

**ACLU Greater Lafayette Chapter 2016 Financial Report**

Greater Lafayette ACLU has donated to the Indiana ACLU \$3200 from member funds to support state legal operations in 2016. ACLU lawyers successfully pursued a suit against denial of entry for Syrian immigrants to the state of Indiana.

The chapter donated \$100 in memory of chapter member Margery Aronson and earlier in memory of Lotte Hirsch. The chapter is highly appreciative of the success of the Indiana ACLU as an important counterbalance to election rhetoric. Our budget aims to donate more to support Indiana's nationally acclaimed legal team as reported elsewhere in this letter. The chapter has run a large deficit of funds flow of \$2966 so far in 2016 in maintaining its full schedule of events. GLACLU 2016 donations to the state will be focused on response to members' counsel as dues and gifts become available to augment such support. The Cash balance was \$4430 as of Nov 5, 2016. The chapter remains active in supporting "Black Lives Matter" events and Outfest.

The chapter benefits from volunteer participation and support for operating functions (including producing and distributing this newsletter), so our financial viability remains sound. A complete financial report is always available on request. Member inquiries and recommendations are welcomed.

Charlie Tritschler, *Treasurer*

HE THAT WOULD MAKE HIS OWN LIBERTY SECURE MUST GUARD EVEN HIS ENEMY FROM OPPRESSION; FOR IF HE VIOLATES THIS DUTY HE ESTABLISHES A PRECEDENT THAT WILL REACH TO HIMSELF.

- THOMAS PAINE

**New Ways to Increase Chapter Membership: Gift Membership Offer**

**Proposal: Increase our membership by either of two ways:**

(1) Chapter members distribute information about ACLU to acquaintances. (Ask any board member for recruiting material.) Offer to give a gift membership from you to anyone willing to accept it.

(2) Fill out the tear sheet found below, and return it with \$20 to Greater Lafayette ACLU of Indiana, P.O. Box 2706, West Lafayette, IN 47996, and we will issue the invitation in your name.

**ACLU Gift Membership Invitation:** A gift member recipient will be sent a greeting acknowledging your donation and a stamped envelope for returning the signed acceptance form to activate membership. Include contact information and a \$20.00 payment for each gift membership. Send to Greater Lafayette ACLU of Indiana, P.O. Box 2706, West Lafayette, IN 47996.

Please send a gift membership to ACLU-IN/ACLU in my name to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Greater Lafayette Chapter,  
ACLU of Indiana**

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**ACLU of Indiana**

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**GREATER LAFAYETTE CHAPTER  
AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION of INDIANA**

*Update on Liberties*  
**Fall 2016**

www.glaclu.org • www.facebook.com/GreaterLafayetteACLU

**Co-Presidents' Message**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ACLU**

After the results of the 2016 election, we are experiencing an influx of people interested in assisting the American Civil Liberties Union in our mission. Hello, and welcome.

**WHO WE ARE**

The ACLU is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to protect and preserve the civil liberties granted to U.S. citizens by the Constitution and other laws in the United States. The ACLU is active nationally, and in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Many states also have local chapters, such as the Greater Lafayette ACLU (<http://www.glaclu.org/>).

The Greater Lafayette ACLU was organized in 1955 and has been active over the last 60 years, with the mission to provide educational opportunities to the Greater Lafayette area, and support the Indiana ACLU (<http://aclu-in.org/>) with awareness, advocacy, advisement, and fundraising initiatives.

**WHAT WE DO**

The GLACLU board members meet monthly at the Unitarian Universalist church in West Lafayette, at 7PM on the second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in attending meetings or serving on the board, please contact us to confirm meeting times (<http://www.glaclu.org/contact-us/>). At meetings, we discuss current events, educational opportunities for the Lafayette area, upcoming state initiatives, and fundraising efforts. We have over 200 years of collective activist experience on the board, and meetings are often informative, entertaining, and inspirational.

The Indiana ACLU brings cases against government entities on behalf of Hoosiers whose rights have been curbed by anti-Constitutional laws brought within the state. Led by Jane Henegar and litigated by Bloomington attorney and professor Ken Falk, the Indiana has an extremely successful record of litigation. Recent victories include:

- Successfully litigating against the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which legalized the ability for businesses to discriminate against LGBTQI Hoosiers.
- Successfully litigating that DCS social workers have the right to hold the state accountable for the failure of DCS to adequately staff the agency as required by law.
- Successfully litigating to prevent the State of Indiana from taking any actions to interfere with or attempt to deter the resettlement of Syrian refugees in Indiana.
- Litigating on behalf of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky in an ongoing case to prevent unconstitutional restrictions on women seeking abortions and their health care providers and when Indiana passed the strictest abortion law in the United States.

We take on politicians and government officials who ignore the Constitution and put liberty at risk. We don't answer to polls or to the whims of the electorate. We get out the facts, and when our freedoms are on the line, we mobilize grassroots support to protect our civil liberties. We educate the next generation of civil libertarians, and the public. Our outreach programs help thousands of Hoosiers understand their constitutional rights and what they must do to protect them.

We challenge intolerance and bigotry wherever we find it. We work to root out any and all attempts to deny people the equal protection under the law that the Constitution guarantees.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

We anticipate that many laws testing the limits of our civil liberties -- including your right to freedom of speech, your rights to privacy, your right to peacefully assemble in protest, your right to practice your religion freely without state interference, and more -- will be coming to the U.S. soon. Anxieties are warranted and the ACLU is ready and able to work on your behalf.

Here's what you can do to support us:

Report violations of constitutional liberties. This is, after all, our mission. From disability rights to youth rights, to protecting prisoners from discrimination and cruel and unusual punishment, to protecting religious liberty, free speech, privacy, voting rights and much more, the ACLU is here to help you protect and preserve your Constitutional rights. For us to take up a case, the criteria are as follows:

- Your civil liberties must have been violated by a government entity;
- Your issue concerns a right or freedom protected by the U.S. or Indiana Constitutions;
- You are the person or party whose constitutional rights have been violated. WE are not able to accept complaints made by third parties.

The Indiana ACLU accepts these complaints directly here (<http://aclu-in.org/get-legal-help/30-get-help/28-how-to-file-a-complaint>) and will notify you whether or not your case can be litigated. If it is not, we do have resources available for those who we are unable to assist with litigation.

Join the local ACLU. Annual membership dues for the local chapter are \$10, and help fund educational initiatives in Greater Lafayette and support the state ACLU's research, education, and litigation efforts. Send dues along with email and/or snail mail addresses to:

ACLU of Indiana  
Greater Lafayette Chapter  
PO Box 2706  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

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We send a bi-annual newsletter by mail with editorial and informational content, and are building our email list now for calls for more immediate local action. We promise not to share your information or spam your inbox. Join the state ACLU. You will strengthen our lobbying efforts and grassroots activity by becoming a member of the state ACLU. Paying annual dues of \$35 or more entitles you to a membership in BOTH the state and national ACLU.

Attend a board meeting. Board meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month. We meet at the UU Church in West Lafayette, 333 Meridian St, West Lafayette, Indiana. We discuss current events, educational opportunities for the Lafayette area, upcoming state initiatives, and fundraising efforts, and welcome member participation.

Attend our events. We host regular lunchtime talks, an annual fundraising dinner, and weekend events throughout the year. We discuss civil liberties issues happening locally, statewide, and nationally, and provide networking opportunities for activists to make deeper and more meaningful connections in the community.

Take initiative. When the horn is sounded for action, take the time to follow through on writing your representatives. Many representatives hear little from the electorate, and are voting to confirm or deny laws without much citizen input. You can change that by devoting a small amount of time following through on these calls to action. Sometimes the ACLU will need warm bodies to support organizational efforts as well. Make time to assist. Oftentimes, the time needed to assist an organization like ours is only a few hours a month or less.

Support your neighbors. Living in a Big Ten town, we have a unique opportunity to seed our efforts with locals, faculty, and students, some of whom will stay and grow a culture of advocacy and organization in Greater Lafayette, and some who will take their experiences with them to new areas of the state, nation and globe. It is important that we listen to, respect, and support one another during anxious times, and nurture a culture of advocacy and organization so our efforts can continue wherever we end up.

Get active, period. The ACLU may not be the right organization for your time and energy, and we appreciate that. There may be other organizations that better fit your resources and expertise. Find them, ask what they need, and then do that. Become an expert in it, and tell everyone you know why this work is so important. The secret sauce of political organizing is awareness, amplification, and learning how to show up and show out -- every time, en masse.

We welcome your interest in our organization and are thrilled to have your attention. Please continue to agitate for the respect and preservation of civil liberties while we plan the 2017 season of the GLACLU. We promise we have much in store for you in the coming days.

Lauren Bruce  
Judy Weitzman  
Co-Presidents, Greater Lafayette ACLU

### International Civil Liberties

Those who dream of the globalization of civil liberties will cheer the news that the ACLU has a sister organization. It is the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLLO), a group that shares information and collaborates to promote fundamental liberties and rights of all persons in their respective countries. Like the ACLU, each of the member organizations is multi-issue, multi-constituency, and independent of its government.

The network is comprised of the domestic civil liberties and human rights organizations of twelve countries:

- United States (American Civil Liberties Union)
- Israel (Association of Civil Rights)
- Canada (Canadian Civil Liberties Association)
- Argentina (Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales)
- Egypt (Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights)
- India (Human Rights Law Network)
- Hungary (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union)
- Russia (International Human Rights Group Agora)
- Ireland (Irish Council for Civil Liberties)
- Kenya (Kenya Human Rights Commission)
- South Africa (Legal Resource Center)
- United Kingdom (Liberty)

International efforts to promote freedom started in 2008 with a series of meetings of the executive directors of civil liberties and human rights organizations and formalized itself in 2012 with a structure and staff. In 2015 INCLLO incorporated as a Swiss association with headquarters in Geneva. Its governing body is the 12 executive directors of each of the network's organizations. The network supports the work of the member organizations through litigation, legislative campaigning, public education, and grass-roots advocacy. Following are some highlights of its work on the issues of police brutality and social protest, informational rights, and religious freedom and equal treatment.

#### Police Brutality and Social Protest

- 2013: a report "Take Back the Streets: Repression and Criminalization of Protest Around the World", composed of case studies by each INCLLO member of state responses to protest including excessive use of force, discrimination and criminalization of social leaders
- 2014: substantive participation in a United Nations report and adoption of a resolution on freedom of peaceful assembly and association
- 2016: a report with Physicians for Human Rights "Lethal in Disguise: The Health Consequences of Crowd Control Weapons"

#### Informational Rights

- 2015: participation of six INCLLO members in litigation by the UK's Investigatory Powers Tribunal challenging government surveillance.

This produced landmark rulings that both the previous UK-US data sharing and the handling of intercepted private

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communications of the Legal Resource Center (South Africa's INCLLO member) were unlawful. These were the first times the Tribunal ruled against agencies dealing with transnational mass digital surveillance.

- the launch, with INCLLO support, of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union website promoting privacy enhancing technologies (www.righttohide.com)
- participation of INCLLO members in the successful drive to get the UN Human Rights Council to approve the creation of a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

#### Religious Freedom and Equal Treatment

- 2015: a report "Drawing the Line: Tackling Tensions between Religion and Equality", based on the principle that religious freedom means the right to our beliefs, which must be strongly defended as a fundamental liberty, but which does not give anyone the right to impose their beliefs on others or to discriminate against or otherwise harm others.
- distribution to INCLLO members of a quarterly newsletter "Global Developments in Religious Freedom and Equal Treatment," which reports on cases of religion/equality tensions.

Joan Laskowski  
ACLU of Indiana Legislation Committee Chair

#### Recent Activities

GLACLU participated in three events Black Lives Matter events since the spring newsletter. We partnered with the Unitarian Universalist congregation in two open houses to share concerns, resources and hope for a path away from institutional racism. ACLU of Indiana's First Wednesday forum in September was hosted at the West Lafayette Public Library.

The First Wednesday forum 'Black Lives Matter: Diving Deeper into a Movement' was moderated by Dave Bangert of the Lafayette Journal & Courier with panelists Jane Henegar, executive director of the ACLU of Indiana; Marlo David and Na'eamah Webb of Purdue University and West Lafayette Police Department Chief Jason Dombkowski. Presenters spoke about mechanisms of institutional racism, the experience raising black sons and solutions to improve policing practices. The forum was well attended and ended with a lively question and answer session.

The GLACLU table at the BLM events at the UU church shared information on the ACLU and our long history of activities to defend the civil liberties of black Americans. The state chapter has provided informative, professionally produced materials for distribution at community events. These were helpful in engaging event participants in discussions of ACLU support for civil liberties.

The path to an America where all lives really do matter has been long and we have miles to go. Election of our first black president has raised the undercurrents of racism to roil the surface of our 'melting pot'. We at GLACLU plan to continue to discuss and educate about race and civil liberties. Please join us for upcoming events. Like the Greater Lafayette ACLU Facebook page to keep up to date on our events. We are planning to schedule a community policing forum in the spring but no date has yet been set.

Susan Schecter

### Reflections

Our nation recently celebrated Veterans Day, including myself, as a veteran of the Marine Corps. This Veterans Day I reflected on what my service meant to me, and the course of our country since the recent general election. As much progress as our country has made, we have so much work still to do for civil rights and liberties.

I enlisted in the military as a high school graduate, very idealistic about what freedom means, what our rights are as citizens are, and what I would have been willing to fight, and possibly die for. I opted for the infantry against the recommendations of my recruiter, as he told me I scored high enough on the AS FAB for any job in the military. I felt like the infantry would have the greatest impact, and I didn't quite care how difficult it was. My platoon was a melting pot of races, backgrounds, and religions, and I had experiences with these people that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Many times in the infantry, I was made to ask, What are our rights? What is freedom? What does it mean to be an American citizen? All Americans, including all people within our borders, have rights and freedoms observed by the state. The rights of others may not be limited by race, religion, gender, political affiliations, or any other method we might use to categorize groups of people. A threat to anyone's rights is a threat to everyone's rights.

My fight for freedom to protect the liberties of Americans now continues as a civilian in the ACLU where we exercise our rights to peacefully assemble to fight on behalf of citizens that have had their rights violated. Our mission is clear, and the agenda is to preserve everyone's right to express their opinions and beliefs, practice their religion or lack thereof, preserve our right to due process, and protect our citizens against unlawful search and seizure, and so much more.

Threats against specific religious groups entering the country have been made by the incoming administration, specifically Muslims. We do not and have never had a religious test for those entering our borders. Even the Statue of Liberty, one of our greatest symbols for freedom and liberty, was originally created in the image of a Muslim woman. Ethnic, religious, and racial profiling are forbidden under the Fifth and the Fourteenth Amendments, which cover the right to due process and equal protection under the law.

The Constitution is here for all of us, not just some of us. The ACLU is here to protect your rights as a citizen, and as a guest in our borders. We stand for the rights of everyone, to protect them from discrimination and government intrusion or alienation. This is what I fought for and will continue to fight for in the ACLU.

Aaron Kleber

**THEY THAT CAN GIVE UP ESSENTIAL LIBERTY TO OBTAIN  
A LITTLE TEMPORARY SAFETY DESERVE NEITHER LIBERTY  
OR SAFETY.**

**- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1759)**