

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN

<http://www.nh.gov/csm>

UNOFFICIAL Minutes for the Thirty-Fifth Commission Meeting

May 25, 2007 1-4 PM

Legislative Office Building Room 2006, Concord, NH

**NOTE: Due to a lack of a quorum of members, these minutes are UNOFFICIAL.**

These minutes were taken by Scott Garman.

**Members Present:** Joe Mastromarino, Scott Garman, Mike Geanoulis.

**Members Absent:** Marshall Hickok, David Lauren, Gus Lerandean, David Lauren.

**Also Present:** Richard Smaglick - Hooksett, NH.

Chair Joe Mastromarino opened the unofficial meeting.

Mike Geanoulis requested that an additional agenda item be added, "Co-parenting Education." There were no objections to this addition and Joe Mastromarino accepted the addition.

**Secretary's Report:**

Due to the lack of quorum, approval of the April meeting minutes is delayed until the next meeting.

Scott Garman noted that the Commission's web site has been updated with the previously approved minutes, including the Parental Alienation Syndrome research archive submitted by Dr. Stevan Gressitt.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer's report is delayed until the next meeting due to David Lauren's absence.

Joe Mastromarino noted that the Commission has received multiple donations over the past month, including:

- Tom Parker of Phoenix, AZ: \$1000.00
- Robert Hayward of Dover, NH: \$100.00
- The Coalition of Free Men, Inc of Los Angeles, CA (<http://www.ncfmla.org>): \$100.00

Scott Garman agreed to write up a thank-you letter to be sent to these and all future donors.

### **Father/Child Connection Report:**

Mike Geanoulis noted that a report by the National Center for Education Statistics released in July of 2006 is of high interest to the Commission. *Fathers of U.S. Children Born in 2001: Findings from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study*, by Avenilla, Rosenthal, and Tice. This report included data which demonstrates children with involved fathers are:

- Less likely to fail or repeat a grade.
- More likely to do their homework.
- More likely to become involved in extracurricular activities at their schools.
- More likely to attend a college or university.

Mike requested that a link to this report be linked to in the Resources section of the Commission's web site. It can be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006002>.

### **Monadnock Men's Resource Center (MMRC):**

Mike Geanoulis reports that he has been corresponding with Forrest Seymour of the MMRC and has been invited to attend an upcoming television episode the group produces in upcoming months. The program is titled "The Men's Room" and is aired on Cheshire TV, a local access cable station.

Mike noted that in his discussions with Mr. Seymour he came to better articulate his concerns regarding male mentorship programs. Mike believes that while such programs can be positive and often serve a useful purpose, he finds them an unsatisfactory band-aid to the root problem of uninvolved biological fathers. Mike hopes that the existence of these programs is not used as a means of reducing the importance of addressing the social problem of fatherlessness in society.

### **Discussion of Possible Requirements of Commissioners:**

Joe Mastromarino expressed concern about the increasing number of absences by members and wishes to have a policy surrounding attendance approved at a future meeting. He suggested that Commissioners agree to miss no more than three meetings per year, and upon the fourth missed meeting, will be asked to resign from their duties. This policy would only apply going forward for future meetings. Joe asked each member present to consider this proposed policy and hopes it can be created and voted on officially during our next meeting.

### **Public Input:**

Richard Smaglick of Hooksett spoke briefly to the Commission about a co-parenting education class created by John Cameron. The class is intended to be useful to divorcing or separating parents, and focuses on different issues than the Child Impact Seminars many parents are required to take by family courts. Mr. Smaglick would like to raise awareness about this program and believes it is a useful resource that more people should take advantage of. The cost of the course is approximately \$300.

Mr. Smaglick also mentioned that the National Fatherhood Institute released a noteworthy report in 2006 on how fatherhood is portrayed in the media.