

Minutes to 21 April 2012 Board Meeting

Dover, DE (home of Steve Kotrch)

Attending: Mitch Crane, Steve Kotrch, Larry Hooker, Larry Peterson, Peter Schott, Norm Spector, and Scott Strickler

Guests: George Christensen, George Everett, and Rich Young.

1. The draft minutes to the 10 March 2012 Meeting were adopted as written.
2. Larry H submitted a written Treasurer's Report showing that, for the period from January 1 through April 21, 2012, the Barbara Gittings Delaware Stonewall Democrats ("BGDSD") had a net loss of \$448.00. This compared to a net loss of \$643.70 for the same period in 2011. The only change since the March 2012 meeting was a \$2.00 bank service charge. According to the written report, as of April 21, 2012, the group had \$1,778.34 in its checking account and \$3,737.60 in its PAC account. The Treasurer's report was approved.
3. Peter gave the Vice President for Political Action's Report. He reported that the delegate selection process for delegates to the 2012 state and national Democratic conventions was underway. The process for 2012 endorsements by BGDSD has also begun. Specifically, questionnaires have been sent out to all Democratic candidates for State legislature who have filed for office and for whom Peter has an e-mail address. Four responses have been received to date. (See further discussion under New Business). Peter further reported that the National Stonewall Democrats were preparing for their big annual event but having problems putting the event together. Peter raised the question of support for Mitch Crane's candidacy with National.
4. Larry P gave the Vice President for Membership's Report. Due to a computer crash that rendered most of his information irretrievable, he was unable to give a report on BGDSD's current membership. He was hoping to create a new membership list based on information from Larry H and Vice President for Public Relations Jerry Williams.
5. In the absence of the Vice President for Public Relations, no report was given.
6. Norm gave the Vice President for Development's Report. He reported that he had nothing to report.
7. Steve gave the President's Report. He reported that he was in the process of introducing himself to state legislators as BGDSD's new President and that he had met to date with Reps. Bryon Short, Quinn Johnson, and Debra Heffernan. He further reported that he was continuing to look at community parades we could march in and events we could participate in. He had received a report on these matters from the Sussex County Coordinator and been promised a report from the New Castle County Coordinator.

8. Norm gave the New Castle County Coordinator's Report. He reported that he would be meeting soon with Rep. Earl Jaques. He further reported that he had been keeping an eye on the declaration and filing of candidacies in New Castle County and that candidates were "coming out of the woodwork right and left." He had been getting contradictory information about the endorsement of Democratic candidates in various representative and senatorial districts. This statement led to a broader discussion of endorsement policies throughout the state party.

9. In the absence of the Kent County Coordinator and the Sussex County Coordinator, no reports were given.

10. Old business. Larry P gave a comprehensive report on the activities of the Trans Education Task Force. He distributed and reviewed several related handouts. He stated that, with the exception of State Sen. Michael Katz, who had asked no questions, all of the state legislators who had met with the task force to date had been very attentive and asked a lot of questions. The principal concern raised by legislators was the impact of protections for trans persons on business. In general, he was impressed by the response to the task force's presentations and amazed at the effectiveness of the two principal trans spokespersons, Claire Bargo and Rena Miller. Mitch urged Larry P to attend the upcoming meeting of Equality Delaware as a representative of the task force.

11. Old business. Mitch announced that Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden had been selected as the guest speaker for this year's annual Rehobeth Beach fundraiser and that he (Biden) had placed the event, which is scheduled to be held at Mariachi's on July 28th, from 3 to 5 p.m., on his calendar.

12. New business. Miscellaneous. (A) Norm announced that the candidate search for a new Executive Vice President had not yet begun. The position is vacant due to Steve's elevation to the position of President. (B) The issue of Board member attendance at political functions, an issue raised by Peter, was discussed. The Board's consensus view was that there is no problem with Board members attending political functions so long as it is clear to all involved that their presence is only a matter of personal support and does not represent an official endorsement by BGDS.

13. New business. Endorsements. (A) Peter reported that responses to BGDS's questionnaires had been received from state senator Margaret Rose Henry, state representatives Debra Heffernan and Earl Jaques, and Frann Anderson, an openly lesbian candidate who is running in a "difficult" district. He urged BGDS to endorse the three women but to defer action on Rep. Jaques. He noted that he had some problems with Rep. Jaques' responses to BGDS's questionnaire and wanted to meet with him to have further discussion of the issues. Mitch also supported the endorsement of Frann Anderson. Following discussion of Peter's recommendations by the Board members, Norm moved, and Larry P seconded, that BGDS endorse the candidacies of Sen. Henry, Rep. Heffernan, and Frann Anderson. The motion passed unanimously. (B) Mitch moved, and Larry P seconded, that the Board inform the BGDS membership that Vice President for Development Norm Spector is running for election as a delegate to the Democratic

national convention and urge the members to become delegates to the state convention. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Announcements. Mitch announced that he would be making his formal announcement of his candidacy for the position of Delaware State Insurance Commissioner at the Old State House in Dover on May 10th and that a fundraiser on his behalf would be held at the Rehoboth Ale House on April 28th.

15. Meeting Date and Location. The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 2nd, at the home of Steve Kotrch and George Christensen in Dover. The meeting was scheduled to begin immediately following a covered dish potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Partners and spouses were invited to attend.