

PFund Foundation – QNet Notes

Topic: Exploring Resource-sharing strategies to strengthen our collective work

As LGBT communities and organizations, we face difficult resource questions and find multiple ways of garnering, sharing and stretching resources and assets to make positive impacts. In the context of pressing issues including the proposed anti-same sex marriage amendment, how will we build and sustain our communities during this political moment and beyond? What resource-sharing strategies will be most effective? Participants dived deeper to address this topic from the recognition of our interdependence as communities and organizations.

Who Attended:

Roxanne Anderson, RARE Productions/MTHC  
Dot Belstler, Twin Cities Pride  
Katie Burgess, Trans Youth Support Network  
Maria De La Cruz, OutFront Minnesota  
Ani Koch, Rainbow Health Initiative  
Nicky Simon-Burton, PRIDE Institute  
Jim Larsen, Bisexual Organizing Project

Mark Lofstrom, for Rainbow Health Initiative  
Mel Rexroad, Family Equality Council  
Christopher Taykalo, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus  
PFund Executive Director, Kate Eubank and Program Officer, Kayva Yang

Speed Updating:

- Flash mob Target, 6 pm Waite House
- 9/21, 8:30 am, LGBT leaders meeting at the Exchange in Minneapolis
- Bisexual Organizing Project will host 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary BECAUSE conference on April 20 at Metropolitan State University
- Rainbow Health Initiative will be at Duluth PRIDE, Mankato and continue to be part of 10<sup>th</sup> trans health conference. October is a time of transition as Loretta Worthington, the ED steps down. The Board will have a retreat in September.
- PRIDE Institute – continues to do trainings, work with organizations to ensure access to care and has presence in Southern MN
- Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition hosts conference on Sept. 10-11, 9-5:30 pm and Sat night, 7-9 pm at South High School
- RARE Productions at the Exchange, Kulture Klub, Transgender Youth Support Network, GLBT Host Home Program will be part of Glam Slam Open Mic
- RECLAIM at the end of March hired development director part-time, Nick Metcalf
- Twin Cities PRIDE outreach and focus groups last fall. What they learn will be incorporated into the scholarship program. They are wondering about sponsorship criteria for next year. Do they seek sponsors that are willing to vote no to sign on?
- TYSN is hosting an open house and share the new shape of TYSN. TYSN continues to work on Free Cee Cee campaign. There will be a rally on September 12 with a press conference and information orientation. TYSN Board will host its retreat in October.
- Outfront MN is holding Community Action Training statewide tour. 150 organizers are training to create workplans on how do we talk about marriage. Outfront is also convening a faith table and would like to have greater representation from the Muslim community. If you know of anyone please refer them to Maria de la Cruz. Maria is three months into her new position as Development Director. Chris Stinson is the newly hired organizing director. Outfront is posting hires for organizers for the Minnesota United for All Families Campaign.

### Group Discussion:

*Pulling back from your organization, imagine as a Midwest LGBT movement, what's our context? What are we up against?*

- Marriage ballot initiative:
  - Debate is harmful for some people and communities; left behind
  - Increased hate and violence
  - Creating greater opportunities in community
- Different agendas/ priorities – how do we talk about that?
- Need for broader/ more connected frame?
- For some in our communities marriage is not their issue and they are upset how much money energy and effort is put into something that may happen at the federal level anyway. A balancing act is needed: attention and effort is needed
- Need for access to health benefits. Are we working toward health benefits or marriage that comes along with health benefits? Reformed health care – is that an easier match than marriage equality?
- Government shutdown – funding impacts; impact on direct services orgs
- Systems change, social norms change – pressure to do direct service
- Perception – taking long-views/ not end all-be-all: “everywhere is pretty accepting” and that’s okay with us – complacency
- Guarding and protecting small/marginal groups that we’ve already invested in
- Marriage doesn’t fall neatly under some orgs umbrellas – not getting pulled off mission
- There is no way to do marriage work and ignore other issues or work we have as communities. Substance abuse, violence goes up, discrimination in the workplace goes up.
- How do organizations tap into the campaign to be able to do the work they want to do
- Outfront doesn’t have the strongest connections in communities of color. Outfront is framing what kind of MN we want to live in broadly and what happens after the vote. Marriage isn’t the only thing pressing on all of us.
- There’s a responsibility for foundations about how we remind people this is a community not only where marriage is the issue, but also how we direct resources together.
- RECLAIM provides social services providing mental health services. How do we participate then in the marriage issue or organizing around it?
- BOP has not taken a position on marriage, and will not take the lead in marriage equality efforts, but can be a “passive supporter” by information-sharing to people and other organizations.
- Twin Cities Gay Men’s chorus members are in favor of being active in defeating ME amendment; ED said we want to be involved.
- How can I be an advocate in my political agenda that acknowledges there’s a space here that I hadn’t considered before?

### Identified Group Priorities:

- 1) Build alliances and need for solidarity across issues, organizations and communities
- 2) Work on framing and reframing issues: How is the debate harmful as it stands? How do we include voices marginalized by the debate? What do we need to do this work together?
- 3) Explore concretely information and resource-sharing strategies at key political moments

Next steps: Host Part 2 in October to discuss concrete strategies and examples of resource-sharing.