

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN

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

Minutes for the Thirty-Eighth Commission Meeting

August 31, 2007 1-4 PM

Legislative Office Building Room 2006, Concord, NH

These minutes were taken by Scott Garman.

Members Present: Joe Mastromarino, Scott Garman, David Lauren, Gus Lerandean, Scott Meyer.

Members Absent: Mike Geanoulis, Marshall Hickok.

Chair Joe Mastromarino opened the meeting with Commissioner introductions, and welcomed Scott Meyer to the Commission.

Secretary's Report:

Due to the fact that a quorum of members present during the June meeting were not present at this meeting, approval of the June minutes was delayed until the September meeting.

Web Site Update:

Scott Garman reported that no updates to the Commission's web site had been made except for updating the meeting calendar.

Treasurer's Report:

David Lauren reported that he was not aware of any problems or issues with the deposits of donations received over the summer.

Warren Farrell Honorarium:

Scott Garman discussed an arrangement he was able to make with Dr. Warren Farrell to speak before the Commission during its September meeting for a reduced speaking fee of \$1000. The NH chapter of the National Congress of Fathers and Children (NCFC-NH) has offered to set aside a \$500 "matching funds" contribution to reduce the Commission's expense to \$500.

Scott Garman explained that Dr. Farrell's presentation would be on "The Boy Crisis" and is directly relevant to the Commission's mission on every level; education, fatherlessness, and men's health. Dr.

Farrell is one of the leading experts on men's issues in the country.

David Lauren noted that at no time has the Commission paid an honorarium to any speakers we have had to date. David was concerned that doing so in this circumstance would cause problems in the process of picking and choosing who gets an honorarium in the future. David expressed a preference for maintaining a consistent policy of not paying an honorarium to any speakers before the Commission.

Scott Garman conceded that approving this honorarium would change the consistency of the Commission's policy regarding guest speakers. But Scott also expressed that this was one circumstance where the opportunity to the Commission was so important that he was willing to make an exception.

Scott Garman motioned to approve a \$500 appropriation to pay an honorarium to Warren Farrell to give a presentation during our September meeting. Gus Lerandeau seconded, and the motion passed 3-2: Scott Garman, Joe Mastromarino, and Scott Meyer in favor, and David Lauren and Gus Lerandeau opposed.

Scott Garman agreed to work with Mike Geanoulis to create a press release and distribute it to statewide media. Scott Meyer agreed to distribute an announcement to the academic community at Plymouth State University. Gus Lerandeau also recommended having an announcement placed in the House and Senate calendars.

Scott Garman agreed to record the audio of Dr. Farrell's presentation and would look into getting video of the event recorded as well.

Men's Equality Congress Conference - "The Boy Crisis":

Scott Garman offered a summary of the national Men's Equality Congress conference which he and Mike Geanoulis attended in July in Washington, DC. The theme of the conference was on the cultural and academic problems facing boys, and the audience included a number of people working in the field of education. Scott Garman gave a short history of the Commission and its work during the conference, which received a lot of interest and support. The conference session topics included:

- *The Boys' Crisis: the Danger; the Opportunity*
- *How and Why Boys and Girls Differ in Processing Emotional Stress*
- *Boys: The Next Fathers*
- *The War Against Boys: Has it Ended?*

One of the contacts Scott Garman made during the conference was with Jimmy Boyd of the Men's Health Network. Mr. Boyd has worked with the Commission in the past on raising awareness about prostate cancer. Mr. Boyd is aware of a handful of similar state commissions on men's health, and

would like to discuss collaboration opportunities among multiple commissions on the subject of men's health. Scott Garman will follow-up on this and provide updates to the Commission on further discussions.

National Conference on Social Work with and for Men:

Scott Meyer distributed information he received about an upcoming conference on social work involving men. The conference is scheduled for April 28 and 29, 2008 in Tuscaloosa, AL. Of note in the announcement he received is the statement:

"It is believed that the majority of literature focusing upon men has presented them in a rather negative stereotypical manner, as being abusive to others, absent from parental responsibilities, excessive users of alcohol or drugs, deviant or criminal, or incarcerated, among others. To offset such a biased portrayal of men, this conference wishes to present a more balanced approach to the challenges faced by men."

Prostate Cancer Support Group:

Scott Meyer also passed out a copy of the Spring 2007 issue of *PaysonHealth*, a newsletter distributed by the Concord Hospital which mentioned that an Anthem Support Group exists for men with prostate cancer. This support group currently meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Concord Hospital. For more information, contact Paula Plona at 603-230-6033. Other Prostate Cancer support groups in the state can be found at http://nhprostatecancer.org/pages/support_groups.html.