

THE

AFCON



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A Quarterly of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

September 18, 2009

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Purpose:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—Dwayne Ball

AFCON and Bill Ayers

By now you are probably aware that the AFCON board plans to have Bill Ayers deliver a speech on academic freedom at our annual meeting on November 14 in Omaha. It will probably be the biggest annual meeting we have ever held. I plan to really enjoy this, for too many reasons to count.

This plan has generated both more excitement and more controversy than any AFCON event in my memory. It is because of who Bill Ayers is, and what he symbolizes to so many people.

In the 1960s and 70s, Bill Ayers was a cofounder of the Weather Underground, a radical organization dedicated to violent opposition to the Vietnam War. He participated in many demonstrations, and in bombing a police station and a number of U.S. government and military buildings, although no one was killed. He was tried on a number of charges but not convicted. He was quoted as saying, "Guilty as hell, and free as a bird. What a country!"

This is the Bill Ayers that my generation and older ones remember. My generation came of age during the Vietnam War. If you didn't come of age then, count yourself lucky. You don't have the same images in your mind that we do: B-52s pounding the Vietnamese and Laotian countryside, American soldiers with horrible wounds being carried on litters, terrified Vietnamese children running from the conflict, soldiers and noncombatants on both sides being tortured, South Vietnamese police chief Nguyen Loan executing a suspected Viet Cong guerrilla on the streets of Saigon with a blood-spouting pistol shot to the head, protesters in the U.S. hurling epithets and missiles at police and the police beating them with clubs, and perhaps the faces of friends who did not return. You may also have images in your mind of how divided the country was. Anyone with a strong position for or against the war was viewed by the other side as a traitor to American values and principles. There's a famous picture of Bill Ayers standing on an American flag in contempt. As you can imagine, the country was torn apart, and feelings ran very high.

This is the emotion-laden context of Bill Ayers. Say his name to someone from my generation or older, and you may get a strong reaction, positive or negative, as if the war was still going on 34 years later. You can see why it might be hard for some to take a detached view of the man.

But, we have to make people understand that this emotion-laden context is beside the point. AFCON is inviting Bill Ayers to speak to make a point about academic freedom, not the Vietnam War. We need to keep making this point until people "get it.".

A little more history, this time beginning in February of last year. Dr. William Ayers, now a distinguished professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, was invited to speak on his research by the education college of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. This was to be at a college celebration on November 15, 2008. His title was to be "We Are Each Other's Keepers: Research to Change the World." Harmless enough, one would think.

Politics intervened. As the 2008 presidential election season wore on, it was revealed that Ayers had befriended Barrack Obama when he was a community activist in Chicago. Some political hay was made of this by Obama's opponents (the War again!). When the public found out that Ayers was to speak at UNL, it did not seem to matter that he was speaking in his professional capacity on a research topic to students and faculty who wanted to hear about it. Ayers

(See **President**, Page 2)

Upcoming Events

AFCON Board Meetings, **October 10** and **December 12** Saturdays Loren Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska; 10 AM **November 14**, the 22nd AFCON Fall Program and Annual Meeting Holiday Inn, 72nd and Grover, Omaha, NE

PRESIDENT

evoked the Vietnam War, and the Vietnam War evoked afresh the old, violent emotions of its time.

Some members of the public, the Board of Regents, and state government officials were outraged. According to the university, a storm of mail, email, and telephone messages were received, including threats of violence as well as, reportedly, withdrawal of financial support from very substantial donors. A regent referred to Ayers as "an unrepentant terrorist," and UN system president J. B. Milliken said that while the principles of academic freedom were "fundamental to a university," nonetheless, the faculty issuing the invitations showed "remarkably poor judgment."

Ayers was disinvited. UNL Chancellor Harvey Perlman argued that public safety could not be guaranteed. State Attorney General John Bruning responded that while he thought the university was doing the right thing, nonetheless security could have been provided, and to disinvite Ayers on security grounds was a "cop out."

One thing that Perlman said, however, resonates with me. He said, "In this instance, it is unfortunate that a lecture directed toward an academic subject has become implicated in a political campaign ... Nothing in his presence suggests that the university supports his personal or political philosophy or condones any of his former conduct." I might add that nothing in his intended presence suggested that the University condemned his philosophy or former conduct, either. The Chancellor made the point that we need to make. However, it was lost in the raucousness of the media circus and was ignored, I think, given that Perlman ultimately gave in to pressure and intimidation.

We need to make it clear that nothing in our invitation to Dr. Bill Ayers means we condone or condemn his former activities or his politics, or even his educational theories. AFCON takes no position on these matters. We hold a wide variety of opinions on them, and cherish our rights to do so.

In fact, the whole event is not about Bill Ayers, Sixties radical or bespectacled university professor.

It is about the denial of academic freedom rights of the students and faculty who wanted to hear him speak.

When there is an outcry over a university speaker because of who that speaker is, or the content of his talk, it is a special time of opportunity and trial. It is time

for people who believe in academic freedom to stand up and defend the right of students, faculty, and the public to hear that speaker nonetheless.

It is not the bland, uncontroversial, academic-jargon-slinging speakers that need the protection of academic freedom. It is those who would be or say quite clearly what some people don't want to hear.

When a university gives in to intimidation, physical or financial, it teaches everyone involved that intimidation works. When it defends academic freedom, it teaches everyone that intimidation doesn't work. I think you know which one we want to teach.

That's why we're inviting Dr. Ayers. Whether he likes it or not, he's now a symbol of academic freedom denied in Nebraska, in addition to all of the other things he may symbolize.

So, if you would, please, help me explain to AFCON members who may ask why AFCON is hosting Bill Ayers to speak. This can be a hard sell to those still living with the emotions of the past. Explain that our invitation really has nothing to do with Ayers himself, although I think we may find his talk very thought-provoking. It has to do with the rights of people who wanted to hear him speak and were denied their opportunity.

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors'

June 13, 2009—

Present: Peggy Adair, Dwayne Ball, Tom Black, Karen Buckley, Kathy Prohaska Cue, Karen Drevo, Bob Haller, Cathi McMurtry, Dave Moshman, Laurie Lee, Linda Parker, Doug Paterson, Rod Wagner.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 9 meeting were approved upon a motion by Paterson and a second by Moshman.

Treasurer's Report: AFCON's treasury has a balance of \$2107 as of June 12. AFCON has 33 paid and two guest individual members and twelve paid and two in-kind organization members current with dues. The treasurer's report was filed for audit.

President's Report: Ball moved up discussion of the annual meeting and introduced Kathy Prohaska Cue, past president of the UNL Faculty Senate and a new member of AFCON. She reported that the subcommittee was still investigating whether UNL violated academic freedom with the disinvitation of Dr. Bill Ayers.

Parker proposed the annual meeting would be Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Holiday

Inn Convention Center (72nd and Grover, Omaha) and presented a budget for the event. Cost for attending the event will be \$30, including lunch. Drevo moved and Black seconded that the annual meeting would be at the Omaha Holiday Inn; the motion was approved.

Haller and Paterson agreed to serve on the annual awards committee. Board members are asked to suggest nominees at the July meeting.

Newsletter: Black said that the next deadline for the Sentinel would be Aug. 31. Ball said that great thanks were due to Black for his years of service; members concurred with their applause.

Legislative Report: Adair reported that Nancy Comer said that the Nebraska Reading Association had reserved a time slot for Adair to speak on the student expression bill at the association's meeting July 13-14 in Cozad. Adair will also be speaking at the fall conference of Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska Educational Media Association's fall conference Oct. 29-30 in LaVista.

Adair requested that members keep sending her stories of why the student expression bill is needed. She also stated that ii is vital for interested parties to e-mail their state senator on the day the bill is introduced.

Membership Reports: Lee said the UNL Faculty Senate's major concern regarding the upcoming university budget is vertical cuts. Prohaska Cue said that the decision on budget cuts should be made public by the following week.

Drevo said that the Intellectual Freedom committee of NLA proposed three programs for the fall conference; Adair's program was accepted.

Moshman said that the ACLU was reviewing a case in which a school only allowed students to read books intended for their age level and not allowing students to read books above their grade level, even if their reading ability was above their grade level.

Haller said that the AAUP journal Academe was requesting stories on good and bad procedures for making budget cuts.

(See Minutes, Page 3)

Summaries of AFCON Board of Directors' Meetings

(Continued from Page 2)

Wagner said that the Nebraska Center for the Book met last month and began looking at the student expression bill. The group will vote in August on whether to support the bill.

Old Business: Board members looked at the newly redesigned AFCON website, which garnered positive responses for its new look and content. Parker moved, and Black seconded, to reimburse Barb Cornelius for expenses incurred in renewing the afconebr.org domain. The motion passed.

New Business: Lee will be meeting with ACLU Nebraska members on this year's Banned Books Week observance. Lee will report back to the board regarding possibly cosponsoring events with the ACLU. Wagner and Buckley volunteered to join Lee as a planning committee for Banned Books Week, if AFCON chooses to participate in an observance. AFCON generally plays an active role in odd number years for the event. Drevo moved, and Haller seconded, to make \$100 available for Banned Books Week activities. The motion passed.

July 11, 2009-

Present: Dwayne Ball, Linda Parker, David Moshman, Miles Bryant, Bob Haller, Peggy Adair, Karen Drevo, Mary Reiman, Cathi McMurtry, Laurie Thomas Lee, Doug Paterson.

Agenda: Approved. **Minutes:** Approved.

President's report: Ball reported another \$100 donation in support of the Annual Meeting.

Ball raised the question of how to present to the media and the public our inviting Bill Ayers to address the Annual Meeting so as not to alienate our member organizations and not to undermine our efforts regarding public education on the Student

Expression Bill. He proposed that we emphasize that Ayers is speaking on Academic Freedom, and that AFCON is taking no stand on his political and educational views. Further discussion led to an agreement that AF-CON must do a better job of conveying its actions to its institutional members by means of the Sentinel and regular communication from the officers and representatives. . It was further noted that the UNL ad hoc Committee exploring the Ayers disinvitation would be reporting in August and that an article would appear in *Prairie Fire*. There was further discussion of security needs and of preregistration and a fee as deterrents to possible demonstrations or interference. The discussion ended with a reaffirmation that the President would be the point man, and that the statement which would serve to guide responses would be subject to email discussion among the Board members.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Newsletter: Next deadline is August 20.

Policy Coordinator: Moshman explained three cases of interest to AFCON.--- Fine of \$250 on charge of "disturbing the peace" for a student who continued to send emails to Bill Avery (in his role as Professor) after being told not to. The Judge asserted that the judgment was not based on content but on personal epithets which might be classified as "fighting words."

U.S. Supreme Court: 8-1 judgment that school strip search of a 13-year-old girl violated student's civil rights (4th amendment). Affirms that students do have civil rights.

Colorado District Court vacated jury decision that Ward Churchill was illegally fired and should get his job back. Decision based on standard of proof when suing Regents individually rather than as a Board. Hailed by some in Colorado as victory for "faculty governance" but by others as permitting firings based on speech. Under appeal.

Legislative Report—Student Expression: Adair presented changes in wording from the free expression group which eliminated "parents and guardians" from those immune from suit and added a specification that advisors operate within applicable state law. She reported that, reading the earlier floor debate, it was essential to explain why the bill was needed and to explain how it would help rather than hurt. As the student expression group writing the bill is not an AFCON function, no approval of the changes was required.

Haller reported a good meeting with John Beniauto, Director of the Nebraska Association of School Boards, who promised to encourage Mike Delaney of the Nebraska Ccouncil of School Administrators to meet with AFCON, so far without effect. Haller is scheduled to meet with Senator Campbell on the 21st. Ball volunteered to join him.

We are still trying to get Senator Adams' support. There will be a meeting with Senator Haar to discuss strategy.

Annual Meeting—Parker presented a proposal with a budget with figures that included the money put up by outside donors and the costs associated with the meeting. A discussion of the budget ended with an approval of the proposal, including a \$35 registration fee.

Academic Freedom Award: Paterson proposed William Ayers as a recipient. Adair read the student expression policy promulgated by the Lexington School Board, and nominated this school board for the award. It was noted that Paterson and Haller were an ad hoc Academic Freedom Award Committee, and that both nominations required further thought and investigation. Consideration was put off to the next meeting.

Banned Book Week: The Board reaffirmed the vote to contribute \$100 in support of ACLU plans for the week.

Burn This Book: Pen Writers Speak Out On The Power of the Word

Edited by Toni Morrison, published by harperstudio, an imprint of Harper Press, 2009, 113 pages.

A brief review of a current read:

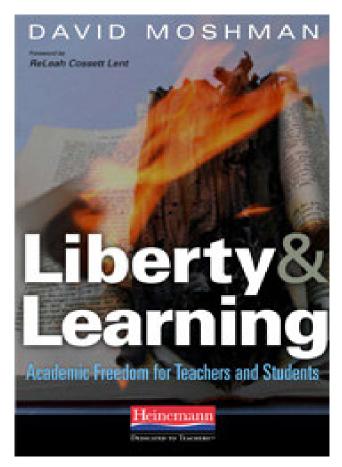
A sampling of the thought provoking and inspiring selections include: *Peril* by Toni Morrison, *Why Write* by John Updike, *Notes on Writing and the Nation* by Salmon Rushdie, *Out from Under the Clouds of Knowing* by Russell Banks, *Notes on Literature and Engagement* by Francine Prose, and more.

Morrison and Russell Banks, focus on the devastating effect of censorship on societies and nations under cruel governments, recognizing the "necessity: to sharpen the moral imagination.." My favorite chapter is that by Updike, who inspires a burning desire to write, as do others. Rich words throughout point at us to prevail.

One quote: "Submitting oneself to the discipline and rigor and tradition of the history of the form ... requires that one be at all times wholly honest and nonjudgmental, and as intelligent as possible----that one be, as Henry James prescribed, a person 'on whom nothing is lost.'" from Russell Banks p. 57. That about defines the goal of intellectual freedom, doesn't?

—Mel Krutz

Liberty and Learning: Academic Freedom for Teachers and Students By David Moshman



Now available from Heinemann:

"I strongly encourage teachers, administrators, districts, and state boards of education to make time to read this book together. David Moshman's flawless research, probing questions, and insightful principles will lay the foundation for a new era in academic freedom, perhaps prompting school systems to create strong policies to guard against challenges to intellectual freedom."

—ReLeah Cossett Lent Co-author of At the Schoolhouse Gate: Lessons in Intellectual Freedom

"Academic freedom," argues David Moshman, "is neither a special privilege of college faculty nor a First Amendment right of individual teachers and students. Rather, academic freedom is intellectual freedom in academic contexts, consisting of five principles that everyone is obligated to respect:"

- * Freedom of belief and identity
- * Freedom of expression and discussion
- * Freedom of inquiry
- * Freedom from indoctrination
- * Rights of equality, privacy, and due process

Moshman succinctly shows readers how these principles resolve some of the most intractable problems facing education today. On matters ranging from evolution to sex education to the literary canon, his principles address the concerns of teachers, administrators, students, parents, and their communities alike, providing tools that promote real student learning and thinking.

AFCON SPEAKER'S BUREAU (As of December 2007)

Peggy Adair: "Banned Books, Black Armbands, 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" rhaller1@unl.edu

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

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.AFCONebr.org

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;
Study our Publications, Principles, and Statements

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 18**, 2009, issue is **NOVEMBER 30**, 2009.

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

University reports—Dwayne Ball

I use as my sources the Chronicle of Higher Education (CHE), the newsletters of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), and other sources as noted. Everything this month is about free speech on campus.

In Nebraska, you can disturb the peace with an e-mail? Darren Drahota liked to e-mail UNL political science professor Bill Avery. He liked it a lot, and loved to argue politics with him. As you may have guessed, Drahota is a conservative and Avery is a liberal, and at one time they had been student and professor. During January and February of 2006, when Avery was running successfully for the state Senate, Drahota sent Avery 11 e-mails and Avery replied with 7, with some heated retorts on both sides. Drahota's, however, used strong language and accused Avery of being "anti-American, unpatriotic and having a mental disorder." (Lincoln Journal-Star, July 16, 2009) In one e-mail, Drahota threatened Avery with bodily harm, for which Drahota apologized in a subsequent email. Avery eventually got tired of it and told Drahota to stop e-mailing him. Drahota stopped for a while, but then, some months later, used another e-mail address (probably to get around any filters Avery had installed), and tried to renew the conversation. Avery then turned the matter over to the police; Drahota was charged with disturbing the peace, convicted, and given a \$250 fine. The state court of appeals upheld the conviction. Drahota is now appealing to the Nebraska Supreme Court. His attorney is UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh, a first amendment specialist, who is taking the case pro bono. Volokh argues that the conviction of Drahota on criminal charges of disturbing the peace criminalizes free speech. Citizens need to be free to argue with officials (or would-be officials) without restraint, even if the content of their speech is abusive. While a civil restraining order might have made sense in this case, by criminalizing speech, the Nebraska courts have established a precedent that will chill speech not only on college campuses but everywhere else. FIRE and the Nebraska ACLU will both be filing amicus briefs on the side of Drahota in the case.

Don't even talk about gun rights here. The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) in the Pittsburg metro area, has a Young Democrats club, a Newman Center, and plenty of other student organizations. None of these are required to keep the college name out of their publications or to present all their materials to the university for review before distribution. Christine Brashier, a student who wants to start a chapter of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC), is somehow different. She was first told by the College that she would be punished for even attempting to start the group. FIRE intervened, and the threat was withdrawn. But now, she must pass all materials through the College administration before distributing them, and may not use the name of the College in her chapter's name. FIRE is objecting to what is obviously a violation of the First Amendment. (FIRE News release of June 2, 2009)

Let's make up the rules as we go along. The Bucknell University Conservatives Club (BUCC) had three separate events cancelled or prohibited by the Bucknell administration last Spring. First, when members stood at the student center and passed out fake dollar bills with president Obama's picture on them, claiming Obama's policies would render the dollar worth no more than fakes, the administration told them to stop, claiming that they were "soliciting" (they weren't). Second, when they held an "affirmative action bake sale," in which customers are charged less for being minority or female, an administrator shut them down for price discrimination (boy, that's rich). Finally, when the BUCC applied for the "special permission" they were told they would need to hold the bake sale again (with merely suggested prices), because of its "controversial nature," it was denied on the grounds that even suggested pricing was discriminatory. By the way, no provision for special permission for controversial

events exists in any Bucknell code. (FIRE newsletter of June 11, 2009)

Dave Barry speaks out. At Marquette University a few years ago, a graduate student posted a radical quote on his office door. It said, "As Americans, we must always remember that we have a common enemy. An enemy that is dangerous, powerful, and relentless. I refer, of course, to the Federal Government." University officials made the student remove the quotation, citing its "offensiveness." Who would generate such a statement? A militia group? A Neo-Nazi leader? Nope. Dave Barry, humor columnist. So, FIRE and Dangerous Dave made a little video clip in which Barry explains his point of view on censorship. For a good time, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch? v=tE3REvTJjXU. (FIRE newsletter of July 30, 2009)

Thin skins at UCLA. Former graduate student in education Tom Wilde's private, non-commercial website at http://ucla-weeding101.info/default. aspx is his detailed diatribe (with extensive documentation) excoriating UCLA for kicking him out, allegedly for his grade point average, although he claims it was slightly above the 3.0 required. He says it was his dissenting views, not his GPA, that UCLA's school of education really wanted to punish him for. In any case, now UCLA is not only objecting to him as a student, they are trying to censor his website by claiming copyright infringement. The UCLA name is indeed in the URL, as you can see. FIRE (to whom Wilde turned when UCLA threatened suit), pointed out to UCLA that the relevant law prohibits the use of a copyrighted name for commercial purposes, but not for mere speech in a public forum. Otherwise, someone cheering at a Husker game would have to get permission and pay royalties for screaming, "Go Huskers." .UCLA's legal justification was as thin as its skin. UCLA quickly recognized they didn't have a constitutional leg to stand on and withdrew its threat of suit against Mr. Wilde. (FIRE press releases of August 20 and 21, 2009).

Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

22nd AFCON FALL PROGRAM/ANNUAL MEETING

November 14, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, 72nd & Grover, Omaha, NE

Dr. William Ayers

"The Right to Think at All: Academic Freedom and Free Speech in Troubled Times."

9:30-10:00 a.m. Welcome table
10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Dr. Ayer's Speech
11:30 a.m. -12 noon Book Sale / Autographing by Dr. Ayers
12 noon-1:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:00-2:00 p.m. Academic Freedom Awards/ Business Meeting

Registration for the Fall AFCON Program begins September 14, 2009 and ends October 30, 2009. *No late registration permitted.*

To register for the AFCON Fall Program/Annual Meeting, send this completed form with \$35.00 payment (make check payable to AFCON) to AFCON treasurer, Cathi McMurtry, at 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045

Name:	
Address:	
Phone #'s:	
Email:	_
Please check meal preference: Chicken Vegetarian Meal*	— _ No

AFCON MEMBERSHIP: 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, and provides newsletter subscription for the board members to share with the organization's information director. Individual Membership (\$15) provides newsletter subscription, eligibility for office and for chairing standing committees, and one vote at annual meetings. Student Membership (\$5) entitles full-time students to the same privileges as provided by the Individual Membership. (To become a member, send dues—check payable to AFCON, organization or individual name, address, & phone number to Cathi McMurtry, 515 N. Thomas Avenue, Oakland, NE 68045)

*The "no meal" option still requires a registration fee of \$35

AFCON

515 North Thomas Avenue Oakland, NE 68045.

Mailing Address Label

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COALITION OF NEBRASKA

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