

NCWU Minutes: August 23, Membership Meeting

Location: Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

The Membership Meeting launched the new program initiative: "Critical Issues panel discussions" The goal of the Critical Issues Series is to ensure that the NCWU member organizations understand the priorities that each member organization gives to various critical issues and help them examine how to assist in supporting the issues. These panels will address critical and controversial issues providing core knowledge to members through the examination of key issues from different perspectives. This information should also help each organization to see how the critical issues overlap.

The first Critical Issues program examined the implications of proposed anti-LGBT state and national constitutional amendments; the legal differences between committed same sex relationship and being legally married as recognized by North Carolina; ways for LGBT parents to protect their relationships with their children. Three panelists who have a long history of advocacy and grassroots work examined issues from a variety of perspectives.

The **Speakers were:**

Mandy Carter, Board Member, National Black Justice Coalition Interim Chair, Grassroots Committee. She is well established in the political community and indicated interest in bringing into NCWU more women of color organizations.

Ian Palmquist, Executive Director-Program, Equality NC.

It was announced that Ian Palmquist was elected Co-Chair of The National Equality Federation at their recent August national conference in Austin Texas. Ian is also a member of the NCWU Governance Committee.

Sharon Thompson, Attorney, Sharon Thompson Law Group, former NC Representative 1987-1991, founding member NC women Attorneys Association and founder and first president of NC Gay and Lesbian Attorneys.

The presentations generated vigorous discussion and understanding of the issues and legal implications facing the children of LGBT adults. Now NCWU has to decide how to really support this issue. Now each member organization has information to help decide what supportive role it will take on the LGBT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

Submitted by: Arlene McKay

Last updated: September 27, 2004

Approved: October 25, 2004