

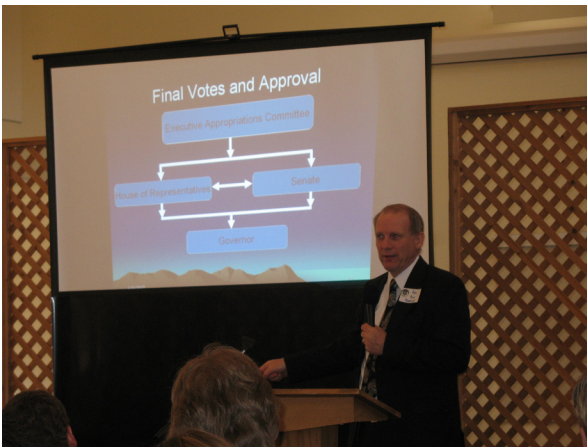
ARMCHAIR ADVOCATE

The Newsletter for the
Coalition of Religious Communities

May, 2007



CORC Annual Meeting Recap



CORC's 2007 Annual Member Meeting was a great success! More than 50 of our members from across the Wasatch Front were able to make it to the meeting that featured State Representative Ron Bigelow as the Keynote Speaker. Rep. Bigelow did a great job informing members of how the state appropriations and budgeting process works. After the Keynote Address, members broke up into groups to discuss AHAC's two major issues for the upcoming year: Payday Lending and the Sales Tax on Food.

The Payday Lending breakout group discussed the movement that has taken place on the local, state, and national levels concerning stronger regulations of this predatory lending industry. The group decided to continue to pursue regulations on the state level, while at the same time challenging CORC across the state to take local ordinance ideas to their county and city elected officials. One realistic goal, the group decided, is to pass these ordinances in many locations throughout the state, which will limit the number of outlets both by population and by distance between outlets. Let us know if you would like ideas to take to your local elected officials.

The breakout group that discussed sales tax on food decided to go forward in attempts to fully eliminate the state portion of the food tax. The natural strategy for this is to use much of CORC's time and efforts to convince the Senate to agree to remove this tax, as there is already wide support in the House. CORC's plan is to set up a work group that will make specific proposals to the Senate about how to make up the lost revenue that this sales tax reduction will bring the state. To join this group contact Linda.



A Break-out group discusses the Sales Tax on Food

CORC Group in Price has first meeting, Road Trip Wrap-up

Tuesday, May 8 was the first meeting of CORC in Price, Utah. The meeting took place at Ascension St. Matthew's Church. A special thanks to the hosts for the wonderful lunch and meeting space.

The first meeting in Price was an especially productive one, where volunteers agreed to take a local ordinance to their city council and brainstormed about their issues that adversely hurt low income persons in Price.

The meeting came nearly a month after the CORC Road Trip, where meetings were held in Richfield, Parowan, Cedar City, St. George, and Moab. A special thanks goes out to all of the host churches and individuals who provided food and meeting space!

All of the meetings on the road trip were very productive. If all goes as planned, work on local payday lending ordinances should begin in each area.



CORC Meeting in Richfield, Utah

SAVE THE DATE!

Utah Poverty Partnership

Summer Barbecue
Wednesday, July 18
6 pm to 8 pm
Liberty Park

Talk to candidates for elected office about social justice issues and meet people who care about these issues from other organizations working to make Utah a better place.

Free and open to all interested people.

VISIT THE CORC BLOG

CORC now has a weblog/online community where members across the state can network, share ideas, and talk about CORC issues.

The blog will collapse without CORC members becoming contributors to the blog. Contributors will be able to make posts and challenge other members to comment. To become a contributor to the CORC blog email Adam:

adam@crossroads-u-c.org

The blog will be updated regularly and will solicit input, so check back often!

The web address is:

corcutah.blogspot.com

Salt Lake City

Thursday, June 21
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
261 South 900 East
Second Level Meeting Room

Next Meeting

Ogden

Thursday, June 21
Ogden United Church of Christ
3350 Harrison Blvd
Cottage Meeting Room