

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF
COMMUNITY STANDARDS INC.**

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PATRON:

Prof. TV O'Donnell MD, FRACP, CBE.

FOUNDER:

Patricia Bartlett OBE

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To make a donation see Finance page 2

Executive committee: David Lane
(Executive Director), Roger Payne (Vice-
President), Graham Fox, Conrad McDonnell
and David Wilson

Charities Commission Rejects Society's Application for "Charity status"

The Society made its application to the Charities Commission on the 26th of February 2007 and was given an assurance by the Commission that a decision would be issued within 30 days. The Commission Board which only meets once every month decided in its wisdom to deal with our application at four separate consecutive monthly meetings and finally issued a determination on 20th July - after 6 months - stating that it had turned down our application. It recognised five of the six "objects" of our Constitution as serving "charitable purposes" but refused to concede that section 2e served such a purpose. It considered s. 2e constituted "political advocacy" and assessed the "majority" of the Society's activities as falling within this one object. The Society considers the Commission's determination is legally flawed (it has consulted widely with lawyers, MPs and government agencies) and unfair. The definition of "political advocacy" applied to the Society's application ("the perpetual advocacy of a particular viewpoint") is not even found in any of its guidelines to applicants! Only two definitions have been advanced in Commission literature and none apply to the Society: 1. Advocacy of a particular political party and/or its policies 2. Seeking to change the law by political means.

A new application was lodged with the Commission on 23 July and it will be notified of any changes to Constitution and executive.

ANNOUNCING SPECIAL SOCIETY MEETING

7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Monday 27 August

***Purpose: (1) To Consider and Vote on
Proposed Amendments to Society's
Constitution (2) To Update Members on
Society's Application to Charities
Commission for "charity status".***

Venue: Connolly Hall, Guilford Tce.

(off Hill St), Thorndon, Wellington

The following Motions have been put forward for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Society and agreed to by the executive committee on 30 July 2007.

Motion 1: (Deals with replacement of s. 2e from Objects of Constitution):

Motion 1: To replace section 2e with the following: *"To direct attention to and educate the public on provisions for significant public input in the improvement and promotion of community standards beneficial to moral and social welfare; and encourage constructive and robust public debate on such matters."*

[Note S. 2e currently states: "To uphold and press for the proper enforcement of applicable law and its amendment where the law is ineffective".]

Explanation for Change: After careful consideration of a determination received from the Charities Commission dated 20 July 2007, in response to the Society's application for "charitable status", the Society Executive agreed to change s. 2(e) to better reflect the "charitable purpose" for which the Society was established. The rewording of the object emphasises the educational role of the Society and its mission to benefit the community.

Motion 2. (Deals with Section 8 of the Constitution – "Finances"). To add the following words (in bold italics) to s. 8.

***“The Society has been established for the charitable purposes set out in its six objects (s. 2) and therefore its funds cannot be used to benefit any individual and individuals. The funds of the Society can only be used in New Zealand, are under the authority of the Executive Committee*”**

Although the Constitution does not specifically make a provision for proxy voting there is nothing to prohibit it, provided a true quorum has been established (minimum number of persons [15] present at meeting). Members wishing to support/oppose Motion 1 and/or Motion 2 must fill out and sign the form on p. 2 (below) sending it to the Society to arrive no later than Monday 27 August 2007 (SPCS, P.O. Box Johnsonville, Wellington). (The Meeting will also consider other matters relating to the Constitution, including specific provision for proxy voting, the size of the quorum, title/delegation of Society officers and other matters.)

Society News: AGM (June 18, 2007). Two new executive members were appointed: Conrad McDonnell and David Wilson. Mr Des Chambers who had served as a committee member for many years, more recently as acting treasurer, gave notice of his desire to step down from the executive. His longstanding service to the Society has been greatly appreciated. A report from a sub-committee on strategy and planning matters was given by Dr David Hutchison. Roger Payne, who was appointed as Vice-President at the meeting, gave a thought-provoking address entitled “Miscarriages of Justice Affecting Families: Implications for Society”. The audited Financial Statements (2006) were approved and have been filed with the Companies Office (www.societies.govt.nz).

Finances: The executive is grateful for all contributions made by members to resolve the shortfall in funding and assist with arrears payments. Payments for Secretarial Services have been made for the first six months of this year and \$5,000 has been paid towards 2006 arrears of \$10,000. However, this still leaves \$5,000 outstanding for arrears and a significant shortfall for the remainder of 2007 (**URGENT: Please send Donations can be sent to SPCS, P.O. Box 13-683 Johnsonville**).

Lack of Internet Controls by ISPs on HardCore Porn and Sexual Violence. The

Society has still not received any response to its inquiries over these serious concerns addressed to the Minister of Justice the Hon. Mark Burton. It has been informed that the Minister is still working on his reply! The Society’s letter dated 1 June 2007 is available on its website

Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce. The Society is actively promoting this film. Many lessons can be learnt and applied from Wilberforce’s life (see Society website article).

High Court Ruling on SouthPark’s “Bloody Mary” episode. The Society, which along with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference and many others, lodged a robust complaint with the broadcaster over the screening of this episode, was very frustrated and disappointed to learn recently that the High Court has dismissed the Bishops’ appeal against the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) decision that had upheld the Broadcasters right to screen this offensive material on public television. The BSA had maintained that the episode did not breach Broadcasting Standards Guidelines on decency.

Referendum Petition on “Anti-Smacking” Legislation. The Society strongly endorses efforts to bring this matter onto the ballot paper at the next election. It encourages members to assist with this project. Already 200,000 signatures have been collected and yet another 100,000 are required by early next year.

SOCIETY SPECIAL MEETING

**PROXY VOTING MEMBER’S FORM
(Please Cut out & send to SPCS)**

I am a current member of the Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

I wish to vote in support of Motion 1 and Motion 2; support ONLY Motion 1; support ONLY Motion 2; Oppose Motion 1; Oppose Motion 2

Please CLEARLY Strike out the option(s) that do NOT apply.

Signature _____

Motions 1 & 2 are outlined on page 1 of this Newsletter, and are to be voted on at the Special Meeting of the Society to be held on 27 August 2007. Send to SPCS P.O. Box 13-683 Johnsonville