

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
of Champaign County

Steering Committee  
May 3, 2007

Present: Bill Brown,, Roger Clark, Mary Cory, Elaine Gehrmann, Ben Grosser, Carol Inskip, Allan Levy, Stan Levy, Esther Patt, Stephen Portnoy, Lynne Rudasill, Richard Schnuer, Carol Spindel, Shirley Stillinger, Jeff Unger, Paul Wisovoty

Absent with notice: Susan Cohen, Ward Henson, Jay Rosenstein, Marsha Woodbury

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the chair, Esther Patt. The April minutes were approved as distributed.. The treasurer's report as prepared by Ward Henson was distributed, showing total assets of \$3,533.48. The report was accepted.

### Reports

Illinois Division: Stan will participate in an upcoming conference call.

State legislative report:

HB 317 Parental Notice of Abortion, which would have repealed and replaced the current law with a more liberal version, failed

HB 1826 Civil Unions. It will not be called for a vote unless sponsors think they have the votes.

Federal Legislative Report

Members are encouraged to send a letter to their Representative and Senators in support of restoring the right of *habeas corpus* to individuals detained at Guantánamo; a sample letter was distributed.

### Old Business

(a) Free speech issues at the University of Illinois

After discussion, no action was taken; but members were asked to be alert.

(b) Table at Farmer's Market

Carol Spindel will staff a table May 12 from about 9:00-11:00 a.m.; Esther will be there May 19. Others interested in doing this should coordinate with Carol.

(c) Lapsed members

It was decided that we would send a letter in the late fall to lapsed members, encouraging them to renew.

(d) Report on Steering Committee member survey

A copy of the ranking of issues was distributed. It was clear that members have a high level of concern for most of the issues listed. The top four were criminal justice, free speech, police practices, racial justice. In a close second place were religious liberty/separation of church and state and reproductive freedom.

**New Business**

Issues for the coming year

There was general discussion but no selection of a focus.

**Announcements**

The steering committee will not meet in July and August.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Stillinger

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 7, 2007