



Chico ACLU
06.09.08 Minutes
P.O. Box 5089
Chico, CA 95927-5089

1. Welcome, Call to Order & Roll Call

Chico ACLU BOD members present: Evanne O'Donnell, Sor Lo, Richard Judkins, Emily Fisher, Pat Donnelly, Peter Ratner, Amy Zempel, Bill Sheridan, Greg Burton.

2. Introductions

Chico ACLU members present: Ann Blake, Marla Crites, Greg Hubbell, Bill Donnelly, and Don Sweet.

3. Approve June 23rd Minutes

Greg Burton reviews the minutes of the June 9th Chico ACLU BOD meeting. Peter Ratner moves to accept the minutes of the June 9th Chico ACLU BOD meeting, seconded by Richard Judkins and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer Report

Amy Zempel reports no expenditures or income and introduces her proposal for a Financial Reimbursement Policy. There is discussion regarding the appropriateness of the \$50.00 limit for expenditures that would not require board approval; and any pre-approved expenditures.

Richard Judkins moves to accept the draft proposal, dated June 9th, 2008, Financial Reimbursement Policy, seconded by several and passed unanimously.

5. Communication Plan Report

a. Newsletter

Bill Sheridan reports on the quarterly newsletter template format he is developing; and the costs, which are inexpensive (~\$175.00 per mailing), and the labels from ACLU NC.

b. Board member Communication with public

Bill Sheridan introduces his memorandum to the Chico ACLU BOD regarding Chico ACLU board policy in regards to external communications and Chico ACLU committees as a result of the email Greg Burton sent, signed as the Secretary of the Chico ACLU, to Jane Dolan, Butte County Supervisor, in the wake of a convergence of events: the California Supreme Court decision affirming Gay marriage in California; the actions of Candace Grubb, Butte County Clerk, halting the performance of marriages by the county, as reported by the San Francisco Chronicle; and the appearance of a brightly colored RV, covered with antigay marriage signs, parked/stalled at the corner of Nelson Avenue and County Center Drive in Oroville on the morning of June 11th, 2008; and Greg Burton, in the absence of the Chair and Co-Chair, agendizing a report from Ann Blake, member Chico ACLU Impeachment Committee.

Bill Sheridan's proposal would make it clear that it is the Government Communications Representative's (Richard Judkins) job to issue such official Chico ACLU communications, which would need to be sanctioned by the board; and it is the Media Representative (Rocio Guido) who would communicate board sanctioned communications to the media. Greg Burton asks for and is allowed additional time, before the proposal in voted on the proposed board policy, until the next board meeting, so he can address the issue in writing.

6. Gay/Lesbian Committee & Pride Fest Discussion

Emily Fisher indicates that she has talked with Elizabeth Gill, ACLU NC staff attorney, on the gay marriage controversy; with Emily fisher stating that Gill wants to focus ACLU energies on defeating the anti-gay marriage ballot initiatives, unless Butte County does something overtly illegal, such as defy the court decision and refuse to perform gay marriages, but allow heterosexual unions to proceed. Evanne O'Donnell states that Evan Tuchinsky has submitted a FOIA request with the Butte County Clerk's office to review/check Candace Grubbs contention that the county had to cancel performing marriages due to budgetary problems.

7. Citizen Review Committee Report



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Peter Ratner reports that three people showed up to the Citizen Review Committee. The next meeting of the Citizen Review Committee is July 21st, 2008.

8. ACLU Washington DC Conference Report

Bill Sheridan reports on the ACLU conference in Washington DC, highlighting the presentation on capital punishment, false imprisonment, and some personal communiqués he had with politicians on impeachment.

9. Immigrant Rights Committee Report

Richard Judkins reports there is a meeting of Immigrants Rights Committee this Wednesday, July 12th, 2008, noon, at ACA Taco.

10. Criminal Justice Committee

Michael Coyle, Chair of the Criminal Justice Committee (Restorative Justice) is meeting at his house at the same time the Chico ACLU board is meeting.

11. Board Meeting Policy Review and General Member Input

Bill Sheridan continues the discussion on his memo regarding external communications and committees stating that it is his understanding that the Chico ACLU Impeachment Committee was established and that it can continue its activities; but the Impeachment Committee must adhere to BOD policies in regards to submitting its findings in a written summary only; that the agenda must be adhered to; that new business must be submitted under the agenda section provided for New Business; and the Chico ACLU board is there to provide support and guidance, is not the place for activism, which has its proper place at committee meetings. There is discussion among board members about whether the committees created through previous board processes, as listed in the minutes, are now de facto or whether they were just proposed; whether a committee needs to have a board member Chair in order for a committee to be legitimate; whether a committee can only be a legitimate committee if it and its members have been actively pursuing its stated purpose; that there never has been an official Chico ACLU policy adopted to provide guidelines for committee establishment; that, if the contention that there never has been an official Impeachment Committee is true, does that mean that all of the committees created by the same process by the board would be just as illegitimate, and therefore, subject to the same review and disavowal as the Impeachment Committee.

Bill Sheridan moves, with input from Greg Burton and Evanne O'Donnell, that the Chico ACLU committees previously established, including the Impeachment Committee, are de facto committees, committees to be grand-fathered into the existing committee structure of the Chico ACLU; with any future committee establishment be consistent with the strategies, aims, goals of those committees existing within the National and Northern California ACLU structures. Seconded by Greg Burton and passed 6 votes Yes, 0 votes No, and 3 votes Abstain.

12. New Business

Richard's letter to the Chief of Police of the Orland Police Department (Bob Pasero) and Glenn County Sheriff (Larry Jones) and copied to Tim Crews of the Sacramento Valley Mirror thanking two police officers (Sgt. Terry Baker, Orland PD and Acting Sgt. Travis Goodwin, Glenn County Sheriffs Department) for their "courage, professionalism, and high moral standards" demonstrated by these two officers when they walked out of a training meeting in response to a hypothetical training scenario where favoritism would be allegedly demonstrated to fellow police officers, if there were situations that arose where such officers might be subject to arrest. Evanne O'Donnell expressed states that the incident needs verification.

Greg Burton moves that Richard Judkins letter to the Chief of Police of the Orland Police Department and Glenn County Sheriff be approved as written, it is seconded by member, and passed 7 votes Yes, 1 vote No, 1 vote Abstain.

13. Announcements and Community Events

None offered.

14. Adjourn

Next Chico ACLU board meeting will be on July 14th, 2008, 6:30 p.m. 813 Nord Avenue.