

Minutes for the August 7, 2005 meeting of the NWICAIW

The meeting was called to order by Jim Spicer. New member introduction. The minutes from the July 24 meeting were approved. Treasury report: \$1213.78.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Taste of Miller: Judi reported that six people obtained 750 signatures on the petition to Congressman Viscloskey. That brought the total number of signatures obtained in 3 weeks to 1400. Judi brought up the price of the magnetic bumper stickers and thought that lowering them by \$1 to \$3 might encourage more sales. No action was taken.
2. Visclosky meeting report: Jim reported that 8 people formed the delegation which met with the Congressman on June 30 and that although he agreed with us on most points, he would not sign on to HR 35. Jim read the Open Letter to Visclosky, which he composed with advice from other members, at the meeting. The letter was sent to area newspapers, but it has not appeared yet. There was some discussion on where to go from here.
3. Community Forum at Christ Methodist Church: !0 people from the church community and 8 people from the NWICAIW attended the forum on June 30. Jim reported that his presentation addressed the topic of the forum, recruitment in our schools and the war in Iraq. He reported to them about our initiative with the Gary School Board about the "opt out option" in the Leave No Child Behind Act. (He also announced at our meeting that he will meet with the Gary School Board Policy Committee Wednesday, asking them to provide an "opt out form" that students may sign when they register.) There was also discussion at our meeting about more lead time for scheduling public forums in the future (at least 2 weeks) and more tightly focused discussions by forum speakers.
4. Website name change: the website of the NWICAIW has been changed to <exitiraq.org,> with the technical help of Steve Johnson. Out Of Iraq was already taken.
5. Jim reported that he had the downloadable letterhead removed from the website. Anyone who needs one should obtain it from Jim.
6. There was discussion about looking into using a password for protected access to Yahoo group email in order to prevent anonymous non-members from accessing the email process.
7. There was discussion about a more concerted effort in the future to reach out to anti-war church groups in the area, such as Friends and Mennonites.

NEW BUSINESS

1. There was some discussion about future meeting day change from Sunday as Tony Shafton cannot attend on Sundays until December.
2. Fest in the First is coming up in September, date unknown. Also the Valpo Popcorn Festival is coming up and it was suggested that some of the Valpo membership volunteer for that event. Discussion to be continued.

The next meeting will be Sunday, August 21, at Temple Israel at 7:30.

The meeting was adjourned.