

August 18 Meeting
Chair - Holly
Minutes - Betsy

- Agenda:
1. What's the Matter With This Group
 2. Goals + Objectives
 3. Name of Group
 4. Meeting Night
 5. Bread + Roses Proposal

What's Wrong With this Group

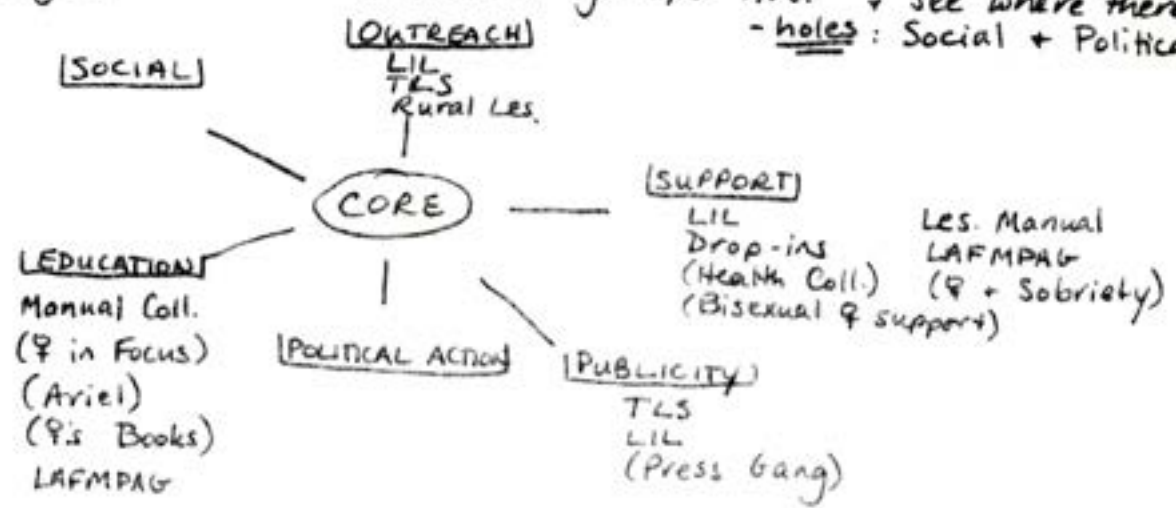
- Sara - the energy from the conference was very action-oriented + has dissipated
- in Vancouver, there aren't as many right wing attacks so no obvious crying need for an immediate response can be seen + it's hard to keep energy going
 - there's a frustration with the slow process of the group
- Dorrie - some ~~of~~ came in with concrete images + others without; that was the reason for education; thought the research committee would give a grounding on how the right operates in Vancouver
- Frances' + Sara's images weren't presented too clearly
 - want to do something but can't figure out what to do
 - don't like the group structure; we never thought of what structure would best facilitate us to move
- Ellen - at the conference, we broke into small groups + talked of our experience + at the 1st meeting we did a round; the energy was there since we were speaking out of ourselves
- we've gotten further away from our needs to organize against the right + what that means for us as lesbians + ourselves
 - in the process of educating ourselves, got removed from why we were here in the beginning
 - we went for the structure that was handy + that we knew → not a good idea; it's easy for this group to get abstract
- Janice - no one in her small group at the conference would be able to handle these meetings → women in the closet would be too afraid of the ideas here - the "out on the street" kind of things.

- Sherry
- wanted to make lesbian political activity more organized
 - wanted to know who's working against the right; lots of lesbians are
 - frustrated with outreach; it doesn't happen; groups get smaller + people wonder why
- Zakette
- this group is now only old-time organizers; a lot of us talk with assumptions; it's no surprise & dropped off
 - this structure won't work to draw in a lot of lesbians
 - prefer to have smaller groups with networking
- essie
- frustrated; this group becomes less + less a priority; had ideas of what we wanted; we're too involved in the process + not knowing how to move, we become paralyzed; & become alienated.
 - want to analyze the right while we're doing something
 - integrate analysis with action
 - can't sit + listen → boredom; probably others also felt not actively involved in the process of the group.
- Inna
- in the 1st round, people had concrete fears + ideas; so far, we've just discussed structure; we've gotten away from focussing on what we want to do + have almost agreed not to talk about it.
 - people want to know what we're "doing"
- Ketsy
- purpose of group has become more unclear + vague;
 - some in-the-closet & may be afraid to come for fear of group doing too visible actions; others are frustrated because there doesn't seem to be any action at all; we need to work with both in
- Tolly
- this group is very abstract + a drain on energy
 - has a high tolerance for bullshit at meetings but there comes a point.
 - sense of alienation - not "my" group
- Rances
- at the first meeting, we got ideas from the round (outreach, public ed correspond through Les/Lesbiennes, day of action, pamphlet)
 - all the things that are wrong have been said; should remember we agreed to do something; should move on to next part + make a decision to do these things
- Marie
- the group didn't have input into the suggestions at the 1st meeting
 - never agreed to do all these
- olly
- these things came up in the round; they were ideas - not decisions

- ssie - we've chased away all those ♀ who were at the 2nd meeting; we must look at what's wrong - it's attitudinal - how we approach other lesbians + ourselves
- anes - how can we understand why ♀ left if they're not here
- concerned that if we continue worrying about how we lost ♀ + digging ourselves under, we won't get anywhere.
- en - Paulette said if she'd come from Campbell R. 4 yrs. ago, she wouldn't be here; she can tell us; if we listened about our lives, we'd find out where the right is + how it's operating
- ra - a lot of ♀ have said we've reproduced our ways of functioning
- want to see a compromise between Frances' plodding on + Ellen's talking about ourselves → to do outreach with our lives and to fight right
- we should look at ♀ said last week about what to do
- orrie - if we do that, want to open up the group, send out an invitation and do CR
- ky - read Frances' book + read that CR was needed; it's important

Goals + Objectives (summary - not verbatim)

- discussion about whether or not to open up the group and advertise
- some concern that by opening up the group, we'd be repeating what we've done
- generally agreed that a more open meeting breaking into smaller groups would be a good idea → would be good to get more input from other ♀ + to start action groups that could all get together once a month
- the Quadra or CES Warehouse or some place not identified with the "alternate" community were suggested for the meeting
- discussion re whether to open up meeting just to lesbian groups or to anyone
- Sherri's diagram - should co-ordinate groups first + see where there are holes - holes: Social + Political Action



- maybe could organize political/social things
- should co-ordinate those who only want to put in a few hours/month
- should co-ordinate both the politically active people + those who are unorganized

What to do - unanimous decision to have a meeting open to lesbians who are already in groups and those who are "around" in-between groups etc. or any lesbians who just want to come.

- How to do it
- should figure out how it should be set up
 - should have some ideas of what actions people could start to do
 - some action to make the group visible (posters/leaflets) before the meeting
 - we could feed people; make it semi-social - a lesbian din → have dinner after meeting - "incentive" to stay till the end
 - research committee could condense material researched out a page:
 - Who is the organized right?
 - What is the mentality we're fighting? } with conc examples
 - should make ♀ at meeting feel like fighting the right so they won't be afraid + flee to the closets
 - could have dyads before small groups
 - agreement that ~~any~~ meeting could go like this: (3pm - 7pm or 2pm - 5pm)
 - 1 Introduction - 15 minutes
 - 2 Small groups
 - 3 Back together - reports from groups - 1 hr.
 - hand out research committee info. sheets
 - 4 Regroup according to interests
 - 5 Dinner
 - Planning Committee: Dorrie, Paulette, Ellen, Sara, Holly, Sherri
 - Anna wants to be on the cooking committee

3. Name of Group

- 1 LAFH
- 2 THEM
- 3 LARE
- 4 LEAR
- 5 LOAR

Additions: Lesbians Against Everything
 Lesbians Against Each Other
 Lesbians Against Facism
 Nazis

The Lesbian Resistance } 13 votes
 } 11 for
 } 2 Abstentions
 General Merriment

4. Next Meeting - Wed. Aug. 26 - Ellen's house: 7:30pm
3-1974 Grant:

Chair: Sara

- to discuss open meeting + planning committee's proposed structure

5. Bread + Roses Proposal - tabled

6. Clearing

Sherri - more frustrated than before; afraid that ♀ will have lots of enthusiasm at the meeting + want to do things that organizations are already doing; the internal communication among already operating groups is not good
- afraid of duplication

Ellen - the planning committee will have to figure out ways that that won't happen i.e. put posters up on walls of all the groups so interested ♀ will be able to go to existing group.

Sara - Sherri could join the planning committee

Sherri - will do

Dorrie - concerned because a lot of existing groups are already politicized + elitist; don't want to channel everyone into these groups

Holly - discuss this later with planning committee

Sara - it's important to be solution oriented to problems in the clearing session