LGBT Staff Network AGM 2014

Held Tuesday 21 January, 2014 at 5pm in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.

# Agenda

1. Minutes from previous meeting
2. Financial Report
3. Committee Election
4. Future Events
5. Any Other Business

# Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous AGM were passed without comment.

# Financial Report

Donald O’Driscoll gave a report on the financial health of the staff network. The network currently accrues contributions from 8 members on a monthly basis. The network has a balance of **€545.36** as of December 2013. A further **€20** euro in members’ contributions will have been added in the last month and we are awaiting an invoice from Kylemore for teas and coffees served at the last meet and greet, expected to be approximately **€100**.

The current account fees on the account have been consistent at **€5.97** a quarter but it is expected that this would go up if there was to be additional activity (withdrawals) on the account. The network should look at ways of decreasing this (by either switching banks or by moving to agresso based system or a combination of both).

Overall the network is in a healthy financial position and there is always the possibility of applying to the Staff Sports and Social Club for funding in the future.

# Committee Election

1. **Co-Chairs:** At the time of the meeting, there were no volunteers for the co-chair positions. At the meeting members agreed that this would be a rotating position at each meeting of the network for the time being. We also agreed that if someone from the network would like to subsequently volunteer, that they could take the position(s).
2. **Treasurer:** Helen Mulcahy volunteered as treasurer. There were no objections and we agreed that Helen would be treasurer for the network for 2014.
3. **Secretary:** Maurice Ryder volunteered as secretary. There were no objections and we agreed that Maurice would be secretary for the network for 2014.
4. **Equality Liaison Officer:** Eibhear Walshe volunteered as Liaison Officer. There were no objections and we agreed that Eibhear would be Liaison Officer for the network for 2014.
5. **Events Officer:** A new position of events officer was proposed by Gordon and seconded by other members of the network. The events officer will drive the planning of network events, from coffee mornings to meet and greets to other events. Individuals would be charged with organising specific events but the events officer would also support and drive each event. Diarmuid Scully volunteered as Events officer. There were no objections and we agreed that Diarmuid would be Events Officer for the network for 2014.

# Future Events

The group had a wide ranging and vibrant discussion on the potential events that we might like to host this year. Gordon reported that an invitation to David Norris to address the network had been declined due to the senator’s ill health.

1. **Talk from Jamie O’Connell:** Jamie O’Connell is a local author with a unique perspective being both LGBT and from a Jehovah’s Witness background. The network agreed this could be an interesting speaker and would be of interest to groups outside of the LGBT network such as the English Literature society as well. Eibhear agreed to make contact with Jamie O’Connell to see if he would be interested in speaking.
2. **Rory O’Neill aka Miss Panti:** Following the recent controversy surrounding Rory O’Neill’s appearance on RTE’s Saturday night show (whereby he stated an opinion that members of the Iona institute were homophobic, a statement which was subsequently removed from the video on the RTE website and for which RTE also subsequently issued an apology), several members thought that he would be an interesting speaker. Again, given Rory O’Neill’s profile, such an event would have the potential to have a broad audience. Rory would have an interesting perspective on activism as well as the role of gay businesses in the gay community. Eibhear suggested that perhaps the event could take the format of an interview, in a similar fashion to the Emma O’Donoghue event a few years back. Bastiaan agreed to put the feelers out to find contact details for Rory O’Neill so that we can ask if he is interested.
3. **Supportive Religious Institutions:** Brian O’Rourke, the reverend from St Anne’s and Richard O’Leary from Changing Attitudes Ireland were both mentioned as potential speakers.

# Any Other Business

1. The new events officer will drive the creation of a list of events for the year 2014. A general discussion on other events besides those suggested above prompted the suggestion of at least two coffee mornings open to the network. Given the success of the meet and greet before Christmas, the group thought it would be a good idea to have at least 2 meet and greet sessions a year, open to all staff and advertised widely.
2. Membership information (how to join the list, contribute to the network) should be made available at all coffee mornings and meet and greats.
3. Members of the group queried our exact membership number. Maurice Ryder agreed to find out from the mailing list.

## Actions

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| Contact Rory O’Neill | Bastiaan (with support from Diarmuid) |
| Contact Jamie O’Connell | Eibhear (with support from Diarmuid) |
| Draft minutes of this meeting | Maurice |
| Determine schedule of events for 2014 | Diarmuid |
| Find out membership numbers | Maurice |
| Create membership information that can be printed and made available at meetings | Maurice |
| Look into other banks | Helen |