

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS

Fourth Meeting, August 12th to 17th, 1968, Chicago, Illinois.

Conference called to order Tuesday August thieteenth, 1968, Rev. Robert Cromey Chairman, Douglas Sanders Secretary.

The Secretary moved the minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated, with one correction (the motion at the 1967 Conference moved by Jim Skaggs and seconded by Bill Plath allocating specific areas of concern to certain cities was passed after the motion to postpone debate was defeated). The motion on the minutes was tabled to give delegates an opportunity to examine the minutes if they chose. (That motion was informally passed after the close of the Conference at the Banquet.)

Foster Gunnison, Credentials Committee Chairman gave the initial report of the Credentials Committee. Teenty-four organizations had been accredited, fourteen of which were present, represented by a total of twenty-three delegates. One individual (Austin Wade) had been accredited and was present. Five ex-officio persons were present (one vote). Eighty-four observers had been accredited, six of whom had registered by that time. The Credentials Committee report was accepted.

Foster Gunnison (Credentials Chairman) moved that the Conference seat the Association for Social Knowledge and the National Legal Defense Fund. The motion was seconded by Ray Conkling (MMW). The seconder moved an amendment adding the Promethean Society of Houston, Dayton Mattachine Society, Central Ohio Mattachine Society of Columbus, and the Toledo Mattachine Society. The amendment was seconded by Bill Beardreml (CRH-SF). This motion representing an amendment to the credentials program, required a 2/3 vote. The motion was divided for voting.

The first vote was on the seating of ASK and NLDF. The non-accreditation of ASK resulted from the late payment of the registrationfee. The NLDF had not been up to date with the Clearinghouse dues and was late paying its registration fee. Motion to seat these two organizations passed.

The second vote was to seat the Promethean Society. This organization had been formed six weeks before the deadline for applications and had not applied in time. The motion passed.

The third vote was to seat Dayton Mattachine. This organization was formed about ten days before the deadline for applications and had not applied in time. The motion passed.

The fourth vote was to seat the Central Ohio Mattachine Society. The motion passed.

The fifth vote was to seat the Toledo Mattachine Society. The motion passed.

Certain Committees were constituted:

Finance Committee: Ron Warren (ARC), Dave Patterson (Promethean), Eddy Casaus (Pursuit), Steve Busby (Cinn. Matt), Roster Gunnison (Inst. Soc. Ethics), Jim Bradford (Matt. MW), Michael Williams (SHL).

Politics Committee: T. R. Wayne-Hill (Promethean), Bob Jones (Cen. O. Matt), Frank Kameny (Wash. Matt.), Nino Romano (SHL).

Clearinghouse Committee: Brett Abrams (Phoenix), Bill Beardrempl (San Fran. CRH), Drew Shafer (Phoenix), Steve Donaldson (SHL), Rita Wanstrom (Promethean).

New Organizations Committee: Chuck Thompson (So. Cal. CRH), David Patterson (Promethean), Richard Scott (One), Frank Kameny (Wash. Matt.), Don Dickman (Cinn. Matt.), Tom Hall (Dayton Matt.), Pete Peters (COF), Paul Russell (COF).

WEDNESDAY

Bill Glover (Tangents) moved, seconded by Eddy Casaus (Pursuit) that the Conference disavow any actions which occurred on Tuesday before 3:00 P.M., the stated time for commencement of the Conference. Rev. Cromey explained that he had made the alteration in time to facilitate a television appearance about the Conference. Motion defeated.

Eddy Casaus (Pursuit) moved, seconded by Dave Patterson (Promethean) that the Conference start on or after the time stated on the official notice. Motion passed.

THURSDAY

Steve Donaldson (Unity Chairman) made the report of the Unity Committee. He moved adoption of the By-laws approved by the Committee. The motion was seconded by Barbara Gittings (MSW). Bill Beardrempl (CRH) stated that others proposals had been made to the Committee and seemed not to have been considered. The Chairman requested discussion on alternative ideas. David Gol- denberg moved that the by-laws be tabled until an alternative minority report could be made. The motion was seconded by Pete Peters (COF). Motion passed.

It was passed that the motion be lifted from the table the first agenda item on Friday morning.

FRIDAY

Steve Donaldson moved Interim Report #3 of the Unity Committee, seconded by Barbara Gittings (MSW). This report suggested a ratification procedure for the by-laws by organizations after the Conference, and recommended consideration by the Conference of the by-laws moved the previous day. Bill Beardrempl (CRH) moved to table, seconded by John Bjork (Tangents). Motion to table passed.

After the motion to table was passed, mimeographed copies of an alternate resolution were made available. A motion to refer the new proposal to the Unity Committee was defeated. The Chairman called for a vote as to which resolution should be debated. The alternate resolution was supported for debate by a vote of 60 to 53. The resolution, as passed, reads as follows:

1. The name of this Conference shall be the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations (NACHO).

2. The purpose of the NACHO shall be to improve the status of the homosexual through collective efforts.

3. The NACHO shall be open to all homophile organizations and individuals who seek the fulfillment of it's purposes.

4. The NACHO shall convene at a meeting once each year.
5. The NACHO shall be governed by the organizations when convened and by an executive committee with regional representation in interim periods.
6. The NACHO shall be constituted of such regional conferences as may be from time to time be established by NACHO.
7. The NACHO shall establish a treasury to be used proportionately for necessary expenditures in the formation and perpetuation of homophile organizations and for the expenditures involved in arranging conventions.

The resolution was passed after the following amendments and proposed amendments:

Sandy Penn (WSDG) moved, seconded by Shirley willer (DOB) to add the word "North" to the name American Conference of Homophile Organizations. Motion passed.

Dick Gayer (Tangents) moved, seconded by Bill Beardrempl (CRH) to change the word "homophile" to "homosexual". Steve Donaldson, noted that SHL has a number of non-homosexual members. Frank Kameny stated that organizations don't have sexual preferences. Motion defeated.

The intent of Section 3. was clarified. It would not affect the existing Credentials Program.

Steve Donaldson moved, seconded by Barbara Gittingsthat Section 4 read: "The NACHO shall hold its annual meeting in the summer of each year in a city designated by the previous meeting. The exact date of the meeting shall be determined by the Chairman upon nomination by the Chairman no later than December fifteenth of each year!" Motion defeated.

The effect of two motions was to remove the term "regional governors" from section 5 and to substitute the wording that appears above, "by an executive committee with regional representation in interim periods".

Specific reference to a Southern Region in section 6 was deleted by a motion by Frank Kameny, seconded by Shirley Willer, after Ray Wayne-Hill suggested it would be premature to have a southern regional now.

Steve Donaldson moved, seconded by Shirley Willer that the Unity Committee proposals be now debated. Motion passed. The Standing Rules were passed, section by section, with minor amendments. There was debate on the concept of establishing an executive. There was debate on whether the conference should have a "neutral" moderator or whether the Chairman should also be the moderator and chair the meetings.

Bill Beardrempl pointed out that Tavern Guild (S.F.), SIR and ARC cannot by their constitutions, affiliate with any organization. He questioned whether the rules had now created an organization and therefore excluded these organizations. In an attempt to meet this problem Sandy Penn moved, seconded by Pete Peters that the word "Conference" be substituted for "Association" in Article 1, Section 1, and wherever else the term appeared. The motion to reconsider passed and the motion to change the wording passed.

Nominations for the site of the next Conference were made. The cities of Houston, San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle and Los Angeles were made.

Voting, held the next day, selected Houston as the next site.

Nominations were made for the executive positions:

For Chairman; Marc Jeffers, Frank Kameny, Douglas Sanders,
For Secretary; Douglas Sanders, Steve Donaldson, Brett Abrams,
For Treasurer; Jim Bradford, Steve Donaldson,
For Moderator; Robert Cromeey, Rita Wanstrom.

Subsequently Doug Sanders declined the nomination for Chairman and Steve Donaldson declined the nomination for Secretary. Voting was held the next day electing Marc Jeffers as Chairman, Doug Sanders as Secretary, Steve Donaldson as Treasurer and Robert Cromeey as Moderator.

SATURDAY

Shirley Willer presented the report of the Resolutions Committee, and moved the following resolutions:

NACHO commends the City of New York for its enlightened attitude in regards to the employment of homosexuals.
Motion passed.

NACHO strongly favors the enlightened re-examination by various religious bodies and groups of traditional attitudes toward homosexuality.
Motion passed.

The Homosexual Bill of Rights, proposed by the Society for Individual Rights, was passed with minor amendments. The Bill of Rights as passed is as follows:

A HOMOSEXUAL BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Private, consensual sex acts between persons over the age of consent shall not be offenses.
2. Solicitation for any sex act shall not be an offense except upon the filing of a complaint by an aggrieved party, not a police officer or agent.
3. A person's sexual orientation or practice shall not be a factor in the granting or renewing of federal security clearances, visas or the granting of citizenship.
4. Service in and discharge from the armed forces and eligibility for veterans benefits shall be without reference to homosexuality.
5. A person's sexual orientation or practice shall not affect his eligibility for employment with federal, state or local governments or with private employers.

AREAS FOR IMMEDIATE REFORM

Police and other governments agents shall cease the practice of enticement and entrapment of homosexuals.

Police shall desist from notifying the employers of those arrested for homosexual offences.

Neither the police department nor any other government agency shall keep files or records which identify homosexuals as such.

The practice of harassing bars and other establishments, and of revoking their licenses because they cater to homosexuals shall cease.

The practice of reviewing less-than-honorable military discharges granted for homosexual orientation or practice, shall be established with the goal of upgrading such discharges to fully honorable.

The registration of sex offenders shall not be required.

City ordinances involving sexual matters shall be rescinded and those matters left to the state legislatures.

Conviction for homosexual offences shall not be the basis for prohibiting issuance of professional or other licenses nor for the revocation of these licenses.

No questions regarding sexual orientation or practice shall appear on application forms, personnel data sheets or in personal interviews.

No government agency shall use the classification of homosexuality as an illness to limit the freedom of any homosexual.

The following additional resolutions were also presented by the Credentials Committee:

NACHO favors a continuing, strong effort to change state criminal laws relating to private, consensual, adult homosexuality and calls for implementation of the recommendations of the President's Crime Commission in this respect.
Motion passed.

NACHO calls for an objective approach to homosexuality in courses on sex education.
Motion passed

NACHO encourages and supports the formation of new homophile organizations.
Motion passed.

NACHO protests the almost total denial to homophile organizations of space in the newspapers and other media for legitimate organizational advertising.
Motion passed.

NACHO calls upon Congress to repeal those provisions of the immigration and naturalization laws which provide for the exclusion and deportation of homosexuals.
Motion passed.

NACHO resolves that a National Demonstration Day be proclaimed on the Fourth of July, annually.
Motion passed.

NACHO resolves that a Sex Enlightenment Week be set up during the Month of May throughout the Nation.
Motion passed.

Be it hereby resolved that the NACHO express sharp disappointment that Mr. Pierre Eliot Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, has seen fit to introduce the limited and inadequate measures of the English homosexual law reform bill (enacted there in July, 1967) which makes twenty-one the age of consent for homosexual acts. Believing it to be offensive and unjustifiable for homosexual acts to be singled out by the law for special treatment, the Conference encourages the Canadian Government to follow the example, not of England, but of France and other Continental countries where the law is based on the Napoleonic Code, or the example of the State of Illinois, where this Conference is meeting, and enact provisions for age of consent which are identical for homosexual or heterosexual acts.
Motion passed.

Ray Wayne-Hill Presented the report of the Politics Committee. The recommendations were passed, with amendments, and read as follows:

1. Resolved: That the Chairman of the NACHO appoint someone to draft a questionnaire, relevant to the attitudes of candidates on matters coming within the purview of their official position, relating to homosexual citizens. Resolved further that this questionnaire be finally approved by the Chairman: be sent in the name of the NACHO to all candidates for President, Vice-President, Senator and Congressman;; and include a suitable covering letter stating the extent of this total inquiry of position.
2. Resolved: That the Chairman forward the response to this = inquiry for suitable action by member organizations in their respective areas.
3. Resolved: That the final report be sent to all accredited organizations as soon as possible, not later than October 10, 1968.
4. Resolved: That this Conference recommends that all local organizations follow similar programs in their local and state political picture.

A provision permitting a statement of opposition to a specific candidate in the name of the NACHO was deleted. It was pointed out that since publicity about the inquiry would only be by local organizations, the local

organizations, a local organization would not be involved in political activity unless it chose to be. Therefore the tax-exemt status of particular organizations would not be affected.

Don Dickman moved, seconded by Ray Wayne-Hill that the NACHO strongly favors the enlightened re-examination by variousbodies and groups of traditional attitudes that homosexuality is morally evil and that they drop discriminatory practices excluding homosexuals from the ministry and priesthood.
Motion passed/

Chuck Thompson presented the report of the Committee on New Organizations. (See appendix)

Ray Wayne-Hill moved, seconded by Ron Warren that the Chairman appoint a person who, with the help of his home organization, wpuld be a Committee on New Organizations.
Motion passed. The Chairman later announced the appointment of Chuck Thompson.

Shirley Willer moved, seconded by Ray Conkling that the Chairman of the Unity Committee be elected by the Conference for this year due to the problems recently experienced regarding the Unity Committee.
Motion passd.

Nominations for Unity Chairman: Sandy Penn, Steve Donaldson.
Sandy Penn was elected.

Shirley Willer moved, seconded by Sandy Penn:

Whereas it is recognized by this Conference that Steve Donaldson was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Unity Committee on short notice, and whereas it is recognized that he, in his deep dedication to the movement, nonetheless undertook a tough and highly controversial project and carried it thru to completion:

Be it therefore resolved that this Conference extend to Steve Donaldson, as Chairman of the Unity Committee, it's heartfelt congratulations for a heroic job.
Motion passed unanimously.

Sandy Penn moved, seconded by Ray Wayne-Hill a motion which, as amended, reads as follows:

That the Committee on Unity be established as a standing Committee, jt's membership to consist of persons from each region appointed by the Committee Chairman, it's purpose being tp continue to examine, research, evaluate and collect data on and recommend ideas, suggestions, proposals and resolutions in the field of NACHO unity. Each organization may nominate one member to serve on this Committee. All nominations must be made by October 1st of each year. The Chairman may, at his discretion, drop non-participating members.
Motion passed.

Minutes 7a

Brett Abrams presented the report of the Clearinghouse Committee. He moved the following resolutions:

Resolved that the Conference extend it's thanks to Drew Shafer for his vital and time-consuming work as Clearinghouse Director over the past two years.

Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Bradford presented the Financial Committee report. He indicated these items:

Receipts;

DOB for sale of the Ladder	\$ 6.50
DOB cocktail party	66.50
SIR sale of buttons	15.00
Donations from Chicago Bars	74.00
Total	<u>\$162.00</u>

Together with registration receipts, total revenue was \$405.75. He indicated expenses totaled \$380.00 (including \$180.00 for the use of the premises and \$65.00 for copying). A balance of \$25.75 remained.

It was noted that there were expenses from last years Credentials and Unity Committees. The matter of allocation of the balance was referred to the Treasurer.

Frank Kameny presented the report of the from the workshop on the federal government. The resolutions emerging were moved by Ray Wayne-Hill and seconded by David Goldenberger. The resolutions, as amended, were passed, reading as follows:

1. That there be a mass mailing of the proposed Bill of Rights from SIR (if accepted by the Conference, and as it may be modified by the assembly), in the name of the NACHO, by the individual organizations, on a single day, set by the Conference, this proposal to be implemented through a committee appointed for that purpose.
2. That all homophile organizations work to encourage the bringing of the maximum possible number of test cases which can be elicited from the homosexuality community, in the three areas of : Federal Civil Service employment of homosexuals citizens; Federal Security clearances for homosexual citizens; the policies and practices of the Armed Services toward homosexual citizens.
3. That the NACHO support the reprinting of the leaflet "How to handle a Federal Interrogation", and that the leaflet be given the widest possible publicity and distribution within the homosexual community.
4. That there be a National Sex Education Week, during which, insofar as appropriate and relevant, the problems of the homosexual with his federal government be considered.
5. That there be a National Homosexual Civil Liberties week with suitable projects undertaken by the movement and it's constituent organizations.
6. That Mr. Kameny be asked by the NACHO to make recommendations for active projects in Washington, D.C. directed towards the federal government or any agency thereof to the various member organizations so that they can actively support or contribute to these projects in the name of the NACHO.
7. That, under NACHO co-ordination, the member organizations encourage a letter-writing campaign to government officials at all levels, federal, state and local, but particularly at the national level, in regard to rights, equality and dignity for homosexual American citizens.

The matter of the mailing of the Bill of Rights was referred to the Clearinghouse Committee.

Frank Kameny moved, seconded by Barbara Gittings: That it be hereby adopted as a slogan or motto for the NACHO that: GAY IS GOOD. (For complete text of resolution see appendix.) Motion passed.

Frank Kameny moved:

The homosexual in our pluralistic society has the moral right to be a homosexual. Being a homosexual, he has the moral right to live his homosexuality and to be so and to do so free of arrogant and insolent pressures to convert to the prevailing heterosexuality, and free of penalty, disability or disadvantage of any kind, public or private, official or unofficial for his non-conformity.

By analogy and parallel, the homosexual has the same moral right as do the Catholic or the Jew in our pluralistic society to be Catholics and Jews and being so to live their Catholicism and Judaism, and to be so and to do so free of insolent and arrogant pressures to convert to the prevailing Protestant Christianity, and free of penalty, disability or disadvantage of any kind, public or private, official or unofficial, for their non-conformity.

Motion passed.

Steve Donaldson moved:

1. A Conference registration fee be set at \$15.00 per organization and \$5.00 per delegate present and \$5.00 per accredited individual and \$2.00 for observer passes, to be used for house-keeping expenses.

2. The Executive Committee and the Treasurer appeal for voluntary contributions as soon as possible for;

- a. temporary housekeeping expenses until next May,
- b. any projects.

Motion passed.

Austin Wade presented the report of the Legal Committee. The following proposals from the report were passed:

1. The Legal Committee urges the movement to address itself to the development of a consistent and appealing corpus of arguments to serve as an intellectual battering-ram against opposition to the recommendations for homosexual law reform. It is the Committee's view in this regard that the areas which need particular treatment are the following;

- 1. Opposition deriving from literal interpretation of Scripture.
- 2. Opposition based on the ground that, supposedly, the sole purpose of sex is procreation.
- 3. Opposition based on the view that homosexuality is an illness or pathological condition.

In this connection the Committee wishes to commend the authors and sponsoring organizations of the excellent series of "Essays on Homosexuality", Particularly the author of "The Challenge and Progress of Homosexual Law Reform", for their fine contribution to law reform, and the Committee suggests that these articles might well serve as a model for further work in this area. Material from articles such as these should be required reading for all members of speakers bureaus of constituent organizations.

II The Legal Committee strongly urges the instant Conference to recommend to the organizations composing it that the strongest attention should be given to the creation, indeed the manufacture, of test cases, in the hope of advancing the above listed goals through court decisions, and to this extent, obviating the need for legislation.

Motion passed.

Foster Gunnison moved, seconded by Frank Kameny that the "Skaggs" resolution of the previous year on the NLDF be withdrawn in it's entirety, so that the NLDF would not be considered in any way a Committee of the Conference.

Motion passed. (Full text in appendix)

The matter of recommended rules of order was referred to the next Conference.

Steve Donaldson moved resolutions from the Unity Committee on the establishment of Committees. The following committees were proposed and voted on separately, each was passed.

Committee on Legal Affairs

Committee on Platform

Committee on Research

Committee on the Federal Government

Committee on Sex Education

Committee on Religion

Bobbi Simpson moved that the Committees be considered special committees at least for the coming year.

Motion passed.

The Conference closed with a discussion of how worthwhile the endeavor had been. Bill Beardreml suggested that no action program had been discussed during the five days and we would have one more year without workable plans and projects. Larry Littlejohn indicated dissatisfaction and felt he could not afford to recommend further participating by his organization. Doug Sanders suggested that we clearly could not afford to have another Conference as frustrating as the Washington and Chicago conferences had been. Frank Kameny felt that there had been accomplishments and stated that if we were failing, the blame was to be shared by all of us. Sandy Penn pointed out that since the Unity Committee had not functioned through the year, there had been no discussion prior to the Conference about what we wanted to achieve. Austin Wade commented that something was wrong if the largest, best functioning organization, SIR, was unhappy and the second largest, Mattachine New York, was not even present. Bill Kelly suggested that we had a year before the Houston Conference to see if we could achieve something.

The Conference adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Douglas Sanders, Secretary

NAMES MENTIONED IN THE MINUTES BY POSITION AND ORGANIZATION

Rev. Robert Cromey - Chairman..... San Francisco CRH

Frank Kameny - Wash. Mattachine ... Eastern Regional Chairman

Foster Gunnison Jr. - Institute of Social Ethics ...Chairman
Credentials Committee

Douglas Sanders - Associatjon for Social Knowledge.. Secretary

Ray Conkling - Mattachine Midwest (Chicago) Arrangements Comm.

Bill Kelly - Mattachine Midwest

Bill Beardreml - Society For Individual Rights (SIR)

Larry Littlejohn - Society for Individual Rights

Bill Glover - Tangents

Steve Busby - Cincinnati Mattachine Society

Eddie Casaus - Pursuit and Symposium

Michael Williams - Student Homophile League

David Patterson - Promethean Society (Houston)

Bob Jones - Central Ohio Mattachine

Steve Donaldson - Student Homophile League .. Unity Chairman

Nino Romano - Student Homophile League

Barbara Gittings - Mattachine Society of Washington

Richard Scott - One, Inc.

David Goldenberg - West Side Discussion Group (New York)

Tom Hall - Dayton Mattachine Society

Pete Peters - Circle of Friends (Dallas)

Paul Russell - Circle of Friends

John Bjork - Tangents

Bobbi Simpson - West Side Discussion Group

Sandy Penn - West Side Discussion Group

Shirley Willer - Daughters of Bilitis

Dick Gayer - Tangents

Marc Jeffers - Phoenix SocietyMidwest Regional Chairman

Brett Abrams - Phoenix Society

Jim Bradford - Mattachine Midwest, Chairman

Rita Wanstrom - Promethean Society

Ray Wayne-Hill - Promethean Society

Don Dickman - Cincinnati Mattachine Society

Chuck Thompson - So. Ca. Council or Religion & the Homosexual

Ron Warren - Assoc. for Responsible Citizenship.. Sacramento

Drew Shafer - Phoenix ... Clearinghouse Chairman

Austin Wade - New York Mattachine ..Chairman, Legal Committee.

Bobbi Simpson - West Side Discussion Group

APPENDIX

MINUTES 1968 NORTH AMERICAN HOMOPHILE CONFERENCE

Page three of the Minutes: amendments to the Credentials Program.

The following amendments were adopted and recommended to the floor by the Credentials Committee for the following reasons:

1. To streamline the present Credentials Program,
2. make the program easier to administer for the benefit of both the Committee and the organizations,
3. reduce significantly the cost of operation of the program (\$340.00 this year),
4. liberalize some of the bases for admission and open up the conference and enable more persons to attend.

SET ONE

1. CC (Credentials Committee) accreditations decisions shall be limited to those applicants for which the application form completed in full is received at the CC office at least 90 days prior to the Conference opening as initially set (or adjustable by the CC if re-set to an earlier date).
2. The CC accreditation decisions may be appealed by any of the foregoing applications if notification of intent to appeal is received at the CC office at least 45 days before the Conference opening as initially set (or adjustable by the CC if re-set to an earlier date).
3. The CC shall publish in its (pre-conference report), a listing of all above appeal notices received and shall submit these to the Conference floor.
4. The Conference floor may elect to consider any of these appeals by a simple majority vote, and may reverse the CC by a 2/3 vote.
5. Any other decisions to accredit by the floor shall also require a 2/3 vote.

SET TWO

6. Applicants submitting the combined annual fee (Credentials, Conference Registration and Clearinghouse) together with the application under deadline date shall pay at regular rates. Applicants paying later shall pay a 25% override. No applicant shall be seated if not paid in full by time of registration at Conference.
7. All proposed amendments affecting the Credentials By-laws shall be received by the CC office, in manner and multiple copies as specified by CC, at least prior to the Conference opening as initially set (or adjustable by the CC if re-set to an earlier date).
8. The age requirement for new organizations shall be 90 days.