

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN**

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

Minutes for the Twenty-Second Commission Meeting  
November 30, 2005 1-4 PM  
Legislative Office Building Room 206, Concord, NH

These minutes were taken by Scott Garman.

**Members Present:** Joe Mastromarino, Michael Geanoulis, Scott Garman, Gus Leraudeau, Stephen Gorin.

**Members Absent:** Marshall Hickok, Larry Colby (resignation pending since May, 2005).

Also Present: Rep. David Bickford.

**Secretary's Report:**

Scott Garman motioned to approve the October meeting minutes without changes. Stephen Gorin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Report Expenditures:**

Joe Mastromarino and Mike Geanoulis both spent money to print hard copies of the first biennial report. Joe had 30 copies of the report printed and bound at cost of \$268.53, and Mike had 24 copies of the report printed at a cost of \$137.04.

Stephen Gorin motioned that Mike Geanoulis be reimbursed by the Treasury for \$137.04 and Joe Mastromarino be reimbursed for \$268.53 to cover the costs of printing the report. Scott Garman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mike also obtained quotes from Kinko's (\$1056) and OfficeMax (\$764) to print 400 copies of the report. There was some disagreement among the Commissioners about the number of copies that should be printed for future distribution. Mike noted that the National Congress for Fathers and Children, New Hampshire chapter, has offered to provide matching funds for the amount of money that the Commission spends to print more copies of its report, up to \$400.00.

Gus Leraudeau motioned to authorize Mike Geanoulis to spend up to \$250.00 on behalf of the Commission to print as many copies of the report printed as possible. Stephen Gorin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Commission is still without a Treasurer, since Larry Colby's resignation in May. Gus Leraudeau was contacted by Larry Colby in the past month and given a donation check for \$58.00. Gus offered to meet with Larry to get the final paperwork for his resignation and to have the treasury account

transferred to the CSM. Larry will be asked to write the above expenditure checks that need to be written first, to avoid further delays.

### **Report Feedback:**

Our report enjoyed a very positive reception. The Commission has received many e-mails of support from the public and from the Men's Health Network regarding the report. Mike distributed copies of the report on November 1 to its recipients, and fulfilled the requirement of giving 24 copies of the report to the State Library.

### **CSM Informational Flyer:**

Lee Newman offered the flyers he made for us for the amount of \$20 for the colored flyer, and \$30 for the brochure. These would be given to us in PDF and source format so that they can be printed and posted on-line on our web site, or modified as needed. Gus Lerandau suggested that we review these materials one final time at the next meeting in the hopes of making the decision at the next meeting. The rest of the Commissioners agreed.

### **Meeting Scheduling:**

We discussed meeting time issues and conflicts with the upcoming holidays. We decided not to meet in December. Some members of the public have expressed an interest in attending our meetings if they could be moved to a different day (Friday was suggested). Stephen Gorin moved to have our meeting times in 2006 be on the last Friday of each month, at the same time (1-4 PM) and location (LOB). Mike Geanoulis seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Thus our next meeting will be January 27, 2006.

### **NH Children's Alliance:**

Steve Varnum, Public Policy Director of the New Hampshire Children's Alliance was invited to meet with the Commission as a guest speaker.

Mr. Varnum introduced himself and distributed copies of NH CAN's last annual report. He then gave an overview of what NH CAN does and the way the organization works, particularly the way that member organizations can participate in the "children's agenda" advocacy projects which NH CAN coordinates and facilitates.

Michael Geanoulis raised some concerns he had that NH CAN lobbied strongly against HB529, which would create a presumption of 50/50 shared parenting for fit parents during a divorce or separation.

### **Legislative Items:**

Rep. David Bickford reports that he expects all of his retained bills will be voted on by the House Child and Family Law Committee on or around January 4.

Since HB529 has been amended, Mike Geanoulis suggested that the Commission re-affirm our support

of the bill officially, and motioned that the Commission on the Status of Men supports the passage of HB529 as in the best interests of children and families. Scott Garman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Joe Mastromarino will write a letter to the entire Senate Judiciary Committee, who will be reviewing the bill next, to let them know of our support for it.

### **Web Site Update:**

Scott Garman reported that an organization called MenTeach was interested in having a link placed on our resources web page. MenTeach "serves as a clearinghouse for research, education and advocacy with a commitment to increase the number of men teaching young children in early and elementary education." Their web address is [www.menteach.org](http://www.menteach.org). Scott passed around a publication he ordered from them, "The Importance of Men Teachers, And Why There Are So Few" (available from their web site). There were no objections regarding the link addition, which will be made after the meeting.

### **Birth Certificates:**

Mike Geanoulis raised some concerns he has about birth certificate laws and feels that some aspects of current laws discriminate against fathers. He asked that this be on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Male Suicide:**

Joe Mastromarino reported that he discovered a suicide study taking into account marital status and divorce. It found that suicide risk changed with marital status only among men, not women. Divorced men were twice as likely to commit suicide as married men. The study was found in The Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, titled "Marital status and suicide in the National Longitudinal Mortality Study", by Augustine J Kposowa.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.