



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of FLORIDA

E-Newsletter

ACLU-FL COLLIER COUNTY INTERIM CHAPTER NEWSLETTER ISSUE: APRIL 2007

CONTEST: We need your help to come up with a Catchy title for this newsletter. Send your ideas to lightchorus@yahoo.com. The winner will receive a super-cool 'ACLU' mug. The winner will be announced and the new title will appear in the next issue.

Message from the President:

Dear Members,

This is the first newsletter for our Interim Collier County Chapter of the ACLU. Many thanks to our volunteer editor and our contributors!

This has been a very busy first year for our chapter. Our chapter is active: an energized board, an active legal panel, a membership that supports programs through attendance, dozens of volunteers willing to work on special projects or short term needs and, more recently, working committees. We have all of the ingredients for success and in the next months we will build upon what we have achieved to date. An organization with breadth and depth will enable us to educate the public about civil rights issues through programming, news coverage and letters to the editor; to have input into our elected officials, and to bring litigation that protects civil rights.

The Florida ACLU Board meets on May 12. One of the items on the agenda is consideration of the interim Collier County Chapter for full chapter status. Many of the board will attend this exciting event.

Through this newsletter, we will keep you posted on upcoming events such as the one on April 24 described below, areas where volunteer help is needed, and issues the ACLU is addressing in our area. Thank you for your continued support.

- Karen Kohler Clegg, President, Interim Chapter Collier County ACLU

Current Officers and Board of Directors of Collier's Interim Chapter

Karen Clegg, President clegg115@earthlink.net
Ed Minzner, Vice-President seamates@comcast.net
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John Staursky, Director staursky@yahoo.com
Mo Winograd, Director momccully@earthlink.net

COMMITTEE CORNER

If YOU would like to take an active role in the American Civil Liberties Union in Collier County, please feel free to contact any of the Chairs listed below. We will have more complete committee information for you in the upcoming issues.

Legal Panel

Yale T. Freeman, Chair - Freeman@ytfreemanlaw.com - 239-530-2500

The Legal Panel meets once a month to review pending formal Complaints that have been filed by citizens in Collier County seeking the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union. Once a decision is made by the Legal Panel (which is made up of lawyers and non-lawyers) to proceed, the case is assigned to a specific lawyer for further investigation. Alternatively, the case is closed and contact made with the complainant.

Before a complaint is filed by the Legal Panel, approval for filing litigation is obtained from the State ACLU and the Board of the Collier County Chapter.

The Legal Panel also has independent investigative authority and receives information from many sources including the Board of Directors and members of the community.

Public Information & Education Committee

Mo Winograd, Co-Chair - momccully@earthlink.net - 239-948-0020

Jane DeFalco, Co-Chair - thinkmaryjane@comcast.net - 239-595-2252

Most recent public event organized by this committee was:

Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 7 pm at the Norris Center in Naples

There was a showing of "Beyond the Patriot Act" and "Stop the Abuse of Power" (ACLU Freedom Files). Robert Levy from the CATO Institute will be leading the discussion afterwards about NSA wiretaps, military tribunals, detention of US Citizens, and profiling. This is open to the public so please bring a friend! There was a good turnout at this event, we hope you were there too. The presentation was very informative and interesting. A big 'Thank you' to Dr. Levy.

Current Activities

- **Freedom Files:** This committee will be responsible for providing copies of the Freedom Files to members wanting to organize a showing & informal discussion for friends, neighbors, etc. (see "Resources" section below for more information on the Freedom Files).
- **Newsletter:** A newsletter to keep local members connected, informed, and involved in the Collier County's Interim Chapter activities has begun with this first issue.

In the Works

- **Youth:** The committee recognizes the importance of getting the chance to educate & involve young people in understanding their rights and freedoms and will work with the schools and teachers to reach Middle and High School students as speakers and/or by offering a presentation of the Freedom Files.
- **Networking:** The committee is looking into joining efforts with other organizations in the area by visiting their meetings as speakers or presenting Freedom Files, and inviting speakers from their membership, as well as their membership to ACLU events. The Veterans and the Democratic Party have already indicated interest in showing the Freedom Files. Inviting local ACLU members to organize a showing of Freedom Files to their professional associations, church groups, or community centers was also suggested as a more personal way of reaching out.
- **Media:** We want to have letters to the editor, news coverage, articles about the ACLU, and articles of mutual concern in the local press and are working on avenues for such

coverage.

On the Horizon:

- **Public Events:** A public event featuring a guest speaker is being looked into for November.
The committee will try to identify and take advantage of appropriate opportunities at community events where the ACLU can have a presence.

Membership Committee

(under construction)

Yale Freeman and Ed Hummelstein, Co-chairs

Legislative Committee

(under construction)

Jim Flagler and Rita Turner, Co-chairs

Jim and Rita are in the process of forming the committee and contacting members who have volunteered to work on attendance at school board and county commission meetings, election issues, poll watching and pending legislation.

Nominating Committee

(under construction)

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

On March 19th, Mr. Howard Simon (Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida) was a guest speaker at the League of Woman Voters meeting. His presentation on several aspects of voting in Florida was very clear, concise and interesting. One of the topics he discussed was the integrity of voting equipment. He mentioned some of the problems with the electronic ballot, where votes are saved in computer memory, and there is no way to verify the count. He said that in some precincts they were finding a significant discrepancy between the number of people who had signed in and the number of votes registered in the computers. Governor Crist wants to improve on the system by providing new equipment for the entire state. The user interface would be the same, i.e. touch screen, but the vote would not be saved into computer memory, rather a paper ballot would be printed which would then be counted by an optical scanner. This way, votes could easily be recounted (re-scanned) if necessary. However, Mr. Simon indicated that Governor Crist wants to have early voters, handicapped voters, and language-restricted voters use the old equipment. Mr. Simon questioned having a portion of voters using different voting equipment and could not see any reason for it. He stressed the importance of pre- and post- election auditing of the new equipment and the importance of the above-mentioned groups having their votes collected and counted in the same new and improved way as everyone else.

HELPING HANDS

This section will comprise a task-oriented "help wanted" list. Committees will request help in the form of one-time jobs. This is a great way for people who can't make a long-term commitment on a committee to get involved by donating time and skills when they are able. Thanks for the help!

PENCIL IT IN

Calendar of events

Tuesday, April 24, 2007, 7:00 pm at the Norris Center in Naples

There will be a showing of "Beyond the Patriot Act" and "Stop the Abuse of Power" (ACLU Freedom Files). Robert Levy from the CATO Institute will be leading the discussion afterwards about NSA wiretaps, military tribunals, detention of US Citizens, and profiling. This is open to the public so please bring a friend!

There was a good turnout at this event, we hope you were there too. The presentation was very informative and interesting. A big 'Thank you' to Dr. Levy.

RESOURCES

E-Newsletter: If you would like to contact us about this e-newsletter, please direct your comments or questions to Aysen Onder at 239-262-5627 or lightchorus@yahoo.com.

National Headquarters: 125 Broad Street, Eighteenth Floor, New York, NY 10004

National Website: www.aclu.org

FL State Website: www.aclufi.org

To file a formal complaint: Go to www.aclufi.org, click on "Get Help" heading at the top.

The ACLU Freedom Files: A 10-part series that strips away the sound bites to reveal how civil liberties affect real people. It features real clients and the attorneys who represent them. By combining real stories and dynamic storytelling the series creates a powerful emotional effect that will motivate viewers to action. Go to www.aclu.tv for more information on the Freedom Files and on each title.

Available titles:

Religious Freedom

Voting Rights

Gay & Lesbian Rights

Youth Speaks

Drug Wars

Beyond the Patriot Act

The Supreme Court

Dissent

Racial Profiling

If you would like to organize a get-together to show one of the above titles, you can borrow a DVD from the Collier County Chapter by contacting Aysen at 239-262-5627 or lightchorus@yahoo.com.

DID YOU KNOW...

If you cast a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct, your vote will be lost.

To change your personal settings, or to unsubscribe, please [click here](#). You will need a password to change your personal settings. If you don't know your password, you can have it e-mailed to you so that you can access your information.

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