal fundraising effort will be started.

SYMPOSIUM XXV - Dick reported that a \$1450 grant has been received from the Maine Board of the Haymarket People's Fund of New England for support of Symposium. Now is the time to begin to line up volunteers who will be asked to help with specific tasks such as coordinating the films, entertainment, bookseller and other vendors, the dance, registration, and housing. A film about a gay priest will be screened (it had been "banned" at Portland's New Year's film festival). MINI-DISC PLAYER - Wayne has arranged to sell NLN's mini-disc player, which we don't used, for \$225.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE It was voted to renew our memberships in the Madawaska and Caribou Chambers.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - An unfortunate chain of events led to a Lambda member putting her buns through a window. The party's host will be contacted and NLN will offer to reimburse for repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

DOOR CHARGES - Discussion about asking non-members to pay to attend house parties. Some felt that it was awkward to charge visitors at house parties; some felt that if no admission were charged, what's the advantage of becoming a member? *QUESTION: Are house parties social events or fundraising events?* It was decided that at house parties and

other social events (snowshoeing, game nights, etc. — those events where NLN does not pay rent for the space) that memberships be actively solicited and donations welcomed by a "Donation Fairy." Karen agreed to be the Fairy!

CHANGING THE SIZE OF THE BOARD - In the recent Steering Committee (Board) elections, there was very little difference in vote count of the five candidates for the three at-large seats. The Board wants to seat all five candidates, but to do so we must amend the Constitution. (It currently specifies three at-large members.) The Board proposes an amendment to change the "three at-large members" to read "three or more" to allow for flexibility. A second amendment is proposed to change the required quorum to be a more general "50% plus 1." Ballots will be sent to members for their approval of the changes.

RECOGNITION OF PAST BOARD MEMBERS - Framed certificates will be presented to retiring Board members to thank them for their work.

NEW FUNDRAISING - Donald and Dick will review information about grants from the Chicago Resource Center.

KEYS TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER Discussion about accessibility to the Center: over the years keys have gone to Phoneline volunteers as well as to Board members. Donald has been collecting them, and felt that access was under control.

STEERING COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS Monthly

meetings will continue on the second Thursday.

VISIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR - Dances were discussed. It was approved to purchase a membership in the Presque Isle Snowmobile Club so that we can rent the building for a more reasonable rate. The PI clubhouse seems to be a favorite venue: safe, comfortable, BYOB. Discussion about doing more than two big dances per year, but con-

census seemed to be NOT. Rent the PI snowmobile clubhouse for the Spring Bash and for the October Membership Drive Party. Due to the Symposium 25 dance May 29, the Spring Bash may be pre-empted or just rescheduled.

NLN's 19TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER PARTY Karen will locate a restaurant to hold our annual dinner; several places were suggested, menus and comfort level discussed.

SOCIAL CALENDAR was set through March. ▼

Maine Symposium XXV

Symposium Update

by Dick Harrison, coordinator

MAKE SURE YOU SAVE MAY 28-31, 1999, that's Memorial Day weekend, when NLN will host — for the FIFTH TIME, the Maine Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Symposium XXV, which will be on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. This year's Symposium is Maine's 25th, and as with the previous four at Presque Isle, it becomes a regional event, drawing about 20-25% participation from Atlantic Canada.

One of the two keynotes will be from Canada. As details emerge, they will be posted on Maine Gaynet (if you have e-mail), and printed pre-registration forms will be sent out in early March.

The cost for the entire

weekend (3 nights lodging in the dorm, 6 meals, and admission to all events) is \$140. There are less expensive "plans", including "commuter plans" for folks who'd rather stay at home and attend just some of the events. VOLUNTEERS will be needed to help with many of the small details over the weekend, such as greeting the attendees and offering our well-known "Aroostook hospitality!" Stay tuned for more information in your mailbox, as it becomes available! ▼

Symposium 25

brief notes 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.

• **YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP DOWNEAST** Folks in the Bar Harbor & Mount Desert Island area are delighted to announce that after lots of planning, training, fundraising, and more, their Outright DownEast

chapter is up and running! There is a drop-in meeting the first and third Friday of each month from 6 to 9pm. All gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning young people are cordially invited. Attendance has been good so far. Quite a few of the younger participants are driven to the meetings by their parents! For more information, call 664-2527.

• **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SYMPOSIUM** NLN has added a second e-mail address to allow for information exchange and registration for this spring's Maine Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered SYMPOSIUM XXV. The address is symposium@mfx.net NLN's regular e-mail is lambda@ctel.net and our website is: www.ctel.net/~lambda/ Lambda has a "second" site as well, which was created

by a Canadian gay service, located at www.cglbrd.com/entries/1603 This site has us listed under Grand Falls, NB.

Check Us Out!

• **MLGPA AWARDS BANQUET AND DANCE** This year's Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance banquet marks MLGPA's 15th anniversary. This event, one of the state's major annual gatherings (the others are Symposium and the Pride Festivals), will be Saturday, March 6, 1998 at the Augusta Civic Center. The banquet attracts from 250-350 people each year. NLN members are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact MLGPA at 800-556-5472 or mlgpa@javanet.com

• **"EQUALITY BEGINS AT HOME"** Two years ago, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and the Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations

(of which MLGPA is a member) proposed the idea that nationally-coordinated but locally-organized events be held from March 21-27, 1999. The series of events will be both political and social ones, focusing on LGBT equality.

MLGPA's planning committee is meeting to plan the activities. Some states will have marches on their state capitols.

Tentative plans in Maine include •

EXHIBITS by local groups and a

LUNCHEON with a keynote speaker at the State House, all designed for meeting with and talking to our legislators •

LOBBY DAY for youth, also at the State House, drawing Outright youth groups, Gay/Straight Alliances, and school Civil Rights Teams from across the state to lobby for "Safer School" legislation. •

VOTER REGISTRATION will occur throughout the week, focused on different areas: colleges & universities, businesses, bars & restaurants, and non-profit organizations. The goal is to register as many of our supporters as possible as we gear up for the next referendum. • KICK-OFF RALLY for the next campaign to gain equal rights, a campaign which has already begun. • A series of PUBLIC SERVICE

ANNOUNCEMENTS will be prepared for television. Documentary filmmaker Bob Poirier of Portland (whose film "Tangible Fathers" about a gay priest will be screened at Symposium in Presque Isle) will create this video for airing from March 21-27.

• **CHANGES IN CONGRESS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE** The new Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, Republican from Illinois, has consistently received a 0% rating on gay issues from the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington DC-based lobbying group, according to a report in *The Advocate*. While Newt Gingrich was hardly anyone's idea of a gay-supportive politician, he is moderate in comparison to his successor.

• **TWO CANADIAN ATHLETES COME OUT** The February 2, 1999 issue of *The Advocate* reports that Canadian Olympic gold medal swimmer Mark Tewksbury came out after he was dropped from a six-

figure contract as spokesperson for a financial institution for being "too openly gay." Meanwhile, two-time Olympic silver medalist figure skater Brian Orser's legal problems brought him into the open. A palimony suit filed by a former lover was made public by an Ontario court. Orser had never discussed his sexuality publicly. "At his first public skating performance after this outing, Orser said he was heartened by the tremendously supportive response he received from the public."

• **ON THE WEB GLAAD**, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, has taken over Digital Queers "in an effort to combine its own gay media activism with Digital Queers' online work." www.glaad.org/

• **THE IMPEACHMENT ISSUE** Writer David Brock was recently interviewed in *The Advocate*. Brock, a gayman and "former conservative" who wrote for the right-wing *The American Spectator*, was the person who helped make Paula Jones a household name, and thus led to investigations into Bill Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky. Brock has publicly apologized to Clinton for his stories. When asked about the impeachment, Brock said, "Despite the Republican protestations that it's not about sex, the fact is that they have made this a culture-war issue. That's why they are so vehement about it. Impeachment puts Republicans in a bind because they can't accept that the public is insisting that private behavior should remain private. They can't give it up because it's part of the religious right's whole social policy agenda. Gay issues and abortion rights have been tied up in the Lewinsky matter since the beginning. They have made this all about fighting the values of the 1960s, when it should be about the 1990s." ▼

calendrier NLN calendar

- ✓ SNOWSHOEING & POT LUCK Saturday, January 30, in New Sweden, 1pm snowshoe, 4pm food
- ✓ SNOWTUBING in New Denmark NB,

just east of Grand Falls, Sunday, February 7; meet at 10am in front of Mr. Paperback in Caribou to carpool.

- ✓ NLN MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, February 11, 6:30pm, Community Center in Caribou
- ✓ NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY Friday, February 12
- ✓ SNOWSHOEING & POT LUCK Saturday, February 13, in New Sweden, 2pm snowshoe, 6pm food
- ✓ NLN'S 19TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER PARTY, Sunday, February 21, 2pm, Long Lake Sporting Club, Route 162 in Sinclair; order off the menu
- ✓ SAFE SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING, Tuesday, February 23, Health 1st offices, near Wal-Mart, Presque Isle
- ✓ SNOWTUBING in New Denmark, NB, just east of Grand Falls, Saturday, February 27. Meet at 2pm in front of Mr. Paperback in Caribou
- ✓ MAINE LESBIAN GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE annual Awards Banquet and Dance, Augusta Civic Center, Saturday, March 6
- ✓ NLN MONTHLY MEETING Thursday, March 11, 6:30pm, Community Center
- ✓ SNOWSHOEING & POT LUCK Sunday, March 14, in New Sweden
- ✓ ARTISTS FOR AIDS AWARENESS' "Celebration of Life" benefit dinner and art auction, Saturday, March 27
- ✓ NLN MONTHLY MEETING, Thursday, April 8, 6:30pm, NLN Community Center
- ✓ SYMPOSIUM 25 the Maine Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Trans SYMPOSIUM XXV, University of Maine at Presque Isle, Memorial Day weekend, Friday-Monday, May 28-31, 1999
- ✓ NLN's annual FRIENDS & FAMILY BARBECUE & GAMES, Sunday, June 13, (tentative date)

House For Rent

CARIBOU: 4 bedrooms, 1½ baths, living room, dining room, kitchen, full basement, washer & dryer, near schools, shopping. \$595/month, includes snowplowing, yard work, trash collection; you pay heat & electricity. Security deposit. A great place for 2 people to share or a small family. 498-0900 available now!

M = Maine Time
N = NB Time

Calendrier Northern Lambda Nord Calendar



sunday/dimanche

monday/lundi

tuesday/mardi

wednesday/mercredi

thursday/jeudi

friday/vendredi

saturday/samedi

FEB 99

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Sun, Feb 7 - SNOWTUBING! Meet at 10am in front of Mr. Paperback in Caribou and carpool to New Denmark, NB Ski Lodge 506-553-6449

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Sat, Feb 13 - SNOWSHOEING & POT LUCK SUPPER at Phil Bushey & Dick Harrison's, 2 New Sweden Rd (rte.161); 2pmM snowshoe, 6pmM food. BYO beverage. 896-5726

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Sun, Feb 21 - NLN's 19th ANNIVERSARY DINNER PARTY 2pmM, at the Long Lake Sporting Club, Rte. 162, Sinclair. Reservations not required, but please call Duska (492-4671) if you're planning to go so they can set up enough tables. Order off the menu: choice of chicken, ribs, steak, salmon, scallops, or lobster. Comes with ployes, cole slaw, corn, potato; from \$9.95 to \$16.95 (lobster priced daily). Restaurant phone is 800-431-7584

OPEN HOUSE WEDNESDAYS
at the Community Center 658 Main St. Caribou
7-9pmM • 8-10pmN • map at bottom right

Sat, Feb 27 SNOWTUBING! Meet at 2pm in front of Mr. Paperback in Caribou to carpool to New Denmark, Ski Lodge 506-553-6449

MAR 99

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Sat, Feb 13 - SNOWSHOEING & POT LUCK SUPPER at Julie Cyr's, 256 Rista Rd, New Sweden; 1pmM snowshoe, 4pmM food. BYO beverage. 896-3297

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Sat, March 27 - Artists for AIDS Awareness' 5th annual Benefit to Celebrate Life banquet & art auction

snowshoe + pot luck in new sweden, 2 new sweden road (rte.161) feb 13

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snowshoe + pot luck in new sweden, 258 rista road, mar 14

nlN 19th anniversary dinner at the sporting club on long lake, route 162 - feb 21

community center open house every wed evening 7-9pmM

OTHER EVENTS

- **EVERY WEDNESDAY** - the UMPI Rainbow Alliance, the gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgendered-and-our allies Group at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, meets weekly at 7pm in Normal Hall, 1st floor lounge - **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**
- **Symposium 25** - The Maine Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered SYMPOSIUM XXV is Memorial Day weekend, May 28-31 1999, University of Maine at Presque Isle campus; hosted by Northern Lambda Nord