

May 10, 2008
Mesa Theater and Club
Meeting called to order at 1:55 pm

Lunch was purchased for members by the group.

Sergio asked for introductions from everyone in attendance. Introductions were given by each member.

Sergio thanked everyone for their support, patience and perseverance while the group forms and gets up and operating. Sergio informed everyone what the initial dues went for such as the banner, the website and some gifts to neighboring bear groups. We sent a gift basket to the Utah Bear Alliance which has 150+ members.

Front Range Bears based out of Denver want us to host a cocktail party at Octobearfest.

Sergio announced that we will be having our Bear Coffee at Trader's Coffee and Tea at 11 am on Sunday morning.

Sergio told the group that he has been making regular contributions to the Front Range Bears' newsletter, The Grizette. Western Equality also wants some input from the Western Slope Bears for their newsletter, OutWest.

Sergio then brought up Pride events here in Grand Junction. The picnic will be at Hawthorne Park, Saturday June 14th. It runs from 11 am to 3 pm. Western Slope Bears will have a covered area and Iced Tea for the crowd.

Western Slope Bears will be hosting the Pride Party the same night at Mesa Theater and Club. We have a DJ from the Utah Bear Alliance coming into help out with DJ duties with Brock. Sergio brought up that the cover charge for the party for WSB members was still being evaluated and will be formalized soon.

Front Range Bears in Denver is trying to get us to have a strong presence at Octobearfest this coming October.

Sergio announced that elections for the first quarter of our year are coming up. The positions of President and Secretary are to be elected at the end of the quarter. These positions will then be filled by members for the permanent board and Western Slope Bears will no longer have an interim board. Rick Beaty nominated Sergio for president and Bill for secretary. If the two are elected they will keep their offices for two years. The election will be held at the end of July. The positions of vice-president and treasurer will be elected the second quarter, at the end of October.

Once the permanent board is seated. We will ask for or vote on regional members-at-large across the western slope.

Billy then gave the treasurer's report. As of this date we have 20 paid members. Members are comprised of men from Grand Junction, Delta, Montrose, Steamboat Springs. With the payment of dues received prior to today's meeting we will have close to \$300.00 in the account. .

Billy also mentioned that 4 Corners Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Diversity (4CGLAD) out of Durango was interested in partnering with us on some events.

He also brought up that the Coffee Studio next to the Safeway on Patterson (F Road) was being operated by a lesbian couple and that we should visit the shop.

Bill went over information concerning the website and the connexion page. The website had 278 different visitors in the last thirty days. Visitors are from the United States, Britain, Belgium, Syria, Iraq, Canada, the Netherlands, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Spain and Vietnam. Referrals to the website are from HomoRodeo.com, BearGuide.net, Front Range Bears and Utah Bear Alliance websites, Western Equality website, connexion.org, Google and Yahoo!

Brock announced that they would be hosting a 4th of July party and that details would be forthcoming and the group's members were invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Andrews