



THE

# AFCON

SENTINEL



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## AFCON OFFICERS

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President

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President-Elect

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Secretary

Linda Parker  
Interim Treasurer

David Moshman  
Policy Coordinator

Peggy Adair  
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Linda Parker  
Website Administrator

Frank Edler  
Newsletter Editor

## Purpose:

To promote academic freedom, defined as intellectual freedom in educational and research contexts. This includes freedoms of belief and expression and access to information and ideas.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Linda Parker



Linda Parker

Change. This year certainly has been a year of changes: some minor, some major. Several members of the AFCON Board resigned this year. Many thanks go to Dwayne Ball and Cathi McMurtry for their many years of service to AFCON. We also said farewell to Lora LeiBrandt who helped create our website.

The topic of AFCON's annual meeting, *They Shoot Journalists, Don't They?: the future of the free press in a divided America*, was a powerful statement about issues of free speech, transparency, and the courage of college student journalists and their advisors in higher education in Nebraska. There is still much to do in our state to protect academic freedom.

At the November Board meeting we welcomed the new President of the Nebraska Library Association, Angela Kroeger. All Board meetings are open, and we welcome visitors. Angela's visit was especially meaningful to me because we were colleagues at UNO's Criss Library. As the two of us discussed the impact of recent national elections on libraries, we both anticipate more challenges to materials. As James

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Malala Yousafazi

***"We realize the importance of  
our voice when we are silenced."  
— Malala Yousafazi***

## Upcoming Events

The next AFCON Board Meeting will be **January 14, 2017, 10 AM**  
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska

**(President's Message from Page 1)**

LeRue, Director of the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom (<http://www.ala.org/oif>) stated, "Censorship thrives in silence; silence is its aim." The American Library Association is drafting a new Online Challenge Reporting Form. Check out the form at <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/online-challenge-reporting-form-draft>.

Frank Edler forwarded a link about university watch lists beginning again. "A new website is asking students and others to "expose and doc-

ument" professors who "discriminate against conservative students, promote anti-American values and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." Click the link to read about this watch-list on the *Inside Higher Education* website: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/11/22/new-website-seeks-register-professors-accused-liberal-bias-and-anti-american-values>.

Free speech certainly impacts our lives beyond the walls of academe. As I watch controversies swirling around issues such as Black Lives

Matter and protests by Native Americans against the North Dakota Pipeline, I keep repeating my mantra. Does it sound familiar to you?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" (<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript>).

## LINKS TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM ISSUES

- David Moshman's *Huffington Post* Blog on Freedom of Belief at the University of Nebraska: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/freedom-of-belief-at-the-b-11722392.html>
- Rick Ruggles's OWH Piece on Chancellor Ronnie Green Quoting David Moshman: [http://www.omaha.com/news/education/unl-chancellor-s-comments-spark-free-speech-debate/article\\_26967222-2ecb-5ab5-9d06-9bac4b4ce027.html](http://www.omaha.com/news/education/unl-chancellor-s-comments-spark-free-speech-debate/article_26967222-2ecb-5ab5-9d06-9bac4b4ce027.html)
- *Omaha World Herald* Editorial on Academic Freedom: [http://www.omaha.com/opinion/editorial-line-in-steel-secures-freedom-of-speech/article\\_e810f065-9627-5816-a225-5d4020fd7e8d.html](http://www.omaha.com/opinion/editorial-line-in-steel-secures-freedom-of-speech/article_e810f065-9627-5816-a225-5d4020fd7e8d.html)
- FIRE's Article by Alex Morey on More Colleges Endorsing the University of Chicago's Statement: <https://www.thefire.org/could-it-be-a-trend-more-colleges-endorse-free-speech-after-uchicago>
- David Moshman's *Huffington Post* Blog on Boycotting Hewlett-Packard, Not Israeli Academia: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/boycott-hewlett-packard-n-b-12186556.html>
- New Nebraska Intellectual Freedom Manual from the Nebraska Library Association: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/45/>
- David Luhan reviews Timothy Garton Ash's new book on free speech in the *NY Review of Books*: [http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/timothy-garton-ash-free-speech-say-what-you-will/?sub\\_key=583330a12d2e7](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/timothy-garton-ash-free-speech-say-what-you-will/?sub_key=583330a12d2e7)
- *Inside Higher Ed*'s Piece on a New Professor Watch List: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/11/22/new-website-seeks-register-professors-accused-liberal-bias-and-anti-american-values>
- The Statement by the Association of American Colleges and Universities on Academic Freedom: <https://www.aacu.org/about/statements/academic-freedom>

## AFCON Holds Annual Meeting at UNO Milo Bail Student Center

AFCON held its annual meeting for 2016 at the new Milo Bail Student Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. President Linda Parker opened the meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 22. Frank Edler introduced the keynote speaker, Michael D. Kennedy,

Maryland, Illinois, and North Dakota. Ten states now have such bills. The attempt is to roll back some of the more egregious overreaches given to high school principals by the Supreme Court decision in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* (1988) which enables them arbi-



*President Linda Parker Opens Meeting*

Executive Director of the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association and professor of journalism at Chadron State College.

Kennedy spoke about the importance of freedom of speech for all forms of intellectual inquiry, especially for high school and college journalism students. As one of the architects of the student journalism bill that was passed unanimously out of the legislative judiciary committee, Kennedy spoke of the history of the bill (LB 885) and how Senator Al Davis introduced it into the legislative session of 2016. He also showed how the bill has now been amended to include high school students. Kennedy is urging that the revised bill be introduced again into the 2017 legislative session.

In the last two years, three states have passed a student journalism bill that includes high school students:



*Michael D. Kennedy gives keynote address*

trarily to censor high school journalism students.

After Kennedy's keynote address, the AFCON Academic Freedom awards were given to Dr. Max McElwain for being such a courageous faculty advisor for *The Wayne Stater*, the student newspaper of Wayne State College. The second award was given to the 2015-2016 staff of *The Wayne Stater* for their excellent reporting on the firing of Dr. Karen Walker, a tenured faculty member of Wayne State College, for reporting on the cronyism of Chancellor Stan Carpenter in hiring Charles Bunting, with whom he worked for 15 years in the Vermont State College System, and for calling attention to the fact that when Chancellor Carpenter increased student tuition



*Dr. Max McElwain (right) receives the AFCON Academic Freedom Award presented by Frank Edler.*



*Linda Parker (left) presents the AFCON Academic Freedom Award to The Wayne Stater staff members: (from right to left) Sarah Lentz, Thadd Simpson, and Laura Anderson.*

by 9 per cent, he also raised his own salary by 9 per cent.

After the ceremony, the meeting turned to a discussion dealing with student journalism, issues at Wayne State College, and the student journalism bill. The panel was moderated by David Moshman. Members of the panel included Dr. Max McElwain, Dr. Sherrie Wilson, Laura Anderson, Thadd Simpson, and Sarah Lentz.

(Continued on Page 4)



(Annual Meeting—continued from Page 3)

Much of the panel discussion focused on the experiences of the student members of the panel such as administrative pressure not to publish certain stories or when faculty members are fired and the administration hides behind a stone wall by stating that personnel matters are private. Dr. Max McElwain himself was fired from his position as faculty advisor to *The Wayne Stater*, a position that he held for many years.

Maureen Carrigg, past associate professor of communication arts at Wayne State College, also attended the meeting and shared her experiences. She was fired from her position as advisor for the student television broadcast, Catvision 6. Then after teaching at Wayne State for 28 years and achieving tenure, her teaching contract was not renewed “because the college noticed an incomplete on her graduate school transcript from 1988.”

The discussion easily could have continued for another hour. All shared in the hope that the revised student journalism bill would be introduced into the 2017 Nebraska legislature and passed making Nebraska the 11th state to do so.

Box lunches were available after the discussion ended and informal discussions continued about student journalism.

## Panel Participants



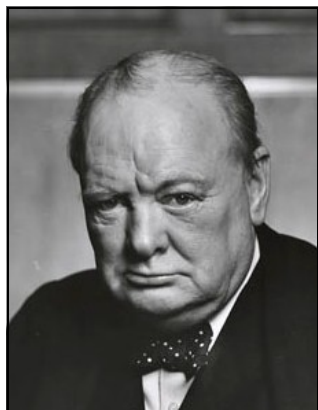
(From left to right) Dr. Max McElwain, Dr. Sherrie Wilson, Laura Anderson, Sarah Lentz, and Thadd Simpson.



David Moshman, AFCON policy adviser, moderated the panel discussion.



Dr. Sherrie Wilson, associate professor at UNO, has taught journalism for 20 years.



**“Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if any one else says anything back, that is an outrage.”**

**— Sir Winston Churchill**

## More Photos from the Annual Meeting



*Coffee and conversation before the meeting begins .....*



*and more coffee*



*Linda Parker opens the meeting*



*Michael Kennedy holds forth*

The editor wishes to thank Mary K. Stillwell for taking the photographs on this page.



*Our splendid panel*

The editor wishes to thank Laurie Thomas Lee for taking the photographs on page 3 and the photos of the panel and Dr. Wilson on page 4.



## Summary of Michael D. Kennedy's Keynote Address



Michael D. Kennedy

After greeting his audience and congratulating his colleague, Max McElwain, on his award, Kennedy opened his address by reading the First Amendment and admiring its compression: five freedoms con-

tained in forty-five words! Then he went on to read the three principles listed under academic freedom in the AAUP's 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Although the First Amendment and academic freedom seem to be well established, Kennedy stated that both were under assault in unprecedented ways.

He mentioned two examples: Trump's intention to change libel laws so that he can sue news outlets for stories he doesn't like and President Obama's aggressive policy on administrative leaks. He also brought up the example of Muscatine Community College in Iowa that cut the student newspaper's budget in half because the paper reported "a complaint from a dean who objected to having his picture published in the student newspaper."

Besides assaults on freedom of the press, there is a movement "across our college campuses warning faculty to tread lightly with our class discussions, our course content, even our syllabi, for fear we *might* offend the sensibilities of some students." He mentioned the well-publicized incident at Yale involving Nicholas and Erika Christakis. As much as Kennedy deplores hate speech, he would defend anyone's right to say it "because the minute they lose their rights, I lose mine."

The legal basis that has encour-

aged the muzzling of student journalism, according to Kennedy, goes back to the Supreme Court decision in *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* (1988) and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals' *Hosty v. Carter* (2005) decision: the *Hazelwood* decision "entitles high school administrators the right to censor student media," and the *Hosty* decision "applied *Hazelwood* to college media, effectively giving college administrators the right to censor."

Although *Hazelwood* and *Hosty* have chipped away at the academic freedom of student journalism, Kennedy was pleased that students do seem to recognize the importance of a student free press. He conducted his own informal questionnaire with his media class to see how they would respond to the following question: "As a media student, please explain, in three sentences or less, what you believe would happen if the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution were abolished." He shared some of his students' responses which include the following: "If the First Amendment was abolished, I think our country might fall apart. There are so many lies and deceit already and if the media wasn't allowed to share the information with the public, the county would be a lot worse off" and "if the First Amendment was abolished, then we would no longer be the United States of America." The following is Kennedy's favorite response: "If the First Amendment was abolished I believe that a civil war would come about and the government would loose control of the country. America would no longer be considered a 'free' country. AKA; shit would go south quickly...."

At the end of his address, Kennedy turned to the question of how to engage the problem of cen-

sorship of student journalism in Nebraska. He and the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association were instrumental in getting Senator Al Davis to introduce a college student journalism bill (LB 885) which was passed unanimously out of the judiciary committee, but failed to reach the full legislature for a vote. The initiative is called the Nebraska New Voices Legislation.

This year Kennedy will try again with a revised bill that includes not just college journalism students, but high school journalism students as well.

***"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves"***

— Harriet Tubman



Harriet Tubman

## Dr. Max McElwain's Acceptance Speech for the AFCON Academic Freedom Award



Dr. Max McElwain Thank you so very much to AFCON for the Academic Freedom Award, and to Frank Edler for asking me to write an article for the *Sentinel* and inviting us here today. A special thanks to Mike Kennedy, a longtime colleague at our sister college in Chadron. for his hard work on the legislative bill. The Nebraska Collegiate Media Association is a small organization that is primarily still standing because of Mike. I'm going to miss our students' competition at the college newspaper contest each spring, Mike and I seemed to compete like brothers, and he usually seemed to get the best of us!

Also, I'm pleased to be accompanied by three Wayne State College students. Laura Anderson and Sarah Lentz, May graduates, were instrumental in the coverage that earned the award, and Thadd Simpson is a current *Wayne Stater* staff member who continues to fight the good fight.

UNO has two meaningful memories for me. My dad was an Omaha steelworker who helped build the pedestrian bridge over Dodge Street. And I took a news writing class during a summer session in the mid-1970s with Mick Rood. He was a key reporter on the staff of the Warren Buffett-owned *Omaha Sun* when it was awarded the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for local investigative reporting for its coverage of Boystown's large unknown financial resources. The

year that the *Washington Post* won a Pulitzer for something notable too. It seems like everyone smoked in the classroom then, and Mr. Rood chain-smoked Marlboros and lined up the butts on the edge of his desk. When his pack was empty, class was over.

So Halloween must be around the corner—Bob Dylan wins a Nobel Prize, the Cubs are one win from the World Series, and the *World-Herald* endorses a Democrat for President.

Equally stunning is that I'm standing here accepting this award during a semester I'm teaching a course in public address. I wasn't supposed to be teaching this class, and never taught it before. It was assigned as a replacement for news writing, which was taken away from me shortly after I was removed as adviser to *The Wayne Stater*.

Those of you who read the article in the *Sentinel* know my story. Amidst a generalized state of anxiety about media during this campaign season, a culture of fear has settled at Wayne State College and other campuses throughout the country. At Wayne, that fear prevents faculty and staff from talking to one another about issues they should feel free to talk about.

For me, there is a heightened sense of hypocrisy about academic freedom on college campuses. There are academics who crow in class about First Amendment rights, then, for self-protection, retire to their offices and shut the door on colleagues who need their support. I've experienced that some at Wayne. But mostly my situation — and that's what it's called, "the situation" — draws fear

or reveals ignorance. Every few days since the July disciplinary meeting that resulted in my removal as newspaper adviser, I meet someone who doesn't even know what happened or doesn't want to talk about it.

A union representative told me I shouldn't even tell my family what happened in the meeting, which allowed administrators to retaliate for the *Wayne Stater's* coverage of the Nebraska State College System.

So I sang like a bird. It seemed that more speech, not less, was required here. I didn't want to be left hanging like a colleague of mine, the television adviser at Wayne State who was fired this summer after administrators discovered an incomplete grade on her college transcript from almost 30 years earlier.

Frank reported my story to regional and national media. Then I wrote the article for the September *Sentinel*, still the only publication for which I have done so, and it was placed on social media.

Your Academic Freedom Award has validated the excellent work of our student journalists at a time when they so need support. This is a glorious day for us! We can move on now, knowing that what we did really mattered. Thanks!



Graham Greene

***Heresy is another word for freedom of thought.***  
--Graham Greene

# SUMMARIES of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

## Peggy Adair, Secretary



Peggy Adair

**August 13 ,  
2016, Loren  
Eiseley Library  
Lincoln, NE**

**P R E S E N T :** Peggy Adair, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, David Moshman, Linda Parker.

President Linda Parker convened the meeting at 10:14 a. m..

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Edler, second by Haller to approve minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on July 9, 2016, as amended. Motion carried on a voice vote. Thank you to Lora Leibrandt for her service as secretary pro tem at the July AFCON meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Cathi McMurtry contacted the board and regretfully resigned as treasurer, due to health issues. A treasurer's report was not available. Parker agreed to contact McMurtry and fill in as treasurer until the 2017 AFCON officers are elected.

**2016 ANNUAL MEETING:** Parker has reserved the Milo Bail Student Center at UNO for Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Laurie Lee will work on getting a speaker from the UNO journalism department. Adair will present upcoming journalism legislation at the annual meeting. Catered lunch will cost approximately \$13. The board agreed by consensus to charge \$20 for adult attendees and \$10 for students.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** It is with regret that Parker announced the resignation of Lora Leibrandt from the

AFCON Board. Leibrandt's resignation leaves vacant the position of 2017 AFCON President. Parker and Adair agreed to serve on the nominating committee to develop a slate of officers for the 2017 AFCON Board of Directors, including the position of President for 2017.

**NEWSLETTER:** Edler announced that the deadline for articles for the next edition of the *Sentinel* is August 15, 2016.

**POLICY COORDINATOR:** Moshman updated the AFCON board on the status of Professor Joy Karega at Oberlin College.

**TREAT OF THE DAY:** Not a crumb! Madame Secretary resorted to sucking on a cough drop! ☺

**2017 AFCON ANNUAL MEETING:** Moshman reported he will develop a fall conference on the topic of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the professor's trial at UNL (which was only UN in 1918).

**NEBRASKA COLLEGE GOVERNANCE:** Haller reported he, Parker and Edler will meet with Senator Pansing Brooks on Monday, August 22, 2016, to discuss her interim study on Nebraska college governance.

There being no further business, the AFCON board adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Adair, Secretary

The next meeting of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is scheduled for **Saturday, September 10, 2016, at Eiseley Library in Lincoln, Nebraska.**

[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)

**September 10,  
2016, Loren  
Eiseley Library  
Lincoln, NE**

**PRESENT:** Peggy Adair, Jayaram Betanabhatla, David Moshman, Linda

Parker, Rod Wagner.

President Linda Parker convened the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Moshman, second by Parker, to approve minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on August 13, 2016. Motion carried on a voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Parker reported she made contact with First National Bank of Northeast Nebraska in Lyons, Nebraska, where the vast AFCON fortune is secured. Adair and Parker will travel to the Fremont, Nebraska, branch of the bank on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, to complete paperwork to update the account.

A motion was made by Moshman, second by Betanabhatla, to appoint Linda Parker as AFCON Treasurer. Motion carried on a voice vote.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Parker presented a timeline of AFCON housekeeping tasks that need to be completed on an ongoing basis. The timeline will be attached to these minutes. Moshman volunteered to draft a membership letter to be sent out with AFCON membership dues statements. Moshman will work with Wagner to develop the letter.

**ANNUAL MEETING 2016:**  
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Theme: *They Shoot Journalists, Don't They? The future of the free press in a divided America.*

Venue: University of Nebraska at Omaha Milo Bail Student Center

Date and Time: Saturday, October 22, 2016; 10:00am to 1:00pm

Cost: \$20.00 for members and friends of AFCON; \$10.00 for students

Lee and Parker continue to work on finalizing speakers and/or a panel discussion.

**POLICY COORDINATOR:**

Moshman reported his latest *Huffington Post* blog regarding free speech on college campuses has drawn the ire of the UNL Chancellor. Moshman's blog is, as young folk like to say, "going viral."

Moshman also updated the board on the University of Chicago's official statements about free speech on campus. Moshman pointed out students have the right to gather together in voluntary "safe zones," but campus-wide "safe zones" violate academic freedom principles.

Moshman reported the fallout from the Salaita incident at the University of Illinois has resulted in a death knell for the American Indian Studies program at the University, as no core faculty remain in the program. Moshman reported the collective academic freedom of the entire faculty was compromised when the administration overturned the faculty's hiring selection of Salaita.

**TREAT OF THE DAY:** Nothing! Bob! Bob! Come back! We're starving here!

**AFCON MEETING WITH SENATOR PANSING BROOKS:**

Parker, Edler, Haller, Moshman, and Julia Schleck (president of AAUP Nebraska) met with Senator Patty Pansing Brooks to discuss the legislature's interim study on the statewide college system. Moshman and Parker reported the meeting was positive and Pansing Brooks is sympathetic to academic freedom issues, but she is also realistic about how much the legislature is able to accomplish in this area. The group will provide further informational documents to the senator.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The nominating committee presented the following slate of AFCON officers for 2017: President, Rod Wagner; President-elect, Dave Moshman; Treasurer, Linda Parker; Secretary, Peggy Adair.

**AFCON AWARD:** The board made the following clarifications for the 2016 Academic Freedom Award: The name of the award to be presented is the "Academic Freedom Award." The 2016 Academic Freedom Award has two recipients: Dr. Max McElwain, advisor to the student newspaper at Wayne State College; and the student staff of *The Wayne Stater*.

**MEMBER REPORTS:**

Nebraska Library Association: Parker reported she will attend the Nebraska Library Association conference that will be held October 20-21, 2016. Parker will bring AFCON information to the event.

Nebraska Center for the Book: Wagner reported the Center for the Book will host the Celebration of Nebraska Books at the newly-renovated Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln on October 29, 2016.

ACLU Nebraska: Moshman reported ACLU will host its annual meeting on Thursday, September 15, 2016, in Omaha. Moshman will ask ACLU board members to appoint a new AFCON representative since that position is presently vacant.

There being no further business, the AFCON board adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Adair, Secretary

There will be NO AFCON BOARD MEETING on Saturday, October 8, 2016. The next meeting of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be held during the AFCON annual meeting on **Saturday, October 22, 2016.**

[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)



Salman Rushdie

***"What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist."***  
—Salman Rushdie

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**(SUMMARIES —**

Continued from page 9)

**October 22,  
2016, Milo  
Bail Student  
Center, Omaha,  
Nebraska**

**PRESENT:** Russ Alberts, Jayaram Betanabhatla, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee,

David Moshman, Linda Parker, Rod Wagner.

President Linda Parker convened the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Linda Parker reported on challenges in obtaining membership information but will continue the effort. Parker said that she has started a new membership list. Dave Moshman said that he would draft a membership renewal letter and suggested that the letter be signed by Linda Parker, Rod Wagner, and himself. Parker acknowledged University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) for providing facilities for the AFCON annual meeting. UNO did not charge for use of the meeting room. Parker expressed appreciation to all for their contributions in planning, arranging, and conducting the annual membership meeting.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Parker presented a budget report and expense projection. The October 19, 2016 fund balance was \$1,729.17. It was noted that Michael Kennedy declined expense reimbursement for travel to Omaha for his keynote presentation. Peggy Adair and Linda Parker are co-signers on the account at Bank of the West.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:** Parker reviewed actions under consideration for filing Articles of Incorporation with the Nebraska Secretary of State. AFCON has not-for-profit designation from the IRS and has regularly filed annual reports with the

IRS, but is not registered with the State of Nebraska. The immediate issue of establishing a new bank account was resolved and, thus, the process for filings with the Secretary of State was deferred to the next board meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Peggy Adair will be asked to distribute the ballot for election of officers to AFCON members with responses due by the end of November.

**BOARD REPRESENTATION:** Laurie Thomas Lee said that she will be the ACLU representative on the AFCON board. A new representative from the UNL Faculty Senate will be needed.

**SENTINEL:** Edler indicated that deadline for articles for the next edition of the *Sentinel* is November 24.

The AFCON board meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Rod Wagner, secretary pro tem

The next board meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, November 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**, at Eiseley Library in Lincoln, Nebraska.



*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*“Our lives begin to end  
the day we become silent  
about things that matter.”*  
— Martin Luther King Jr.

**November 12,  
2016, Loren  
Eiseley Library,  
Omaha, NE**

**PRESENT:** Russ Alberts, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Laurie Thomas Lee,

David Moshman, Linda Parker.

**GUEST:** Angela Kroege, President-elect, Nebraska Library Association.

President Linda Parker convened the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 22 Board meeting were approved with the following change: Under Board Representation, after the sentence “Laurie Thomas Lee said that she will be the ACLU representative on the AFCON Board,” the sentence “A UNL representative will be needed to replace Laurie in that position” should be deleted and replaced with “A new representative from the UNL Faculty Senate will be needed.”

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Parker presented the treasurer's report, which showed a September 16 balance of \$2207 and an October 19 balance (including conference income and estimated expenses) of \$2310. The report will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Parker reported on plans to move the AFCON archives to the UNO library and distributed a “certificate of gift” form to be considered at the next meeting.

**NEWSLETTER:** Edler reported on plans for the December *Sentinel*. The deadline for material is November 24.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was a

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**(SUMMARIES —**

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brief review of 2016 goals and of plans and procedures for the election of 2017 officers, which will take place this month.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:**

There was a brief discussion of benefits and costs of incorporation, with further discussion to follow at the next meeting.

**2017 ANNUAL MEETING:** Moshman provided a one-page overview of plans and options for the 2017 Annual Meeting, tentatively entitled, "The 1918 University of Nebraska Professors Trial: Academic Freedom Then and Now." There was general agreement on the overall plan and a variety of suggestions were made. A planning committee will

continue work between Board meetings. Additional projects related to the annual meeting include finding someone to put on a production of the play *Sedition*, which concerns these historical events, and petitioning the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to acknowledge and address its role.

**STUDENT PRESS BILL:** Edler reported that Senator Davis, who introduced the 2016 student press bill, was not re-elected. Michael Kennedy is contacting Senator Morfeld, who agreed in September to introduce a 2017 bill if Davis did not return.

**MEMBER REPORTS:** Moshman attended the annual meeting of the AAUP State Conference at UNL and reported disappointing attendance but very interesting open discussion among those

present from a variety of institutions covering academic governance (before lunch) and civility (after lunch).

It was agreed there would be no December meeting. Moshman will not cancel the room until December 1 in case something unexpected comes up between now and then. Barring the unexpected, the next meeting will be Saturday, January 14, at Eiseley Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. Parker was thanked for all her work as outgoing president, incoming treasurer, and meeting organizer.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Moshman  
Interim Assistant Vice Secretary

**Anti-Authoritarian Academic Code of Conduct: Bracing Ourselves**

This 10-point code was recently proposed by Dr. Rachel Barney, professor of classics and philosophy at the University of Toronto (the editor's alma mater). The ten points below were taken from an article entitled "Values for the Trump Era" by Colleen Flaherty (*Inside Higher Ed*, November 30, 2016):

- I will not aid in the registering, rounding up or internment of students and colleagues on the basis of their religious beliefs.
- I will not aid in the marginalization, exclusion or deportation of my undocumented students and colleagues.
- I will, as my capacities allow, discourage and defend against the bullying and harassment of vulnerable students and colleagues targeted for important aspects of their identity (such as race, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, etc.).
- I will not aid government or law enforcement in activities which violate the U.S. Constitution or other U.S. law.
- I will not aid in government surveillance. I will not inform.
- As a teacher and researcher, I will not be bought or intimidated. I will present the state of research in my field accurately, whether or not it is what the government wants to hear. I will challenge others when they lie.
- I will not be shy about my commitment to academic values: truth, objectivity, free inquiry and rational debate. I will challenge others when they engage in behavior contrary to these values.
- As an administrator, I will defend my students, faculty and nonacademic staff. I will not allow the expulsion, firing, disciplining, harassment or marginalization of individuals targeted for being members of disfavored groups or for expressing dangerous opinions. I will speak up for academic freedom. I will insist on the autonomy of my institution.
- I will stand with my colleagues at other institutions, and defend their rights and freedoms.
- I will be fair and unbiased in the classroom, in grading and in all my dealings with all my students, including those who disagree with me politically.



## Taking a Knee for Justice

### David Moshman



David Moshman

Quarterback Colin Kaepernick recently started a trend that has come to be called “taking a knee” by visibly declining to participate in a patriotic ceremony at a San Francisco 49ers football

game. Students in public schools and colleges across the country have joined his protest against racial injustice.

This has been highly controversial. Legally, however, it is well established that public school students cannot be required to join in patriotic ceremonies or penalized for declining to do so. The U.S. Supreme Court directly addressed this question in a 1943 decision concerning the children of Jehovah’s Witnesses, who refused on religious grounds to participate in public school flag ceremonies.

The case is *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*. Not everyone has a favorite Supreme Court opinion, but I do, and this is it.

The Court ruled 6-3 for the students. Government, it reminded Americans in the middle of World War II, must respect the First Amendment rights of individuals. As for public schools in particular:

That they are educating the young for citizenship is reason for scrupulous protection of Constitutional freedoms of the individual, if we are not to strangle the free mind at its source and teach youth to discount important principles of our government as mere platitudes.



*Following Colin Kaepernick’s example, University of Nebraska -Lincoln football players “take a knee” for social justice during the national anthem.*  
Matt Ryerson/Journal Star Via AP (Omaha World Herald)

Education, noted the Court, may surely include “persuasion and example.” It rejected “compulsion,” however, as inconsistent with (1) the constitutional basis for democratic government; (2) the special constitutional considerations relevant to a multicultural democracy; and (3) the First Amendment right of individuals to freedoms of belief and expression.

With regard to democratic government, the Court saw coercion as a direct threat to values and assumptions at the core of the Constitution:

There is no mysticism in the American concept of the State or of the nature or origin of its authority. We set up government by consent of the governed, and the Bill of Rights denies those in power any legal opportunity to coerce that consent. Authority here is to be controlled by public opinion, not public opinion by authority.

West Virginia argued that the exercise of saluting the flag and pledging allegiance in unison was designed to achieve national unity, a legitimate and important goal. The Court, however, rejected the assumption that the promotion of national unity requires coercion.

National unity as an end which officials may foster by persuasion and example is not in question. The problem is whether under our Constitution compulsion as here employed is a permissible means for its achievement.

The Court acknowledged the cultural diversity that for many rendered the quest for national unity so urgent. It observed, however, that “struggles to coerce uniformity of sentiment” have had devastating results throughout history:

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from Page 12)**

As governmental pressure toward unity becomes greater, so strife becomes more bitter as to whose unity it shall be. Probably no deeper division of our people could proceed from any provocation than from finding it necessary to choose what doctrine and whose program public educational officials shall compel youth to unite in embracing.

But what about the community interest in social cohesion and patriotic commitment?

We apply the limitations of the Constitution with no fear that freedom to be intellectually and spiritually diverse or even contrary will disintegrate the social organization. To believe that patriotism

will not flourish if patriotic ceremonies are voluntary and spontaneous instead of a compulsory routine is to make an unflattering estimate of the appeal of our institutions to free minds.

And finally on “intellectual individualism”:

Freedom to differ is not limited to things that do not matter much. That would be a mere shadow of freedom. The test of its substance is the right to differ as to things that touch the heart of the existing order.

If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of

opinion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.

For government to compel participation in patriotic ceremonies, the Court concluded, “invades the sphere of intellect and spirit which it is the purpose of the First Amendment to our Constitution to reserve from all official control.”

Seventy-three years later, we should stop threatening students who take a knee for justice. We might even consider asking them to elaborate, and listening to what they have to say.

*This article originally appeared in The Huffington Post on November 11, 2016, at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/taking-a-knee-for-justice\\_us\\_5825f3bde4b057e23e31416e](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/taking-a-knee-for-justice_us_5825f3bde4b057e23e31416e)*



A new report released through AAUP:

## **“Threats to the Independence of Student Media”**

A committee composed of representatives from the American Association of University Professors, the College Media Association, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the Student Press Law Center formulated this joint statement in fall 2016. The document received the endorsement of all four sponsoring organizations.

What they found is that “the growing tendency of college and university administrations and their governing boards to conduct business “behind closed doors” and thwart access to critical information and documents has extremely troubling implications for college and university governance and the academic freedom of the faculty as well as for the integrity of student media.”

For the article on the report, see <https://www.aaup.org/report/threats-independence-student-media>

For the report itself, click on [https://www.aaup.org/file/StudentMediaReport\\_0.pdf](https://www.aaup.org/file/StudentMediaReport_0.pdf)

# The National Woman's Party and Its Defense of Free Speech in the White House Picketing Campaign of 1917

Frank Edler



Frank Edler

Women were the first to picket the White House. Not recently, of course, but almost one hundred years ago. The Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage (CU), founded in 1913 by Alice Paul (1885-1977) and Lucy Burns (1879-1966) began the practice of picketing the White House on January 10, 1917. These two women cut their political teeth in the militant British suffrage movement under the tutelage of Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst. At first the CU was closely associated with the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) (*American Memory*, "Historical Overview of the National Woman's Party," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/history.pdf>, p. 1); however, as the

Who knew? differences relating to tactics and goals became more pronounced, the CU moved away from the NAWSA. In 1916 the CU formed the National Woman's Party (NWP) as "the world's first women's political party" based on a platform "consisting of one plank – immediate passage of the Susan B. Anthony federal suffrage amendment." The first chair of the NWP was Anne Martin of Nevada (Ibid, 2-3). In March of 1917, the CU and the NWP merged under the banner of the National Woman's Party with Alice Paul as chair (*American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/detchron.pdf>, p. 13; see also, Eleanor Flexner, *Century of Struggle. The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States* (Cambridge and London: the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, revised edition, 1975), pp. 286-297).

Although labor unions had a history of picketing, no one had picketed the White House. When Presi-

dent Wilson agreed to accept a memorial from 300 CU suffragists on the death of Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, he rebuffed them when they pleaded with him to support the suffrage amendment. Apparently, Wilson thought a discussion of the suffrage amendment was not part of the deal for that evening and refused to discuss the issue. Tired of being rebuffed, the CU women decided to maintain a constant suffrage presence at the White House. The purpose of the pickets was "to make it impossible for the President to enter or leave the White House without being confronted with reminders of the suffrage cause" (*The Evening World*, "President Smiles as He Passes by Suffrage Pickets," January 10, 1917, Final Edition, Image 1).

On January 10, 1917, twelve "silent sentinels" marched to the east and west entrances of the White House with banners that asked the question the president had had refused to answer: "Mr. President, what will you do for Woman's Suffrage?"

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**(National Woman's Party—**  
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Six women went to each entrance with three on each side of the entrance; they unfurled their banners and with backs to the fence stood in silent protest. They picketed day in and day out in shifts from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until early March.

On March 4, the eve of President Wilson's re-election inauguration, more than 1,000 CU and NWP suffragists led by Vida Milholland, Inez Milholland Boissevain's sister, formed a circle around the White House in the icy rain. After marching in single file around the White House with an accompanying band, they requested an interview with the president which was refused; then they asked if they could come into the White House to present their resolution for the woman suffrage amendment, but they were rebuffed again. Finally, they gave their resolution to the police sergeant at the locked White House gate (*The Sun*, "Suffs Drenched," March 5, 1917, p. 4, Image 4; see also *American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/detchron.pdf>, p. 13). Needless to say, the suffragists did not take part in the president's inauguration festivities. After March 4, the picketing was halted temporarily.

Remarkably the women were referred to in the press as "mild militants" or as "mildly militant" when in fact there was nothing militant at all about their picketing. Their acts were not acts of civil disobedience since they weren't breaking any laws. They were

exercising their freedom of expression. They were not blocking the sidewalks or the streets; except for the band on March 4, they did not shout or call into megaphones. They remained silent and let their banners do the talking for them. There were no arrests for picketing before the entry of the United States into the war. All that began to change, however, after April 6, 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany.

The picketing began again on June 20 when the Russian mission came to the White House. President Wilson who had given a message to Elihu Root to carry overseas to the Russians in Petrograd, had stated that "We are fighting for the liberty, the self-government, and the undictated development of all peoples" (*The Washington Times*, "Text of President Wilson's Message to Russia," June 10, 1917, SUNDAY EVENING EDITION, p. 2, Image 2). Root said he came "from a democratic republic, where 'universal, direct, equal, and secret suffrage' obtained" (*Evening Public Ledger*, "Suffrage Banner Starts Near-Riot," June 20, 1917, p. 7, Image 7). The banners the pickets carried read as follows: "To the Russian Mission: President Wilson and Envoy Root are deceiving Russia. They say, 'We are a democracy. Help us win a world war so that democracies may survive.' We, the women, tell you that America is not a democracy. Twenty million American women are denied the right to vote. President Wilson is the chief opponent of their national enfranchisement. Help us make this nation really free. Tell our government that it must liberate its people before it can claim free Russia as an ally" (*New York Tribune*, June 21, 1917, "Mob Tears Up Suffrage Banner," p.14, Image 14).



*Alice Paul in 1915*

The statements on the banners directly challenged the administration's (and many like-minded organizations) massive propaganda effort to paint America as a totally democratic nation whose sole purpose in the war was to promote world democracy in opposition to the autocratic Prussian militarism of Germany. For two days angry crowds dogged the picketers every time they left Cameron House and whenever the picketers unfurled their banners at the White House, they were attacked physically, spit on, their banners torn down and trampled underfoot. People shouted "traitor!" at them. On June 22, Lucy Burns and Katherine Morey were the first of the picketers to be arrested (*American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/detchron.pdf>, p. 14). At first the women who were arrested paid their \$25 fines, but on June 27 six pickets refused to pay their fines and were sentenced to three days in the District jail (Ibid; see also Lynda G. Dodd, "Parades, Pickets, and Prison: Alice Paul and the Virtues of Unruly

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Constitutional Citizenship,” *Journal of Law and Politics*, Vol. 24, 2008, p p . 4 0 4 , [http://www.lyndagdodd.com/2\\_Research/Research\\_4\\_Dodd\\_FINAL\\_Alice%20Paul%20Paper.pdf](http://www.lyndagdodd.com/2_Research/Research_4_Dodd_FINAL_Alice%20Paul%20Paper.pdf) ).

The obvious question is the following: why was the same picketing which was not considered to be criminal before the war now suddenly become a criminal offense after the U. S. entered the war?

Although the point of picketing was always focused on woman's suffrage, it had now clearly become an issue of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. They had criticized President Wilson, and criticism would not be tolerated. The difference between pre-war picketing and wartime picketing was the hysteria that had begun to affect a large part of the American population, a hysteria that saw German spies on every rooftop and believed in zero tolerance about any criticism against the United States, President Wilson, and even the Red Cross. Many Americans today are unaware of the massive repression of civil liberties that took place during World War I. I wish to describe this context briefly because the intensification of the punishments against the women picketers follows the arc of increasing repression against any form of dissent from the summer of 1917 to the end of the war and even through the Red Scare.

As Morison, Commager, and Leuchtenburg state in the second volume of their work entitled *The Growth of the American Republic*, “In 1917-19 the people of the



*Lucy Burns in Occoquam Workhouse*

United States abandoned themselves to a hysteria of fear of German conspiracies and of Communist subversion, and the government indulged in greater excesses than at any previous crisis of our history” [Samuel Eliot Morison, Henry Steele Commager, and William E. Leuchtenburg, *The Growth of the American Republic*, vol. II, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1969), 383]. With the passage of the Espionage Act of 1917 and the even harsher Sedition Act of 1918, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly were virtually eliminated in the United States, and – to make matters worse – the Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the government's right to repress free speech in war time in the cases of *Schenck v. United States*, *Frohwerk v. United States*, and *Debs v. United States* (Geoffrey R. Stone, *War*

*and Liberty*, 60). Thousands were prosecuted simply for uttering criticisms of the government. It is hard to imagine a United States where the burning of German books was a common occurrence, where people were routinely tarred and feathered or horse-whipped for criticizing the government and where people were made to parade down main streets kissing the American flag. It was only with the Supreme Court ruling in the publication of Daniel Ellsberg's “Pentagon Papers” and in *Brandenburg v. Ohio* that the earlier rulings in *Schenck*, *Frohwerk*, *Debs*, and *Abrams* were “effectively overruled” (Stone, *War and Liberty*, 126).

### *Repression of Picketers Increases*

In June of 1917 Raymond W. Pullman, District of Columbia Chief of Police, said he would start arresting the picketers. The women's picketing would now be considered criminal because it supposedly obstructed the sidewalk. The women would now be committing acts of non-violent civil disobedience. The first two women picketers (Lucy Burns and Katherine Morey) who were arrested at the White House on June 22 were released and never brought to trial. On June 23 two more pickets were arrested at the White House for obstruction of public sidewalks and released under their own recognizance. Pullman “extended the ban on suffrage pickets to the Capitol and House and Senate office buildings (*The Evening World*, June 23, 1917, “Two More Women Pickets Arrested at White House,” Final Edition, Image 1). Two more pickets were arrested later the same day at the Capitol unfurling the banner used for the Russian mission (*The Evening Star*, June 23, 1917, “Four



"Kaiser Wilson" Sign

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Star, June 23, 1917, "Four More 'Suff' Pickets Arrested," image 1). Between June 22 and June 26, approximately 29 women picketers were arrested and released.

This policy of release changed on June 26 when six pickets were arrested and faced a fine of \$25 or three days in jail. The women refused to pay the fines and spent three days in jail at the district prison house women's section. Pickets again protested lack of suffrage at the White House on July 14 in celebration of Bastille Day with banners bearing the motto "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." Sixteen were arrested and refused to pay the \$25 fine. Judge Mullowney in police court sentenced them to sixty days at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia (*Evening Star*, "Pickets to Serve Occoquan Terms," July 17, 1917, p. 1, Image 1; *American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology," p. 15). Wilson pardoned the sixteen three days later.

On August 10, however, when

pickets began carrying signs that read "Kaiser Wilson," the president was no longer in a pardoning mood. Mobs attacked the peaceful picketers and tore down their banners (*The Ogden Standard*, "Women Insult U.S. President," August 10, 1917, 4 p.m. City Edition, p.1, Image 1). On August 17 after "three days of brutal attacks on pickets by mobs and police, six pickets [were] arrested ... and sentenced to 60 days at [the] Occoquan Workhouse, this time without pardon from President Wilson" (*American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/detchron.pdf> , p. 15).

More and more of the women arrested for picketing were given longer prison terms of six months. Alice Paul was arrested on October 20 and given the harshest term of seven months in Occoquan Workhouse (*American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," <https://www.loc.gov/collections/static/women-of-protest/images/detchron.pdf> , p. 16).. It was clear that the Wilson administration had decided to try to break the will of the women by imposing harsh penalties, but they were also fearful of the publicity that the jailed women were receiving. Wilson's secretary went to far as to give the following instructions to the *New York Times*: "Please have nothing about the picketers or what they do in prison or anything else on the front page of the newspaper" ("Power in Schism. The Women's Suffrage Movement in the United States" by Joanna McDonough, BA thesis. Mount Holyoke College, 2011,

<https://ida.mtholyoke.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10166/893/FINAL-THESIS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y> , p. 56).

Several women including Alice Paul began a hunger strike when they were not granted political prisoner status. The increasingly harsh treatment did not simply involve longer prison terms; they were now brutalized by the guards: on November 15 (the "Night of Terror") when thirty one of the pickets arrested on November 10 were transferred to Occoquan and when they arrived they were pushed, dragged and beaten into their cells. More of the women went on hunger strikes and were subjected to force-feeding. When officials could not pry open Lucy Burns's mouth, they inserted a glass tube up her nostril "causing significant bleeding and pain" Ibid, p.16). Burns was able to smuggle out a diary of the brutal incidents which were then published in the press (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, "Diary Kept by Picket Reveals Rough Treatment," November 17, 1917, p.3, Image 3).

With the ruling of Judge Edmund Waddill, Jr. in federal district court on November 24 that the pickets were being held illegally at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia for offenses committed in the District of Columbia, the initial judge (Judge Mullowney) on November 28 "ordered the release of all the remaining suffrage prisoners" (Villanova University School of Law, School of Law Working Papers Series, " 'We Are at War and You Should Not Bother the President': The Suffrage Pickets and Freedom of Speech during

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World War I" by Catherine J. Lanctot, 2008, Paper 116, p. 35, <http://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1120&context=wps> ). A month and a half later, President Wilson declared his support publicly for the federal woman suffrage amendment and on January 10, 1918, the House of Representatives passed the suffrage amendment (*American Memory*, "Detailed Chronology. National Woman's Party History," p. 17).

It is nearly unbelievable that in the time of extreme repression when there was absolutely no tolerance for any protest whatsoever, the National Woman's Party was able to accomplish what it did. A sad note in all this is that NAWSA which had taken a persuasive rather than a confrontational approach with President Wilson distanced itself from Alice Paul and the NWP. As early as May 25, 1917, Carrie Chapman Catt sent an open letter to Alice Paul stating that picketing was "an unwarranted discourtesy to the President and a futile annoyance to members of Congress" (*Washington Herald*, "Suffrage Leader Urges Withdrawal of Pickets," May 26, 1917, p. 5, Image 5). However, in a woman suffrage version of the "good cop-bad cop" routine, the NWP with its picket protests and hunger strikes provided a "bad cop" scenario that the Wilson administration would have no part of. On the other hand, NAWSA with its emphasis on supporting the war and the president provided a "good cop" with which Wilson could work in order to pass a woman suffrage amendment ("Power in Schism. The Women's Suffrage Movement in the United States" by Joanna McDonough, BA thesis. Mount Holyoke College, 2011, <https://ida.mtholyoke.edu/xmlui/>

[bitstream/handle/10166/893/FINAL-THESIS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://bitstream/handle/10166/893/FINAL-THESIS.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y) ).

### *The Situation in Nebraska*

During October 1917 while congress was not in session, the National Woman's Party decided to send out speakers across the nation to promote support for the national suffrage amendment, to explain what the picketing was all about and to increase membership by establishing new chapters. Three women gave speeches and stumped the Mid-west: Mabel Vernon of Nevada who was the national secretary of the NWP, Mrs. Lawrence Lewis of Philadelphia, and Jane Pincus of New York (*Grand Forks Herald*, "Suffrage Worker Here Yesterday," October 10, 1917, Image 2).

A report in the *Topeka State Journal* stated that Vernon, who was coming to Topeka to address the Kansas state branch of the NWP, was "engaged in organizational work in Nebraska" (*Topeka State Journal*, "Women in Topeka," September 28, 1917, p. 1, Image 1). Indeed, both Mrs. Lawrence Lewis and Mabel Vernon came to Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 2 at the Lindell Hotel ballroom to discuss the "picketing of the White House and the national suffrage amendment" (*Daily Nebraskan*, "Equal Suffrage Convocation," November 1, 1917, p. 1, Image 1). Not to be outdone, the University of Nebraska Equal Suffrage League, affiliated with NAWSA, held a meeting on November 1 at the Armory to pass a number of resolutions which included denouncing the NWP picketing of the White House "as un-American and un-patriotic" (*Daily Nebraskan*, "Equal Suffrage League Pledges Aid in War," November 2, 1917, p. 1, Image 1). Mrs. Edna

Barkley, president of the Nebraska Suffrage Association' a branch of NAWSA, stated the women picketers "are seeking purely for publicity." She continued about "[t]hese



*Mrs. W. E. Barkley*

women who have hampered the president" and said, "Let these women who are stirring up so much trouble join the I. W. W.'s, the pacifists, and the huns where they belong" (*Daily Nebraskan*, "National Society Not Militant," November 2, 1917, p. 2, Image 2).

On November 6, 1917, the *Daily Nebraskan* ran a story stating that a branch of the NWP had been organized at the University of Nebraska. The article went on to mention that "Miss Wilma Wood has been chosen as the chairman of this branch" (*Daily Nebraskan*, "National Woman's Party Organized in University," November 6, 1917, p. 1, Image 1).

Looking back at the whole NWP strategy of picketing and civil disobedience, these women provide a profile in courage second to none. Although they fought for the right to vote and achieved that goal, we must not forget the importance of their refusal to be muzzled in a time of extreme repression. They would not relinquish their right to free speech and continued to criticize the president even in time of war.

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Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Arm-bands, and School Prayer: The Evolution of Children's First Amendment Rights in America"

impa@centurylink.net

Bob Haller: "Civics Education and the Practice of Freedom" and "How Books Can Harm You: Lessons from the Censors"

mshortt@inebraska.net

David Moshman: "Principles of Academic Freedom"

dmoshman1@unl.edu

John Bender and David Moshman: "Student Freedom of Expression/Student Rights"

jbender1@unl.edu  
dmoshman1@unl.edu

Laurie Thomas Lee: "Implications of the USA Patriot Act"

llee1@unl.edu

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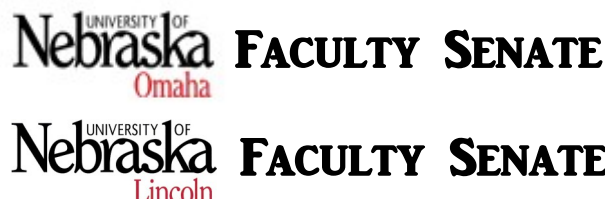
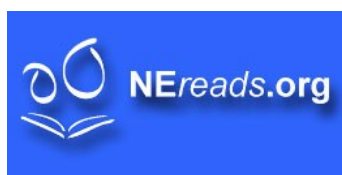
### REQUEST FOR NEWS FOR FUTURE ISSUES

The editor of the AFCON SENTINEL invites all AFCON individual and organizational members to send news about academic freedom issues in Nebraska or editorial comments for inclusion in this newsletter and/or announcements of organizational meetings for the UPCOMING EVENTS column.

**Due date for submissions for the March 2017 issue is February 24, 2017.**

Send to Frank Edler, 908 Elmwood Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68510 or email [frankhwedler@gmail.com](mailto:frankhwedler@gmail.com)

# *KEEPING THE FAITH IN HARD TIMES*



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