

Abington Human Relations Commission: November 6, 2019

Present: Joanne, John, Rosemary, Dave, Rasinn, Shelley

Tri-State Training

Based on suggestions made at the training, we reviewed our forms and procedures. We have a few changes to make in the contact information in our procedures, which Rosemary will do. We need to review our complaint form (December meeting) and will then re-consider how we want to handle that. We also need to put our new brochure on the township website (Rosemary).

Carl Summerson just emailed the MOU (which says that we will send all of our complaints except those that refer to gender to the PHRC) to Joanne to sign. We'll review it at the December meeting and decide whether we want to put it on the website with the procedures.

Again, based on suggestions, we decided that we should set a quorum and that it will be four (4) members present to hold a meeting and enact business. We hadn't set a new quorum after enlarging the HRC from 5 to 7 members.

New idea for getting known in the community: Creating a brief introduction to the HRC (Who we are and what we do) to send to our Commissioners, along with our new brochure, and ask them to place it in their newsletters. It will be ready for them to drop in without any additional work on their parts. Rosemary will create a first draft and send it to the group.

Feedback on the training: Members thought that it was interesting, covered important topics, and gave us people to go to for help if there's a problem we can't solve. Ideas that Shelley will suggest for additional programs: Detailed information on specific laws (e.g., laws on sex and gender); mediation skills; additional sharing of ideas for being a community resource.

LGBTQ Resource Fair:

Five of us attended and thought that it was a great event in general and helped us make good connections that we will now pursue. This will be an annual event and we've been asked to take a table next year, which we will gladly do. (Note letter from Rep. Ben Sanchez.)

Kristen has brochures and cards from the agencies we want to connect with and we will start in December to send them our introductory letter.

Leadership, Law Enforcement, and Love: Attacking Anti-Semitism and Racism in the Commonwealth:

Five of us attended and thought that, in general, it was an excellent program. Our feedback: the room wasn't wheelchair accessible (as far as we could tell) from outside and would have been difficult for a person using a wheelchair to navigate even if they could have gotten in; despite the moderator saying that they would do so, no action plan was created before the program ended.

Joanne will write letters to both Reverend Marshall Mitchell (Salem Baptist Church) and Chad Dion Lassiter (Executive Director PHRC) to offer our feedback and to offer to meet and work with each of them to create another program that could lead to an action plan, community dialogues, and a program for teens and/or young adults.

Note: Our January meeting will not be on New Year's Day as indicated on the calendar, but will be moved back a week.



October 22, 2019

Dear Friend:

We wanted to send you a quick thank you for participating in our first annual LGBTQ+ Community Resource Fair. We were very excited to have partnered with Penn State Abington, who graciously hosted the event on their campus. Our goal for the fair was to show the LGBTQ+ community the support they need and deserve from businesses, organizations and medical facilities in their own community by bringing them together in one place. We could not be more pleased with the success of the day and that is because of you. There were about 75-80 participants this year and we know as we continue to do this event it will only grow with more attendees and exhibitors like yourselves; we look forward to that opportunity.

We have received valuable and positive feedback from those in attendance as participants, but we would also love to hear from you as our exhibitors. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for next year, please feel free to email Morgan Selkirk at mseirk@pahouse.net. Everyone's thoughts are important to ensure further success in the future.

We hope that we can count on you again next year to be a part of this special event. Again, thank you so much, it was an honor to host your organization and/or business at the Resource Fair.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve McCarter".

Steve McCarter
State Representative
154th Legislative District

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin V. Sanchez".

Benjamin V. Sanchez
State Representative
153rd Legislative District