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**Monthly meetings** of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the ACLU are the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:00 at the offices of Planned Parenthood 2300 North Florida Mango West Palm Beach

All members of the chapter are welcome. We can build a strong, effective chapter by having many interested and active members.

**Email Address Request**

The Board would like to be able to communicate quickly and at no cost when an issue demands our attention. We can save a lot of money by emailing meeting notices and newsletters in the future. Please provide your email address by emailing [pbcacclu@adelphia.net](mailto:pbcacclu@adelphia.net) It will NOT be shared or used for fundraising.

## Annual Meeting and Elections

The Board of Directors of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the ACLU cordially invites you to attend our **Annual Meeting and Brunch Sunday, Nov 14 , 11:30 AM** Atlantis Country Club, Atlantis, FL.  
*(Near Congress and 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Telephone: 561-965-7700)*

### **We Have an Exciting Program Planned.**

- Find out what's happening in our chapter
- Get to know your board of directors.
- See what direction we are taking our chapter.

**Guest speaker, Jeanne Baker**, President of the Board of Directors of the ACLU-FL will speak to us on the many issues facing civil liberties in today's society, and how to deal with these issues.

**Civil Libertarian of the Year Award** will be presented to Lillian Tamayo, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast. Lillian exemplifies dedication and perseverance in ensuring that those in need of service are treated equally, honoring the letter and spirit of the law as it applies to all.

Please join us and help us launch a new season for our chapter and please feel free to extend an invitation to friends and family.

**The cost of the brunch is \$35.00 per person and should be sent payable to ACLU-PBC, by Nov.6 to:**

Zoe Stout  
149 Gregory Place  
WPB, FL 33405

For further information please call:  
Zoe Stout 561/586-0296 or  
Ethelene Jones 561/687-4433

## Chapter Elections

The nominating committee is pleased to present its **slate of directors** for the Palm Beach County Chapter of the ACLU.

### State Board Delegates:

Nancy Blackburn

Ethelene Jones

Helen Reid

Jessica Tunon

Zoe Stout

### Governing Board Members

James Green

Marcia Halpern

Marcia Hayden

Wanda Malave

Allen Taylor

Barbara Walker

The bylaws provide for a maximum of 15 members. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting for those wishing to serve. However, certain criteria must be met. He/she must have active standing in the Chapter, defined as being an active participant in a Standing Committee or having attended a minimum of 3 Chapter Board meetings during the preceding twelve months, and no person's name shall appear on the ballot without that person's consent.

## Election Fest

Get Out The Vote Rally!

Postponed.

Date undecided at this time

Due to Hurricane Frances, activities may be scaled down. The Urban League was damaged by the storm, as well as, The Breakers where the pre-event for sponsors was to be held.

This event will be held in West Palm Beach in conjunction with the Urban League. The emphasis will be voter education and empowerment. There will be continuous live entertainment, vendor booths, children's activities and a mini-sports camp. An election booklet will be distributed. Candidates will have an opportunity to speak. Other speakers include national and local activists.

Details of the event and its success will be in the next issue of our newsletter.

The ACLU and its affiliates will host screenings of acclaimed filmmaker Robert Greenwald's latest groundbreaking documentary "Unconstitutional" in more than 25 states. These screenings will include a world premiere on September 13 at the University of Texas at Austin and a September 14 screening at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater in New York. "Unconstitutional," which was written, directed and produced by Nonny de la Peña, explores how the Patriot Act has taken away checks on law enforcement and continues to endanger the civil liberties of everyone across America.

## Remember to vote!

Deadline for Voter Registration is October 4<sup>th</sup>. Encourage anyone you meet to register. Offer to take them to the polls. As we learned in 2000, every vote counts!

## Standing Committees

The following is a list of standing committees. We strongly urge you to get involved and volunteer for these committees. Email [pbcaclu@adelphia.net](mailto:pbcaclu@adelphia.net) with your intentions and suggestions.

1. Nominating: Nominates candidates for Chapter Board of Directors and Officer.
2. Membership: Conducts membership drives and actively seeks new members for the Chapter.
3. Legal Panel: Investigates and presents, for Board approval, cases worthy of ACLU action.
4. Fund-Raising: Conducts fundraising activities in conjunction with the State and National ACLU.
5. Legislative: Works with State and National ACLU organizations to lobby legislative bodies regarding civil liberties issues.
6. Information and Education: Responsible for disseminating information to the public about civil liberties issues.

### **Interim Board Officers**

Ruth Gottlieb  
*President*

Zoe Stout  
*Vice President/  
Treasurer*

Ethelene Jones, M.D.  
*Secretary*

## Letter From The President

As interim chapter chair of the Palm Beach County ACLU it gives me great pleasure to bring you up to date on the happenings in our chapter. We are reorganizing and reinvigorating ourselves. We have an interim board of directors who are hard at work planning future projects which will be put into motion when a permanent board is elected. This will allow our chapter to keep growing and have the ability to meet the challenges to our civil liberties as they arise.

I hope I can speak for all of you when I say that although it's a hard road, and often a lonely road we travel, being part of the ACLU is one of the most satisfying things we can do for the betterment of our society. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights serve as a great beacon for those of us in the ACLU enabling us to ensure that those who follow will be able to enjoy these rights and keep that great beacon from going out.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and to all of our members both old and new a very hearty welcome.

I know that with your support we will continue to grow and prosper.

Thank you all very much.

Ruth Gottlieb

### **The Legal Panel:**

The legal panel of the ACLU usually meets once a month to discuss recent issues brought to its attention and to review issues raised at past meetings.

Issues may be of an individual or general nature.

- Individual issues are complaints about an incident by a single person or a small number of people; e.g.-the prevention by police of the lawful distribution of controversial literature by an unpopular group.
- General issues are those that arise so frequently as to raise a general concern, above and beyond any one incident. Voter disenfranchisement and racial profiling of drivers are recent general issues.

More about the legal panel will be discussed in future issues.

Allan Taylor

## PALM BEACH CHAPTER ACTS TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS

While most states return the right to vote to former felons once the terms of their sentences have been completed, Florida is one of 12 or 13 states that take away voting rights for life. In the 2000 presidential election, an unknown number of eligible Florida voters were denied the right to vote because their names erroneously appeared on the state's list of ex-felons. The Palm Beach Chapter, along with the other 14 chapters of the ACLU of Florida has taken specific steps toward protecting the right to vote.

In June, we organized a delegation including representatives of the AFL-CIO, the Palm Beach Coalition for Election Reform, the Urban League and the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization of the A.M.E. Church to meet with Palm Beach County Elections Supervisor, Theresa LePore to discuss the state's list of presumed ex-felons. We sought and received her assurance that no one would be removed from the roll of eligible voters without first confirming that the identity matched that of the voter and, secondly, independently verifying the person's criminal record. Other coalitions organized by ACLU chapters across the state held meetings with their county Elections Supervisors. These meetings were important factors in causing the State Elections Office to abandon the Ex-Felon list entirely.

In another action, our chapter took steps to assure that eligible jail detainees (not convicted of a felony) will be able to register and vote.

In on-going projects, members of the Palm Beach chapter are

- Distributing clemency application forms and instructions to sites such as clinics, food banks, Salvation Army where ex-felons may begin the process of regaining the right to vote.
- Circulating petitions for a constitutional amendment to automatically restore the civil rights of former felons upon completion of their sentences.
- Serving as poll watchers in the November election
- Distributing Voter Empowerment Cards - palm-sized cards with information about the rights of each Florida voter.

If you have a little time or a lot to help with any of these activities, please send email to [pbclu@adelphia.net](mailto:pbclu@adelphia.net) or call Dr. Ethelene Jones, Chapter Secretary at (561) 687-4433.