



Leslie Feinberg (right) gives an autograph to one of her fans

ing was good news. With the help of the members, feisty facilitator Kathleen Saadat wrote up a list of ground rules for the meeting, including "no interruptions" and "no personal attacks."

Knightly read an emotional Top 20 list regarding her favorite things about LCP, and reluctant retiree Sally Cohn reported that LCP is not only out of the red financially but is in quite decent shape.

Part of the meeting was dedicated to reading

"There is no organization yet. It is not set in concrete. It is not a marble stone. It is liquid," she says.

FEINBERG SPEAKS—FINALLY

"It was hard to get here," transgendered activist Leslie Feinberg began her speech.

The statement was met with chuckles of acknowledgment. The Lesbian Community

At the end of the meeting, Lesbian Community Project members voted on whether to return to the original statement or modify it again. So as to keep self-identified lesbians satisfied, but at the same time be more inclusive, some members suggested the statement should continue to use the word lesbian while adding "self-identifying women who love women" at the end.

By a significant margin, however, the members voted for the original statement of purpose.

the results of a survey LCP conducted during its "listening period," the months spent under Aspen's leadership. Social activities such as potlucks and dances were said to be favorites among members, but the organization's more political activities—such as anti-racism talks and American Sign Language workshops—appealed to many as well.

Saadat best summed up the survey results, saying: "Let's find a way to be together—and eat and dance."

Nearing the end of the meeting, wannabe board members spoke for a few minutes about what they'd bring to LCP if elected. A generational gap was evident in some of these speeches; some women made it clear that if they were elected to the board, they would stick to LCP's original statement of purpose.

Following the election, LCP's diverse new board of directors is composed of Genny Bimslager, Rebecca Block, Sally Cohn, Mara Cohn and Roma Hanvey, who represent a wide range of ages and opinions.

The next major event on the LCP agenda is its 15th annual softball tournament in August.

Saadat says it's important to remember that the organization always has the ability to grow and change.

Project invited Feinberg to speak in Portland two years ago, but the event was canceled because of scheduling conflicts.

Also, many attendees were confused about the correct location of the May 20 event, because it changed from the original site at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center to the North Portland branch of the Multnomah County Library without much notice.

The room was packed, nonetheless, and Feinberg addressed the crowd, saying: "I want to get in the thick of it."

Keeping her promise, Feinberg dug deeply into the history of women's movements throughout the last two centuries. She also emphasized the fact that, though liberation came out of those movements, they were somewhat marred by internal divisions among the women.

Feinberg urged the crowd to continue its activism while learning from the mistakes of the women liberationists who lived years ago.

"Unity is built by embracing diversity," she said. "We will be the plow that turns up fresh earth."

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