

**Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes**  
**December 11, 2024**  
**Ramada Inn State College, PA**

President Terry Engelder opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Approximately 38 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year. Dinner is \$25.

This year's officers:

President: Terry Engelder

Vice President: Carolyn Wilhelm

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt

Webmaster: John Golbeck

No new members. John Golbeck request members submit a bio for inclusion on the Centre County website. The site can be found on the internet at <http://centralpatorch.org>.

Tonight's topic is First Amendment Rights and Protest. The presenter is Robert Henrickson, DED.

**First Amendment Rights and Protest**

Dr. Henrickson received an undergraduate degree in zoology from Northwestern University and a DED from Indiana University in 1984.

The title of this presentation could also be the threats to free speech and academic freedom. A warning, this talk is somewhat controversial.

The first Amendment establishes freedom to exercise a choice of religion, speech and freedom of assembly. The 14th amendment contains free speech clause.

The right of free speech clause is neutral only to matters of public concern and not to matters of personal concern. Advocating violence and defamation are not protected.

Academic freedom is a contractual right to public institutions under both the first and 14th amendments. Private institutions guarantee employment.

In 1976, Arthur Butz, a professor of Electrical Engineering at Northwestern University published a book titled "The Hoax of the Twentieth Century". He wrote that the Holocaust did not occur. In 1977 a debate between Arthur Butz and William Van Alstyne, Professor of Law at William and Mary Law School occurred resulting in a political and hate speech code.

The hate speech code defines any behavior that is stigmatizing, intimidating, hostile and demeaning to individuals, and are found to be vague and have chilling effects. Genetic science that links racism and white supremacy is an example.

The first amendment bans can limit institutional invitations and can designate the time, place and manner of speech, can limit disruptive behavior and ban speech that turns to violence.

The University of Chicago has published freedom of expression principles.  
First, it is not proper to shield individuals from ideas that are disagreeable.  
Second, a climate of civility is proper.  
Third, we can regulate the time and placement questionable material.  
Fourth, universities can not to shield people from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable or even offensive.  
And lastly we may not obstruct conversation or publication.

“DEI”- dignity, equality and inclusion example was presented.  
As an example consider a conservative judge is invited to speak to the university. However liberal students shout him down.

The American constitution is obscure and it should be.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maxin, recording secretary