



ACLU Chico
Minutes of the 02.07.08 meeting, 6:00 p.m.
813 Nord Avenue
Chico, CA 95926

1. Welcome & Introductions – Bill

Bill Sheridan states that there is a need for an ACLU chapter in Chico, citing the disorderly events ordinance as a *causis admoneo*. There were four main organizers involved in the current impetus for forming a Chico Chapter of the ACLU: Bill Sheridan, Jessica Allen, Shayna Gelender, and Leslie Johnson.

Bill Sheridan introduces the two ACLU-NC organizers that are in Chico to help set up the Chico ACLU chapter: Shayna Gelender and Mary from San Francisco ACLU.

Bill Sheridan hands out and discusses the ACLU-NC by laws. The Chico chapter of the ACLU-NC is to be a component of and operate under the by-laws of the ACLU-NC.

Bill Sheridan discusses the Chico ACLU Board of Directors: that there are 10 members on the BOD. There is discussion as to the area to be represented by the Chico Chapter of the ACLU: Butte, Glenn, and Tehama counties; but might include other northern California counties, such as Modoc.

There is an initial discussion regarding a Kick-off meeting for the Chico ACLU chapter.

2. Review Past Meeting – Leslie

Leslie Johnson discusses Chico ACLU Board of Directors (BOD) selection: Chico ACLU needs an interim Treasurer and Secretary. Indicates that Greg Burton will act as temporary “note taker” (Secretary).

Leslie Johnson indicates that the Chico ACLU BOD should be diverse, representing minorities, religions, businesses, etc...as well as representing all geographic regions of the Chico ACLU region.

Leslie Johnson references issues and areas of concern in which the Chico ACLU could be involved in: constitutional issues, homeland security and surveillance issues, 3 strikes laws, immigration issues and rights, Muslims, Spanish, and other minority and cultural issues, parents’ rights, Disorderly Events ordinance, tasing and police accountability, transparency, education and outreach (Internet), homelessness, etc...to name some potential areas of ACLU involvement.

Leslie Johnson goes on to speak about potential BOD members and BOD sub-group members that would be “self-selected” and their qualities including being a good listener, willing to collaborate, i.e. a get-along kind of person who work well with others, etc...

3. ACLU – NC Chapter Overview – Shayna Gelender



Shayna Gelender, from San Francisco ACLU-NC begins by having all present introduce themselves and give a brief biography of their activism. There is some discussion about whether to identify (tabulate) all participants by name at this time. This participant/member identification issue is deferred to a later time and date.

Shayna Gelender gives the meeting a short biography, working at the ACU for 8 years, 4 years as an organizer. Shayna Gelender talks about the organization of the ACLU in California: that there are 22 active chapters & clubs in Northern California with the Fresno ACLU representing north to the California border. Shayna Gelender indicates that the ACLU in San Francisco is staffed with 50 people in 4 departments: Development, Legal (attorneys), Administration, & Youth. The ACLU, itself, is organized into three main branches: national, affiliate, and chapter with a general membership fee of \$20.00. The tax code for the ACLU is 501 C-4, and income derived from membership, fund-raising is divides up between the three branches of the ACLU.

Shayna Gelender speaks to how Chico ACLU issues are seconded to regional and national ACLU issues and agendas: that any idiosyncratic Chico ACLU specific actions, i.e. legal actions must be approved by the ACLU-NC BOD before-hand. Our actions and statements, as ACLU members, must be consistent with the ACLU's positions. Individuals may work on non-ACLU issues, as long as it is not as an ACLU member.

Leslie speaks about the Advisory Council organizations that could meet every 3 months; and other committees that will address ACLU issues such as tasing and immigrant rights.

Mary an ACLU-NC co-worker with Shayna Gelender is introduced.

Mary gives a short biography, indicating that she has experience working with the Santa Cruz chapter of the ACLU. She talks about how the chapter board is the liaison between national, affiliates and local chapter members.

It is the Board of Directors (BOD) that elects ACLU chapter officers

4. Chico chapter By-Laws Discussion

a. By-Laws Discussion – Bill

Bill, Shayna Gelender, Leslie, Mary have lead discussions referring to the proposed by-laws for the Chico ACLU chapter. That all Chico ACLU members will be notified by ACLU-NC about the chapter formation, elections, and kick-off meeting. That the we will need to adopt the by-laws to establish the chapter, and hold elections for officers of the Board of Directors annually.

b. By-Laws Vote by those present – Bill

A motion is made from the floor to pass the Chico Chapter of the ACLU-NC by-laws passed out to the group. The by-laws are passed unanimously by voice and hand signal.



5. Board of Directors Discussion

- a. Review names of those who are interested – Leslie
- e. Discussion on Bios for candidates – Leslie

Leslie gives a briefing on those individuals who have expressed interest in becoming Board of Director members.

- b. Duties and time commitment discussion – Shayna Gelender

It is indicated to those wishing to be board members that they understand that there will be a time commitment for the job.

- c. Executive Committee Briefing – Shayna Gelender/Organizers

Shayna Gelender, Leslie Johnson and other lead a discussion about the structure of the Board of Directors, the officers of the BOD, committees, executive committees, and advisory committees formed by the BOD.

- d. The initial election process discussion – Shayna Gelender

Bill, Shayna Gelender, Leslie, Mary have lead discussions referring to the proposed by-laws for the Chico ACLU chapter. All Chico ACLU members, and potential members will be notified by ACLU-NC about the chapter formation, elections, and kick-off meeting. That the we will need to adopt the by-laws to establish the Chico ACLU chapter, and hold elections for officers of the Board of Directors annually. Shayna Gelender states that the list-serve, the email addresses to be used for disseminating information to members will be under the control of the ACLU-NC. There is some discussion about using the ACLU-NC computer server for the Chico ACLU website.

6. Disorderly Events Ordinance

- a. Overview of Ordinance & Status

Jessica Allen gives a briefing on the status of the City of Chico Disorderly Events ordinance (Ch. 9.40). Jessica's organization is the Chico Citizens for Civil Rights, and is leading others to speak against the new ordinance at the City of Chico Internal Affairs Committee February 12th. Because of adverse public reaction, the City of Chico is reviewing the proposed ordinance. It is indicated by Jessica and others that the law is not needed, no clear need has been established, that it violates the constitutional right to free speech and peaceful assembly, and is pre-emptive as the law could be used to disperse without any need for proof of hazard to public safety.

- b. Letter to Internal Affairs – Leslie & Bill



In response to this proposed ordinance, a letter to the Chico of Chico Internal Affairs Committee has been written by Bill Sheridan, Jessica Allen, Patrick Donnelly, and Leslie Johnson; and is to be reviewed, voted on, and then sent to the City of Chico, if accept by members of the newly formed Chico ACLU chapter. Leslie, Bill, Shayna Gelender and Jessica lead a discussion about the letter addressed to the City of Chico Internal Affairs Committee, which is composed of Ann Schwab, Tom Nickell, and Steve Bertagna. There is a suggestion that the letter should be pared down to its first paragraph, as this portion sums up the ACLU's position, However, the letter is eventually approved in its entirety.

It was stated that the City of Chico attorney is new on the job. It was suggested that perhaps an outside counsel to the City of Chico might be advisable to review the legality of the ordinance; and that a letter from local prominent attorneys to the City of Chico addressing the ordinance might be advisable.

A motion from the floor to accept the letter in its entirety, and is passed unanimously by voice and hand signal.

7. Kick – Off Meeting Discussion

- a. Meeting Overview, Objective & Publicity - Shayna Gelender
- b. Kick – Off Meeting Date Discussion – Leslie & Jessica
- c. Kick – Off Meeting Food Discussion – Leslie & Jessica
- d. Kick – Off Meeting Committee Creation – Leslie & Jessica

(7a. thru 7d. inclusive): Shayna Gelender, and Jessica lead discussion about the Chico ACLU Kick-off meeting. Shayna Gelender discussed elements for the kick-off meeting including the election of officers, emailing to ACLU members and potential members pulled from the Chico ACLU greater communities, media events to get the word out about the Kick-off meeting, that perhaps we could get 100 to 150 people to attend. Venue suggestion included the Chico Women's Center and the Park Tower Pavilion. The Park Tower Pavilion was favored as it has good kitchen facilities and has better parking. Wine & Beer was suggested as being "okay", with live music being part of the venue. It was pointed out that there were 3 local disc-jockeys in the audience that night, so they could get the word out on their programs.

Vote taken and passing unanimously, by voice and hand signal, for event date and location: April 5, 2007 at the Park Tower Pavilion.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

By general agreement: the next meeting of Chico ACLU will be on February 21, 2007 @ 1800 hours @ 813 Nord Avenue Chico, California 95926.