



THE

# AFCON

SENTINEL



Volume XVII Number 3

A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

September 20, 2013

## AFCON OFFICERS

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### 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—Frank Edler

After a lifetime of teaching philosophy at the community college level, especially core courses such as Introduction to Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, and Critical Thinking, I can't tell you what a delight it was to read Re-Leah Cossett Lent's and Gloria Pipkin's recent book entitled *Keep Them Reading. An Anti-Censorship Handbook for Educators* (Teachers College Press, Columbia University, 2013). Books with the word "handbook" in the title at times make me leery because my experience of "how-to" books with titles like "Ten Things You Must Do To Become a Successful Fill-in-the-Blank" is that they are often reductive and simplistic. But what an incredible and timely "how-to" book this turned out to be, especially for teachers who, as the authors point out, "are often blindsided" when a challenge to a book choice suddenly emerges "seemingly out of thin air" (48).

And what kindred spirits these authors turned out to be! They are such because they know that the reading process in literature is absolutely essential in education. They know how reading literature can transform a life. They know how vital it is that students learn critical thinking. Too often well-intentioned parents who wish to protect their children from what they perceive to be an evil world do so to such an extent that they never allow their children to practice the skills they will need to confront such a world. Indeed, they protect them to such a degree that their children never learn to think for themselves. This is why it was so important for the authors to begin this book with a first chapter entitled "Why Reading Matters." Parents who stress obedience at times do not

understand that an essential aspect of critical thinking is challenging authority.

The motivation for the book grows out of the authors' own experience of a censorship case when they were "colleagues in a middle school English department in northwest Florida [Panama City] during the 1980s" (1). The books that were found offensive were Robert Cormier's *I Am the Cheese* and Susan Beth Pfeffer's *About David*: the former because of vulgar language, depressing content, and inappropriate sexual content and the latter because the person who complained assumed the teacher had a "lack of training and experience in addressing suicide" (2-3). Prior to the first formal complaints, letters were filed in the fall of 1985 against the texts by the grandmother of a student at the junior high school who objected to the "vulgar language" and to the "advocacy of humanism and behaviorism." The grandfather, Charles E. Collins who was a Bay County school board member from 1954 to 1970, wrote a letter to all the parents of the junior high school protesting the "subversive theme" of the book and took out an ad in the *Panama City News Herald* asking for "telephone calls and mail-in coupons" (*Encyclopedia of Censorship*, 250). It is clear that Collins escalated the issue in a major way by expanding it to all parents in the school and by soliciting the participation of anyone in Panama City.

Those who championed the removal of the books were aided by Leonard Hall, superintendent of the Bay County School District, who overrode the recommendation of a review committee to reinstate both books (3).

(Continued to Page 2)

## Upcoming Events

**2013 AFCON Annual Meeting September 28—  
See Page 5 for REGISTRATION Information**

AFCON Board Meetings, September 14, October 12, and November 9  
Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM

## THE PRESIDENT (Continued from page 1)

His ruling did not just ban the two books, but it “removed all supplemental books as well as literature textbooks from classroom use until teachers could write rationales for each of them and categorize them according to the amount of sex or profanity they contained” (3). In May of 1987, teachers, parents, and students filed a class action suit against Hall, the local principal, and the school board. The case, referred to as *Farrell v. Hall*, asked the court “to restore *I Am the Cheese* and other books [to the curriculum]... and to declare the ban on classroom libraries to be unconstitutional” (*Banned in the U. S. A.*, Herbert N. Foerstel, 48). Judge Roger Vinson, the federal judge in the case, said of Hall that he “believes that his duty as superintendent is to restore Christian values to the Bay County school system. He thinks that one vulgarity in a work of literature is sufficient reason to keep the book from the Bay County school curriculum” (*Encyclopedia of Censorship*, 251). Nevertheless the judge ruled that the school board could reject a book on the basis of one vulgar word but

that board decisions “may be challenged if deemed illegal or arbitrary” (Nicholas J. Karolides, *Literature Suppressed on Political Grounds*, 229). Thus, although the books were finally reinstated, the court provided no clear decision one way or the other and led the authors to conclude that they “were naïve in believing that the courts would provide ‘justice’” (5).

Although the title states that the book is for educators, anyone interested in the topic of censorship in education would find this work of great value. The book prepares any teacher, student, administrator, or parent for the complexities involved in the issue of censorship not only by describing the typical aspects of such a case but also how to understand the challenge, how to develop a philosophy for it that engages the community, how to prepare for the challenge, and how to face the challenge. When a censorship challenge does arise, as the authors say, “it is really too late to develop a coherent philosophy about such a complex issue” (34). The authors step into that vacuum with a book chock full of suggestions, aids, references, and best practices in relation to censorship issues.

I think we would do well in this country to have a national debate about the importance of critical reasoning in education, especially the issue of challenging authority. Time and again the complaints involve the accusation that books are subversive, irreverent, and challenge authority, both parental and institutional. Some people might pooh-poo the idea, but it was only last year when the Texas Republican Party stated the following in its 2012 platform on education: “Knowledge-Based Education – We oppose the teaching of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) (values clarification), critical thinking skills and similar programs that are simply a relabeling of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) (mastery learning) which focus on behavior modification and have the purpose of challenging the student’s fixed beliefs and undermining parental authority.”

I want to thank David Moshman for making the suggestion to invite ReLeah Lent as our keynote speaker for our annual meeting. I look forward to hearing her and welcome her with open arms!

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors’ Meetings—Peggy Adair

### July 13, 2013—

**Present:** Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Laurie Thomas Lee, Lora Leibrandt, Cathi McMurtry, David Moshman, Linda Parker, Rod Wagner

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on May 11, 2013, were approved as presented upon a motion by Moshman, second by Parker, and a voice vote.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** McMurtry presented the treasurer’s report dated July 13, 2013, with a balance on hand of \$3,271.00. The treasurer’s report will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Edler reported eight AFCON members attended founding member Mel Krutz’ 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration concert in Seward, Nebraska. Edler distributed copies of the official AFCON letter to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, their reply (to “Edler, Frank”), and three articles on legal issues regarding sexual harassment/sexual

assault complaints on university campuses. The AFCON board agreed that AFCON should sign onto the F.I.R.E. letter to the Office of Civil Rights as part of the board’s previous stipulation found in the May 11, 2013, AFCON minutes under “President’s Report.”

**LEGISLATION:** Adair will contact Senator Chambers to see if he may be willing to introduce a student free expression bill in the 2014 legislative session.

**ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28:** Members of the Event Committee (Lee, Leibrandt, Haller, Moshman, Wagner, Comer) will continue to work out the details of the annual meeting via email correspondence. The AFCON board discussed at length the most difficult of annual meeting decisions: the lunch menu. By consensus the board agreed upon the Italian buffet. With dessert.

NELAC and ACLU Nebraska have agreed to co-sponsor the AFCON annual meeting.

Moshman will draft a registration flier for the *Sentinel* and for board members to

hand out to their member organizations. Leibrandt has requested the fliers be available by August 2 for the Heartland Conference. [See Membership Reports below.]

**ACADEMIC FREEDOM AWARD UPDATE:** Upon a motion by Moshman and second by Haller, the AFCON board voted to present a 2013 Academic Freedom Award posthumously to Dr. James McShane. Bob Haller will present the award to McShane’s wife, Carol McShane. Haller will order the plaques for the Academic Freedom Awards.

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Leibbrandt has updated the website. Parker agreed to act as the backup webmaster. Parker will work on a proposal for an AFCON Facebook page and will report back to the AFCON board at the August 10 meeting.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Members of the nominating committee for 2014 AFCON officers are Dwayne Ball, Linda Parker and Frank Edler.

**SENTINEL:** Articles for the next (Continued on Page 3)

## Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 2)

issue of the *Sentinel* are due by **August 26, 2013**.

The AFCON board agreed we need to re-start the process of sending out the *Sentinel* via email. At the annual meeting we will begin work on an updated list of those members, friends and interested people to whom we can send electronic copies of our fine and informative newsletter, published by our award-winning editor, Tom Black.

Edler will work on a list of organizations/individuals to whom we should be sending the *Sentinel*, and in what form we should be sending it to those recipients. Haller requested that the AFCON board develop a written policy on the number of *Sentinels* to be printed, a list of people/organizations to whom the *Sentinel* should be sent, how many copies to send to each organization, the method of sending (mail, electronic, hand delivery), and what to do with leftover hard copies.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Parker will read *Race for Relevance*, a book on how to refresh/re-tool organizations, and will bring a book report to the August 10 AFCON meeting.

Other ideas for strategic planning: develop long-range and short-range goals; develop action steps to reach goals; consider our social media future; contact high school student councils and invite them to participate in AFCON.

**NEBRASKA ARCHIVES:** Parker suggested AFCON members should be encouraged to bring their piles of AFCON "stuff" accumulating in their basements/dining rooms/offices to the AFCON annual meeting every year so appropriate materials can be archived, and to avoid certain individual AFCON members being listed as prospects for future episodes of Hoarders.

### MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

**Nebraska Center for the Book:** Wagner reported the Center for the Book's annual meeting will be held October 26 at the Nebraska History Museum.

**Nebraska Library Association:** Parker reported the NLA has designated October as "Information Literacy Month," and Governor Heinemann will proclaim it to be so on September 18. Parker also reported the American Library Association introduced a "Declaration for the Right to Libraries" at their annual conference on July 2, 2013.

**UNO Faculty Senate:** Parker reported the UNO Faculty Senate has named Dr.

Claudia Garcia as their new representative to AFCON.

**Nebraska School Librarians Association:** Liebrandt reported the Association is planning a Heartland Conference for school librarians, August 2-3. Barbara Stripling, current president of the American Library Association, is scheduled to speak at the conference. Liebrandt will distribute AFCON annual meeting registration fliers at the conference.

**Nebraska State Reading Association:** Comer sent out a "save the date" to association members for the AFCON annual meeting.

**Nebraska State Conference, AAUP:** Haller will pester them to send in their AFCON membership dues.

The next meeting of the **AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will be **Saturday, August 10, 2013**, at Eiseley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska.

### August 10, 2013—

**Present:** Peggy Adair, Tom Black, Nancy Comer, Frank Edler, Bob Haller, Lora Leibrandt, Cathi McMurtry, David Moshman, Linda Parker, Rod Wagner

**MINUTES:** Minutes of the AFCON board meeting held on July 13, 2013, were approved as presented upon a motion by Moshman, second by a group shout-out, and a voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** McMurtry presented the treasurer's report dated August 9, 2013, with a balance on hand of \$3,224.79. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Edler reported the University of California Board of Regents amended the system's "Statement on the Professional Rights of Faculty" to include language protecting faculty's right to participate in institutional governance. Moshman will review the Nebraska university system's bylaws to determine if the bylaws contain similar language. Moshman will report his findings to Edler. The AFCON board decided the best course of action, if needed, would be to encourage UNL and UNO faculty senates to ask the Nebraska Board of Regents to amend their bylaws to reflect the academic freedom protections afforded by California's university system.

**ANNUAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28:** Moshman reported ReLeah Lent plans to arrive in Nebraska on Thursday, September 26. Comer reported Lincoln Public Schools will host a "Lent event" for teachers on Friday, September 27, 3:45pm

September 26. Comer reported Lincoln Public Schools will host a "Lent event" for teachers on Friday, September 27, 3:45pm to 5:00pm. Moshman reported his UNL college will host "Lent events" on Friday morning and/or early afternoon. After the AFCON annual meeting on Saturday, September 28, Indigo Books will host a book-signing event. Haller will order the AFCON award plaques

**Publicity:** It was suggested that we contact the Lincoln Journal Star, Prairie Fire, the Daily Nebraskan, and The Reader with press information regarding ReLeah Lent and the AFCON annual meeting. Moshman will work with Laurie Lee to develop a press release. Moshman will ask Lent if she has a stock bio/photo we can use for publicity.

**Printed Program:** Edler will ask Lee if she can create a printed program for the annual meeting.

**Registration:** Moshman will re-send registration forms to AFCON board members via email, so they can distribute forms to their organizations.

### STUDENT EXPRESSION BILL:

Parker suggested AFCON consider holding a "summit" on student expression, bringing in all stakeholders, including those who oppose student free expression. Parker suggested this could be a good occasion for bringing Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to Nebraska.

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Liebrandt will update the AFCON website. Parker distributed documents regarding her preliminary findings about starting a AFCON Facebook page. Liebrandt suggested the AFCON Board table any Facebook action until after the annual meeting. The AFCON board concurred. Parker reported she will continue to work on the Facebook/Social Media process in between joyful, lazy cat days of retirement.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee will offer a slate of candidates for 2014 AFCON officers at the September 14, 2013 AFCON board meeting.

**SENTINEL:** Our award-winning editor honored us with his presence! Articles for the next issue of the *Sentinel* are due by **August 26, 2013**.

**NEBRASKA ARCHIVES:** Parker distributed copies of the AFCON archive policy to members of the board.

### MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

**Nebraska Center for the Book:** Wagner reported the National Book Festival will be

(Continued on page 4)

**Minutes.** Continued from Page 3)

held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., September 21 and 22. Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Association will be hosting a pavilion at the Festival.

**Nebraska Library Association:** Parker reported the NLA is considering combining several library conferences into one event in the spring of 2014. Parker encouraged AFCON to have a presence at the conference.

**Nebraska School Librarians Association:** Liebrandt reported the Association has discussed the difficulties with getting members involved. Liebrandt and Parker encouraged AFCON to look into the Nebraska Educational Technology Association to see how we can mutually benefit.

The website [www.eschoolnews.com](http://www.eschoolnews.com) contains a wealth of information on using technology in the classroom.

**Nebraska State Education Association –** Black reported NSEA-Retired will be holding an invitation-only meeting at an undisclosed location that NSA Surveillance has determined to be in the

Omaha Education Association Headquarters. The meeting's focus will be on building Strong Economy, Strong Communities, Strong Schools. Black also reported the Clash of Combines Demolition Derby will take place today at the Cuming County Fair. Madame Secretary can't think of a better way to spend an August Saturday afternoon than sitting up on a giant piece of farm machinery with rotating parts large enough to engulf entire flocks of Sandhills cranes, shifting those gears, gunning that engine, ramming into your buddies' combines with such force that your teeth rattle and your Skoal flies out of your jeans pocket, all the while you are laughing your head off and having so much fun you would probably be thrown in jail if you lived in Omaha. County. Fairs. Rock.

**The next meeting of the AFCON BOARD OF DIRECTORS will be Saturday, September 14, 2013, at Eiseley Library, Lincoln, Nebraska.**

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

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**This is an opportunity for you to receive your personal copy of the  
*Sentinel* by e-mail.**

Please let us know if want to receive the *Sentinel* electronically.

The AFCON board agreed it needs to re-start the process of sending out the *Sentinel* via email. At the annual meeting it will begin work on an updated list of those members, friends, and interested people to whom it can send electronic copies of our fine and informative newsletter, published by our award-winning editor, Tom Black.

President Frank Edler will work on a list of organizations/individuals to whom we should be sending the *Sentinel*, and in what form we should be sending it to those recipients.

In further discussions, Robert Haller requested that the AFCON board develop a written policy on the number of *Sentinels* to be printed, a list of people/organizations to whom the *Sentinel* should be sent, how many copies to send to each organization, the method of sending (mail, electronic, hand delivery), and what to do with leftover hard copies.

**Banned Books 2013 and Beyond**

*Banned Books Week, Sept. 22-28*

**Annual Meeting**

*Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska*

Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013

10:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Courtyard by Marriott

808 R Street

Lincoln (Haymarket)

Keynote Speaker

**ReLeah Lent**

Co-Sponsored by The Nebraska English Language Arts Council and ACLU Nebraska *with support from the National Council of Teachers of English*

Lent has written extensively about literacy, adolescents, and secondary education, including the crucial role of academic freedom for teachers and students. She is the co-author, with Gloria Pipkin, of *At the Schoolhouse Gate: Lessons in Intellectual Freedom* (Heinemann, 2002) and *Keep Them Reading: An Anti-Censorship Handbook for Educators* (Teachers College Press, 2013).

Academic freedom awards will be presented to recognize

**Peggy Adair**

AFCON secretary, legislative coordinator, and past president

and the late **James McShane**

academic freedom activist extraordinaire at UNL and beyond

12:15 Lunch buffet (including vegetarian choices)

1:15 Brief business meeting for AFCON members (open to all)

For further information email David Moshman at [dmoshman1@unl.edu](mailto:dmoshman1@unl.edu).

For more about AFCON: <http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org/>

For more about ReLeah Lent: <http://releahlent.com/>

For a review of *Keep Them Reading*: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/an-anticensorship-handbook\\_b\\_2594136.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/david-moshman/an-anticensorship-handbook_b_2594136.html)

*Register by September 24: Just send your name, address (including city and zip), phone number, and email address with a check for \$35 per person (\$15 for students) payable to AFCON to Treasurer Cathi McMurtry at 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045.*

## A Tribute to Jim McShane

Longtime academic freedom activist, James A. McShane died on July 5, 2013. Here are a letter from his UNL English Department colleague Paul Olson, published in the Lincoln Journal Star on July 15 and additional comments his UNL English colleague Bob Haller provided after reading Olson's letter at a memorial and life-celebration for McShane on July 27 at the Sheldon Museum of Art. Haller represents the UNL and Nebraska State AAUP on the AFCON Board.

Paul Olson Letter July 15, 2013

We ought to celebrate those who make the very idea of a university possible -- those who fight for academic freedom, for an untrammelled right to pursue truth, and for the possibility of creating intellectual community around that pursuit.

I would sometimes come to my office at 10 p.m. to pick up something and find Jim there working on an academic freedom problem or a university senate position. During the day, I would see him seated all day long in his messy office alcove, giving encouragement to a freshman student or analyzing a problem with a senior writing a major paper.

He not only marched with Martin Luther King at Selma. For more than 40 years, he fought for the right of people of color to have a seat at the table in the university. He did the same for colleagues and students with unpopular ideas.

He often succeeded..

McShane pursued his high goals without regard for personal reward or honor. His like will not appear again.

*.Paul A. Olson, Kate Foster Professor of English emeritus*

Comments by Bob Haller.

Let me explain in more detail the importance of what McShane did over some 40 years of his involvement in University of Nebraska internal politics.

Academic Freedom is the essential feature of a university, as it is basic to education at any level. It therefore must be woven into the fabric of the enterprise and supported by the assignment of powers and duties. In the case of UNL, these are set forth in the By-Laws of the System and the Lincoln campus. Because of system changes and campus turmoil, our By-Laws were reconstituted in the early 70's, significantly determined by faculty leaders at that time, notably Jim Lake of the Law College, after whom UNL's Academic Freedom Award is named. These By-Laws affirmed the faculty's power over the curriculum, the entrance and graduation requirements, the hiring and tenuring of faculty and the adjudicating faculty personnel decisions. They called for faculty participation in the hiring and evaluation of administrators and the allocation of resources. The Faculty was thus given the means whereby it can protect the Academic Freedom of all members of the university community, also specifically granted in the By-Laws.

But By-Laws are not self-enforcing; they depend upon continual monitoring, and immediate defense against actions and policies which compromise

those principles. For some 40 years, McShane was the watchdog and the leader in challenges to the administration, the Regents, the Legislature, the public, and other members of the faculty, when such challenges were needed. He often worked behind the scenes, as when he took the part of faculty members asserting their rights, or when he negotiated policy and actions with chancellors and deans. He sometimes was in the public eye, as President of the Academic Senate or as a member of a faculty committee. I suspect more than one administrator wished that McShane did not have such a minute knowledge of those By-Laws or such insight into how policies violated its provisions.

Incising in Stone the title "Defender of the By-Laws" may not sound like great praise of the man; but that was McShane's self-imposed duty, much appreciated by all those who wanted our university to live up to its core values.

It is true, as Olson says, that McShane had no regard for personal reward or honor. He was, however, one of the first recipients of the James A. Lake Academic Freedom Award. And as we remember his contribution, we have on September 28 of this year an opportunity to further celebrate his work as the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska grants him their 2013 award. Information about this event and speaker ReLeah Lent is available at the registration table for you to take home with you.

## Students: Exercise Your Intellectual Freedom

By David Moshman

With a new academic year beginning, here is some advice for students. These suggestions were written with college students in mind, but they apply to any student old enough to read them.

*Come to school to think.* Of course you should come to school to learn. But you should think about what you learn, how it relates to what you already know, and why you should (or shouldn't) believe it. This will enhance both your learning and your thinking.

*Exercise your intellectual freedom.* In class and out, exercise your freedoms of belief, expression, and inquiry. Seek information, decide what you believe, and join the discussion. Do more research. Reconsider your beliefs. Reflect on how you came to them. Say what you think now, and why. Consider new alternatives.

*Respect the intellectual freedom of others.* If you don't agree with what you are hearing, express an alternative view. If you don't know enough to formulate and defend an alternative, learn more. Efforts to restrict the beliefs and expression of others are unfair to them and undermine academic freedom for everyone.

*Aim to convince.* Find out what others believe and listen seriously to their reasons and reasoning. Show them you understand what they believe and why. Recognize the partial truth in their beliefs. Starting with what they presently

believe, show them why and how they should modify their views.

*Try not to give offense.* It doesn't help to ridicule, intimidate, or infuriate those who disagree with you. Offending others undermines your goal of convincing them. You can't control the feelings of others but you can and should anticipate likely reactions and take these into account in determining what you say and how you say it.

*Say what needs to be said.* In academic contexts you should say what you believe needs to be said, even if someone may be offended or upset by it. Not everything must or should be said in every social context, but education is a context oriented toward truth and justification. Find the nicest way to say it, but say it.

*Think critically, and not just about ideas you dislike.* If you agree with all your teachers and fellow students, think more critically. Seek out people who disagree with you and ideas contrary to your own. Consider the possibility that others may sometimes be right, or at least have reasonable ideas, and that you may sometimes be wrong, or at least fall short of the full truth.

*Respect the academic freedom of your teachers.* Your teachers are collectively and individually responsible for academic decisions about matters of curriculum and instruction and should have the academic freedom to exercise their academic authority. This includes decisions to present relevant information and ideas and to assess your

understanding of what you are expected to learn.

*Resist indoctrination.* The freedom of your teachers to educate is not a right to indoctrinate a captive audience. Curriculum must be determined on academic grounds and aimed at academic goals. Even if the curriculum is academically legitimate, you should have the academic freedom to criticize it, provide additional information or arguments, and express alternative interpretations or viewpoints.

*Assert your rights.* Most faculty respect the intellectual freedom of students, but you may need to assert yourself to raise questions others are not raising or add additional ideas into a class discussion. If faced with censorship or sanctions, you may be protected by norms of academic freedom, school policies, or (at a public institution) the First Amendment. Learn your rights.

*Focus on education.* Exercising your intellectual freedom is not just about asserting your rights. It is about participating in intellectual discussion, thereby promoting learning and development for yourself and others. Insist on intellectual freedom for everyone, not only for the sake of freedom, which is reason enough, but also for the sake of education.

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*David Moshman is President-Elect of AFCON. This article originally appeared in The Huffington Post on August 19.*

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**AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU** (As of December 2007)

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

padair@tconl.com

Dwayne Ball: "Threats to Academic Freedom at Universities"

adball@neb.rr.com

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

mshortt@inebraska.com

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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Presentation of the Readers' Theatre production of A Tangled Web: Student Freedom of Expression.

(a cast of adults and students)

**ADDRESS FOR THE AFCON WEB SITE**

**<http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org>**

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**Check it out and learn Who We Are and about Our Activities; read our Constitution; learn how to Join Us; see the where and when of our Meetings; meet our Members and Officers;**

**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 to the December, 13, 2013, issue is November 25, 2013.**

Send to Tom Black, editor, 610 West Park, West Point, NE 68788 or wpc6296@cableone.net



# AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue  
Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing  
Address  
Label

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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

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### HELP AFCON PROMOTE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

As a member of AFCON, you can help us

- ◆ support applications of the First Amendment in academic contexts, including elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.
- ◆ educate Nebraskans about the meaning and value of intellectual freedom, intellectual diversity, mutual respect, open communication, and uninhibited pursuit of knowledge, including the role of these ideals in academic contexts and in democratic self-government.
- ◆ assist students, teachers, librarians, and researchers confronted with censorship, indoctrination, or suppression of ideas.
- ◆ act as liaison among groups in Nebraska that support academic freedom.

**MEMBERSHIP** (To become a member, send dues, organization or individual name, address, and phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

**Organizational Membership** (\$120) entitles the organization to one seat on the AFCON Board, one vote in the election of officers and at the annual meeting, eligibility for office and chairing standing committees, provides newsletter subscription for the board member to share with the organization's information director, and reduced rates to AFCON conferences for its members.

**Individual Membership** (\$15) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, reduced rates for AFCON conferences, and one vote at annual meetings.

**Student Membership** (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership.

**AFCON ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS, PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR MEMBERS.  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT.  
ENCOURAGE HIM OR HER TO JOIN AFCON**