



The Flame

Newsletter of the Collier County Chapter of the ACLU

Issue: June 2007

We have our new newsletter title!! A big THANK YOU for all the creative ideas you sent in!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Congratulations are in order! At the May meeting of the ACLU Florida Board of Directors, our Collier County Chapter was considered for and received full chapter status. Some of the factors considered by the State Board in its decision to approve our chapter status included the involvement and support of the ACLU members in Collier County, our public education programs, the work of our Legal Panel, and the commitment of our Board. We owe a huge thanks to the ACLU of Florida staff for their guidance and support – without them we could not have had such an active year nor could we have achieved full chapter status.

The ACLU of Florida now has 18 chapters. Please realize the reason the ACLU of Florida is one of the largest and most active of the ACLU's state organizations is due to the organizational structure that is based on active local chapters, as well as a strong State Board and staff.

This summer, the Collier County Chapter Board's focus is to plan programs for the next year and to open the nomination process for a Board of Directors – now that we have achieved full chapter status, we will elect a new Board of Directors. We seek Board candidates for nomination as we will be preparing a slate of candidates for a vote at our November 1, 2007 meeting. On November 1st, we will have an interesting program, in addition to providing an update on our activities and a preview of upcoming events, we will hold our election at that time.

Prior to the November 1 election and meeting, all members will receive information on the slate of candidates and their backgrounds. And, of course, nominations will be accepted from the floor. If you wish to be considered for one of the 15 Board positions, or if you would like to submit the name of a potential board candidate, please submit either your name or the name of potential candidate and their contact information to: Collier County Chapter, ACLU of Florida, P. O. Box 10318, Naples FL 34101 or calling 239-774-9111. Elected board members are expected to attend and participate in monthly meetings (in person when possible or by telephone); serve as liaison to a State committee; and assist in the planning, organization and implementation of public forums, membership meetings and fund raisers. Currently, the Board has several open positions and we welcome suggestions/nominations from the membership.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer and please let us know if you wish to be considered for a Board position.

- Karen Kohler Clegg, President, Collier County Chapter, ACLU of Florida

Current Officers and Board of Directors of the Collier County Chapter

Karen Clegg, President <clegg115@earthlink.net>

Ed Minzner, Vice President <seamates@comcast.net>

Nancy Van Valkenburg, Treasurer <nancyvv@gmail.com>

Yale T. Freeman, Director <yale@ytfreemanlaw.com>
Mo Winograd, Director <momccully@earthlink.net>
Robin Birnhak, Director <robinbirnhak@yahoo.com>
Shelly Birnhak, Director <shellybirnhak@yahoo.com>
Jeanne Brooker, Director <brookjeb9@aol.com>
Jane De Falco, Director <thinkmaryjane@comcast.net>
Ed Hummelstein, Director <EHumme8284@aol.com>
John Staurisky, Director staurisky@yahoo.com

Legal Panel

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

The Legal Panel continues to investigate complaints alleging civil liberties and civil rights violations in Collier County, Florida. The Panel meets formally once a month and members stay in contact with each other via email.

The Legal Panel has established a subcommittee to review the medical treatment and disability compliance issues pertaining to inmates of the Collier County jail. The Legal Panel has also recently assigned several of its members to a task force that has been created to address issues pertaining to separation of church and state. Both subcommittees will report at the next regularly scheduled Legal Panel meeting.

Anyone interested in joining the Legal Panel, and who is a member of American Civil Liberties Union, please contact Yale T. Freeman, Chair of the Legal Panel, at (239) 530-2500

PENCIL IT IN

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

Collier County Corrections System
Presented by the Minority Task Force, Collier County Sheriff's Office
Location and Time to be announced – watch this space.

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

Speakers panel including David Milstein of the Legal Panel will address and discuss the ACLU's involvement with the more controversial issues.
Presented by the Collier Chapter of the ACLU
Cambier Park's Norris Community Center in Naples, 755 8th Ave South, 7:00 pm

NEXT MEETING OF THE NAACP: JULY 9TH.

The local NAACP chapter meets monthly every second Monday at 7:00 pm in Room C at the Golden Gate Community Center in Naples (4701 Golden Gate Parkway). Meetings are open to the public, and many issues are discussed that are also of interest to members of the ACLU.

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

Government Accountability

In the interest of ensuring the accountability of Florida's state and local governments to the public, Florida's public has the legal right of access to governmental meetings and records (papers, maps, books, tapes, photographs, film, sound recordings and records stored in computers). These rights and the principles of open government are embodied in Florida statutes as well as in the State Constitution. For a more detailed description of YOUR rights of access, refer to Florida Statutes,

Chapters 119 & 286. Links to this information and more are available on the Attorney General's website: www.myfloridalegal.com

DID YOU KNOW...?

Citizens' police review boards exist in Collier County. The Boards meet regularly and are open to the public. If you would like an issue reviewed or want more information about the boards,

Contact: Jill Beckos (Professional Responsibilities Bureau) 793-9576, jillbeckos@colliersheriff.net for the Collier County Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Panel (Use of Force issues only), or

Contact: Tara Norman (City Clerk), 213-1015 or Tnorman@naplesgov.com for the Naples Police and Emergency Services Department Citizens' Police Review Board.

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.*

Public Information & Education Committee

Mo Winograd, Co-Chair - momccully@earthlink.net - (239) 948-0020
Jane DeFalco, Co-Chair - thinkmaryjane@comcast.net - (239) 595-2252

Current Activities:

Freedom Files: This committee can provide copies of the Freedom Files DVDs to any members who wish to organize a screening followed by an informal discussion for friends, neighbors, etc. (see "Resources" section below for more information on the Freedom Files). Members may invite leaders of other activist organizations to the screening with the intention that they may organize other showings for their members.

In the Works:

Youth: Members will be reaching out to members who work in public schools to determine if there is student interest in hosting the ACLU on campus, and if so, to discuss the best way to have visibility .

Networking: The committee is committed to reach out to and engage members of the Republican Party in the ACLU to identify and work on common interests.

Exposure: The committee continues to try to identify and take advantage of appropriate opportunities at community events where the ACLU will have visibility to the public.

Media: We want to have letters to the editor, news coverage, bylined articles about the ACLU, and are working to generate earned media coverage.

On the Horizon:

Upcoming public events:

- November 1, 2007 – (See PENCIL IT IN section) A speakers panel will discuss the ACLU's more controversial positions with issues supported in the past and provide answers to address the public's questions and concerns.
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By-laws Committee

Edward S. Minzner, Chair

Membership Committee

Yale Freeman and Ed Hummelstein, Co-chairs

Legislative Committee

Jim Flagler and Rita Turner, Co-chairs

Nominating Committee

(under construction)

HELPING HANDS – Help wanted listings.

- LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ACLU COLLIER CHAPTER (see President's message above)
 - Contact: Collier County Chapter, ACLU of Florida, P. O. Box 10318, Naples FL 34101 or call 239- 774-9111
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RESOURCES

Newsletter: This newsletter is produced by the Public Information & Education Committee. If you would like to contact us about this newsletter, please direct your comments or questions to Aysen Onder at 239-262-5627 or lightchorus@yahoo.com.

- [Collier County Chapter](#), ACLU of Florida: P. O. Box 10318, Naples FL 34101, (239) 774-9111
- ACLU of Florida: 4500 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 340, Miami, FL 33137, (786) 363-2700
- FL State Website: www.aclufi.org
- National Headquarters: 125 Broad Street, Eighteenth Floor, New York, NY 10004
- National Website: www.aclu.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.

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