

Minutes to 10 March 2012 Board Meeting

Lewes, DE (Home of Mitch Crane and John Workman)

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

Guest: George Everett.

1. Mitch gave the President's Report. He reported that his resignation announcement, dated March 6, 2012, had been posted on the Barbara Gittings Delaware Stonewall Democrat ("BGDSD") website. (See attachment). As stated in that announcement, he resigned his position as President to avoid any conflict, real or perceived, between the upcoming votes by the Board of Directors on endorsement of candidates in the 2012 elections and his own campaign for the office of State Insurance Commissioner. Mitch remains a member of the Board of Directors, filling the position of Immediate Past President. He also reported on the status of his campaign for Insurance Commissioner. He then turned over the presidency and the running of the meeting to Executive Vice President Steve Kotrch.
2. The draft minutes to the 11 February 2012 Meeting and to the 26 November 2011 Meeting were adopted as written.
3. Larry H submitted a written Treasurer's Report showing that, for the period from January 1 through March 10, 2012, BGDSD had a net loss of \$446.00. This compared to a net loss of \$763.70 for the same period in 2011. The only change since the February 2012 meeting was an additional \$600 PAC donation to Mitch's campaign. According to the written report, as of March 10, 2012, the group had \$1,778.34 in its checking account and \$3,739.60 in its PAC Account. The Treasurer's report was approved.
4. Steve gave the Executive Vice President's Report. He reported that he had written an article for the web site urging members to volunteer to march as a group in community parades. He noted that the biggest annual community event in Kent County is Dover Days, which was being held the following month.
5. Peter gave the Vice President for Political Action's Report. He reported that his proposed plan for endorsing candidates in the 2012 elections, which included an attached questionnaire for candidates, had been distributed to the Board members and that the questionnaires would be sent to all Democratic candidates who file for state executive or legislative offices. He reported that Marie Mayor had filed as an openly-lesbian Democratic candidate for the newly-created (in Sussex County) position of 20th Representative District State Representative. Peter is monitoring the progress of a couple of pieces of legislation, such as an anti-bullying bill that is expected to include provisions directed to the harassment of gay and lesbian youth. Following his report, the Board proceeded to consider the proposed endorsement plan, including the candidate questionnaire. See attachment. The Board revised paragraph 4 to state that the reviewing

committee would be comprised of the Vice President for Political Action and the three County Coordinators. It revised paragraph 6c to state that “electability” rather than “vulnerability” would be one of the factors considered in awarding points. It revised paragraph 7 to state that recommendations would be presented to the Board for “consideration *and determination*” and that endorsements would be given only if supported by a 2/3’s vote of those Board members present and voting. Scott moved, and Norm seconded, that the Board approve the plan as thus revised. The motion passed without objection.

6. In the absence of the Vice President for Membership, no report was given.

7. In the absence of the Vice President for Public Relations, no report was given.

8. Norm gave the Vice President for Development’s Report. He reported that he had made an unsuccessful attempt to send in an application for BGDSD to be a vendor at the Bear-Glasgow Community Day. He raised the question of whether this matter was worth pursuing given the \$55 fee. Following discussion, it was agreed that Norm would observe the event this year and make a recommendation about participating in it next year. He further reported that he had been asked to check out possible locations for a fundraiser in New Castle County and that all the locations he had considered thusfar would be very expensive. He was currently looking into the possibility of holding an event in a union hall. The Board advised him to consider using a private home or returning to the public park where BGDSD had previously held an event.

9. Norm also raised the issue of members who lose interest in BGDSD because of a lack of followup once they have become members. A discussion of the adequacy of BGDSD’s efforts to keep members informed and involved followed. It was agreed that the Secretary would begin the practice of forwarding the minutes of Board meetings to the Vice President for Public Relations (JerryWilliams) after the minutes are approved so that Jerry can post the minutes on the website. Norm agreed to send Jerry an announcement (for posting) that (1) Board meetings are open to all members, (2) the minutes will hereafter be posted on the website, and (3) the position of Executive Vice President is now vacant due to Steve’s elevation to the position of President.

10.. Norm also gave the New Castle County Coordinator’s Report. He reported that there is a lot of in-fighting among the New Castle County Democrats and that the County Democrats were currently putting on vote-building seminars.

11. Due to the absence of the Kent County Coordinator, no report was given.

12. John gave the Sussex County Coordinator’s Report. He reported that the Board needed to make a decision on the price schedule for the 2012 annual Rehoboth Beach fundraiser. By consensus, the Board agreed upon the following prices:

- Single Admission -- \$50
- Single Admission + Membership -- \$75
- Sponsorships

Sponsor -- \$150
Benefactor -- \$250
Grand Benefactor -- \$500

Sponsorship, regardless of level, will entitle the sponsor to two admissions and two memberships. There will be no additional admissions or memberships for sponsorship at the higher levels.

13. Old business. There was no old business.

14. New business. The Board discussed the likelihood that efforts would be made in 2012 to get the General Assembly to consider legislation granting full marriage equality for lesbian and gay couples. The consensus among the Board members was that BGDSD should support this legislation in concept but that BGDSD's priority throughout 2012 should be the 2012 elections and that consideration of a legislative agenda should be deferred until after the elections.

15. Meeting Date and Location. The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Saturday, April 21st at noon at the home of Steve Kotrch and George Christensen in Dover.