

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
 Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

Department of the Treasury
 Internal Revenue Service

▶ The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements.

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning and ending

B Check if applicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.	C Name of organization AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION Doing Business As		D Employer identification number 52-2121856
		Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite 3213 DUKE STREET 625		E Telephone number (703) 807-0242
		City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314		G Gross receipts \$ 1,849,191.
		F Name and address of principal officer: SUSAN CARLESON		H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No H(b) Are all affiliates included? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach a list. (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c) (3) (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ▶ WWW.THEACRU.ORG

K Type of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other ▶ **L Year of formation:** 1998 **M State of legal domicile:** DC

Part I Summary		Prior Year	Current Year
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: ENGAGE IN LEGAL AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS OF AMERICANS.		
	2 Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its assets.		
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	5
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	5
	5 Total number of employees (Part V, line 2a)	5	4
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	4
	7a Total gross unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, line 12, column (C)	7a	0.
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34	7b	0.	
Revenue	8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	2,866,737.	1,529,989.
	9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)		
	10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	87,097.	40,664.
	11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	203,783.	278,538.
	12 Total revenue - add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	3,157,617.	1,849,191.
Expenses	13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1-3)		26,200.
	14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)		
	15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5-10)	371,079.	354,985.
	16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	320,435.	133,268.
	b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 956,793.		
	17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a-11d, 11f-24f)	2,064,442.	1,538,722.
	18 Total expenses. Add lines 13-17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2,755,956.	2,053,175.
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	401,661.	<203,984.>	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	Beginning of Year 1,947,149.	End of Year 1,388,326.
	21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	177,328.	109,407.
	22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	1,769,821.	1,278,919.

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here ▶ Signature of officer _____ Date _____
 ▶ **SUSAN CARLESON, CHAIRMAN/CEO**
 Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature ▶	Date	Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>	Preparer's identifying number (see instructions)
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ▶	EIN ▶		Phone no. ▶ (202) 293-2200
TATE & TRYON 805 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 900 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) Yes No

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see instructions)

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission: SEE SCHEDULE O FOR CONTINUATION
SEE SCHEDULE O:

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? [] Yes [X] No
If "Yes", describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? [] Yes [X] No
If "Yes", describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the exempt purpose achievements for each of the organization's three largest program services by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ 840,607. including grants of \$ 26,200.) (Revenue \$ 1,849,191.)
EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS, AND TO FILE AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS WHERE APPROPRIATE. DURING 2008, THE ACRU FILED AMICUS BRIEFS IN "CITIZENS UNITED V. FEC"; "IN RE RACHEL L."; "HELLER V. DC"; AND "INDIANA VOTING RIGHTS". THE ACRU ALSO HAD OVER 50 OPINION PIECES PUBLISHED ON A RANGE OF CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES. FINALLY, THE ACRU'S EXPERTS MADE OVER 130 RADIO/TV APPEARANCES TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES.

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d Other program services. (Describe in Schedule O.) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses \$ 840,607. (Must equal Part IX, Line 25, column (B).)

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i>	X	
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors?		X
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i>		X
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i>		X
5	Section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations. Is the organization subject to the section 6033(e) notice and reporting requirement and proxy tax? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i>		
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any accounts where donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>		X
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>		X
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>		X
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>		X
10	Did the organization hold assets in term, permanent, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>		X
11	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, lines 10, 12, 13, 15, or 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable</i>	X	
12	Did the organization receive an audited financial statement for the year for which it is completing this return that was prepared in accordance with GAAP? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII</i>	X	
13	Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		X
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the U.S.?		X
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, and program service activities outside the U.S.? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part I</i>		X
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part II</i>		X
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the United States? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part III</i>		X
17	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 on Part IX, column (A), line 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i>	X	
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i>		X
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i>		X
20	Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		X
21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	X	
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>		X
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, questions 3, 4, or 5? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	X	
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer questions 24b-24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to question 25</i>		X
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?		
25a	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
b	Did the organization become aware that it had engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person from a prior year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>		X
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>		X
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, or substantial contributor, or to a person related to such an individual? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>		X

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

		Yes	No
28	During the tax year, did any person who is a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee:		
a	Have a direct business relationship with the organization (other than as an officer, director, trustee, or employee), or an indirect business relationship through ownership of more than 35% in another entity (individually or collectively with other person(s) listed in Part VII, Section A)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	X	
b	Have a family member who had a direct or indirect business relationship with the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
c	Serve as an officer, director, trustee, key employee, partner, or member of an entity (or a shareholder of a professional corporation) doing business with the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>		X
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		X
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		X
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>		X
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		X
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1</i>		X
35	Is any related organization a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>		X
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>		X

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096, Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns. Enter -0- if not applicable		
	1a	17	
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable		
	1b	0	
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	X	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return		
	2a	4	
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns?	X	
Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file this return. (see instructions)			
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?		X
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
3b			
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?		X
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?		X
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		X
c	If "Yes," to question 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T, Disclosure by Tax-Exempt Entity Regarding Prohibited Tax Shelter Transaction?		
5c			
6a	Did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
6b			
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization provide goods or services in exchange for any quid pro quo contribution of more than \$75?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?		
7b			
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		X
7c			
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year	7d	
e	Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?		X
7e			
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		X
7f			
g	For all contributions of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		
7g			
h	For contributions of cars, boats, airplanes, and other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C as required?		
7h			
8	Section 501(c)(3) and other sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
9	Section 501(c)(3) and other sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
9a			
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
9b			
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter: N/A		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12	10a	
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities	10b	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter: N/A		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders	11a	
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them.)	11b	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?		
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year N/A	12b	

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure (Sections A, B, and C request information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Section A. Governing Body and Management

For each "Yes" response to lines 2-7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8 or 9b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Table with 11 rows and 3 columns (1a, 1b, and Yes/No). Contains questions about voting members, family relationships, management control, organizational changes, asset diversions, members, stockholders, and documentation.

Section B. Policies

Table with 12 rows and 3 columns (12a, 12b, 12c, and Yes/No). Contains questions about conflict of interest policies, whistleblower policies, document retention, compensation review, and joint ventures.

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Forms 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection.
19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization makes its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public.
20 State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization: ACRU - 703-807-0242 3213 DUKE STREET #625, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees (continued)

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week	(C) Position (check all that apply)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
1b Total							252,000.	0.	6,524.	

2 Total number of individuals (including those in 1a) who received more than \$100,000 in reportable compensation from the organization **2**

	Yes	No
3 Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>		X
4 For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	X	
5 Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>		X

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
EBERLE ASSOCIATES, 1420 SPRING HILL ROAD, #490, MCLEAN, VA 22102	DIRECT MAIL CONSULTING	107,434.
PETER FERRARA, 3213 DUKE STREET, #625, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314	LEGAL SERVICES	102,000.

2 Total number of independent contractors (including those in 1) who received more than \$100,000 in compensation from the organization **2**

Part VIII Statement of Revenue			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, gifts, grants and other similar amounts	1 a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b				
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1529989.			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f: \$					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		1,529,989.			
	Program Service Revenue	2 a		Business Code			
b							
c							
d							
e							
f		All other program service revenue					
g		Total. Add lines 2a-2f					
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		40,664.		40,664.	
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5	Royalties					
	6 a	Gross Rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
			b	Less: rental expenses			
			c	Rental income or (loss)			
			d	Net rental income or (loss)			
	7 a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
			b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses			
			c	Gain or (loss)			
			d	Net gain or (loss)			
	8 a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	a				
			b	Less: direct expenses			
			c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events			
	9 a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19	a				
			b	Less: direct expenses			
			c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities			
	10 a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	a				
			b	Less: cost of goods sold			
c			Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory				
Miscellaneous Revenue			Business Code				
11 a	MAILING LIST RENTAL	511140	278,527.		0.	278,527.	
b	OTHER REVENUE	900099	11.			11.	
c							
d	All other revenue						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		278,538.				
12	Total Revenue. Add lines 1h, 2g, 3, 4, 5, 6d, 7d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e		1,849,191.	0.	0.	319,202.	

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns.

All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D).

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1 Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the U.S. See Part IV, line 21	26,200.	26,200.		
2 Grants and other assistance to individuals in the U.S. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the U.S. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4 Benefits paid to or for members				
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	258,523.	181,673.	29,893.	46,957.
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	87,822.		42,449.	45,373.
8 Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits	8,640.	2,707.	2,835.	3,098.
10 Payroll taxes				
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal	1,636.	1,227.	65.	344.
c Accounting	41,726.		41,726.	
d Lobbying				
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17	133,268.			133,268.
f Investment management fees	15,215.		15,215.	
g Other	13,779.	10,925.	2,854.	
12 Advertising and promotion				
13 Office expenses	21,630.	4,326.	1,947.	15,357.
14 Information technology	64,451.	12,890.	5,801.	45,760.
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy				
17 Travel	10,382.	10,382.		
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20 Interest	324.	65.	29.	230.
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	1,681.		1,681.	
23 Insurance	2,909.	582.	262.	2,065.
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (Expenses grouped together and labeled miscellaneous may not exceed 5% of total expenses shown on line 25 below.)				
a MAILING SERVICE	580,824.	116,165.	52,274.	412,385.
b CONTRACT SERVICES	428,792.	389,792.	25,866.	13,134.
c PRINTING AND COPYING	188,765.	35,025.	14,677.	139,063.
d LIST RENTAL	49,601.	9,920.	4,464.	35,217.
e BACK-END COSTS	24,393.	4,879.	2,195.	17,319.
f All other expenses	92,614.	33,849.	11,542.	47,223.
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	2,053,175.	840,607.	255,775.	956,793.
26 Joint Costs. Check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation ...	1,087,262.	191,973.	78,557.	816,732.

Part X Balance Sheet

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year	
Assets	1	Cash - non-interest-bearing	495,066.	1	253,214.
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments		2	
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4	Accounts receivable, net	631.	4	
	5	Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, or other related parties. Complete Part II of Schedule L		5	
	6	Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B). Complete Part II of Schedule L		6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	7,245.	9	18,616.
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment: cost basis ...	8,404.		
	b	Less: accumulated depreciation. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	2,964.		
			7,121.	10c	5,440.
	11	Investments - publicly traded securities	1,437,086.	11	1,111,056.
	12	Investments - other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13	Investments - program-related. See Part IV, line 11		13	
	14	Intangible assets		14	
15	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11		15		
16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	1,947,149.	16	1,388,326.	
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	117,328.	17	61,407.
	18	Grants payable		18	
	19	Deferred revenue		19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21	Escrow account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22	Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L		22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties		23	
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable		24	
	25	Other liabilities. Complete Part X of Schedule D	60,000.	25	48,000.
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	177,328.	26	109,407.
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.				
	27	Unrestricted net assets	1,769,821.	27	1,278,919.
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets		28	
	29	Permanently restricted net assets		29	
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.				
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds		30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building, or equipment fund		31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32	
33	Total net assets or fund balances	1,769,821.	33	1,278,919.	
34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	1,947,149.	34	1,388,326.	

Part XI Financial Statements and Reporting

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?		X
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	X	
c	If "Yes" to lines 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?		X
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		X
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits?		

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	2276301.	3239986.	2493725.	2866737.	1529989.	12406738.
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 - 3	2276301.	3239986.	2493725.	2866737.	1529989.	12406738.
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						128,615.
6 Public Support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						12278123.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	2276301.	3239986.	2493725.	2866737.	1529989.	12406738.
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	90,145.	144,335.	315,346.	289,659.	319,191.	1158676.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)				3,841.	11.	3,852.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						13569266.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	
13 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	90.48	%
15 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f	15	93.31	%
16a 33 1/3% support test - 2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
b 33 1/3% support test - 2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>		
17a 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2008. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b 10% -facts-and-circumstances test - 2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts-and-circumstances" test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization	<input type="checkbox"/>		
18 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2) (Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received. (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge ...						
6 Total. Add lines 1 - 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the total of lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12 for the year or \$5,000						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources ...						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support (Add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12.)						

14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and **stop here**

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2008 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f))	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27h	18	%

19a 33 1/3% support tests - 2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support tests - 2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and **stop here**. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions

Schedule D
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ Attach to Form 990. To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION

Employer identification number

52-2121856

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1 Total number at end of year		
2 Aggregate contributions to (during year)		
3 Aggregate grants from (during year)		
4 Aggregate value at end of year		
5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds may be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor or other impermissible private benefit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).
 Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or pleasure) Preservation of an historically important land area
 Protection of natural habitat Preservation of certified historic structure
 Preservation of open space

2 Complete lines 2a-2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year.

	Held at the End of the Year
a Total number of conservation easements	2a
b Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2b
c Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2c
d Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06	2d

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the taxable year ▶ _____

4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ _____

5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds? Yes No

6 Staff or volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing easements during the year ▶ _____

7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing easements during the year ▶ \$ _____

8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)? Yes No

9 In Part XIV, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

- 1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIV, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.
- b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:
- (i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____
- (ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____
- 2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 relating to these items:
- a Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$ _____
- b Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$ _____

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets *(continued)*

- 3** Using the organization's accession and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a** Public exhibition
 - b** Scholarly research
 - c** Preservation for future generations
 - d** Loan or exchange programs
 - e** Other _____
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV.
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? Yes No

Part IV Trust, Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table:
- | | Amount |
|--|-----------|
| c Beginning balance | 1c |
| d Additions during the year | 1d |
| e Distributions during the year | 1e |
| f Ending balance | 1f |
- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21? Yes No
- b** If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV.

Part V Endowment Funds. Complete if organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Investment earnings or losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

- 2** Provide the estimated percentage of the year end balance held as:
- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment _____ %
 - b** Permanent endowment _____ %
 - c** Term endowment _____ %

- 3a** Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:
- | | Yes | No |
|--|---------------|----|
| (i) unrelated organizations | 3a(i) | |
| (ii) related organizations | 3a(ii) | |
| b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R? | 3b | |

4 Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Investments - Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of investment	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land				
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment				
e Other		8,404.	2,964.	5,440.
Total. Add lines 1a-1e. (Column (d) should equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)				5,440.

Part VII Investments - Other Securities. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
Financial derivatives and other financial products		
Closely-held equity interests		
Other		
Total. (Col (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 12.) ▶		

Part VIII Investments - Program Related. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment type	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
Total. (Col (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13.) ▶		

Part IX Other Assets. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
Total. (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 15.) ▶	

Part X Other Liabilities. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

(a) Description of liability	(b) Amount	
Federal income taxes		
LIABILITY UNDER GUARANTEE	48,000.	
Total. (Column (b) should equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25.) ▶	48,000.	

In Part XIV, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48.

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Financial Statements

1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,849,191.
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	2,053,175.
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	<203,984.>
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	<286,918.>
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5	
6	Investment expenses	6	
7	Prior period adjustments	7	
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	8	
9	Total adjustments (net). Add lines 4-8	9	<286,918.>
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per financial statements. Combine lines 3 and 9	10	<490,902.>

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	1,547,058.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	<286,918.>
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	<15,215.>
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	<302,133.>
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,849,191.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0.
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)	5	1,849,191.

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	2,037,960.
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Losses reported on Form 990, Part IX, line 25	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	0.
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	2,037,960.
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	15,215.
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	15,215.
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)	5	2,053,175.

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X; Part XI, line 8; Part XII, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b.

PART XII, LINE 2D - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

INVESTMENT EXPENSES NET WITH INTEREST REVENUE ON AUDITED

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PART XIII, LINE 4B - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:

INVESTMENT EXPENSES NET WITH INTEREST ON AUDITED FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

Part II Fundraising Events. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other Events	(d) Total Events (Add col. (a) through col. (c))
		(event type)	(event type)	(total number)	
Revenue	1	Gross receipts			
	2	Less: Charitable contributions			
	3	Gross revenue (line 1 minus line 2)			
Direct Expenses	4	Cash prizes			
	5	Non-cash prizes			
	6	Rent/facility costs			
	7	Other direct expenses			
	8	Direct expense summary. Add lines 4 through 7 in column (d)			()
	9	Net income summary. Combine lines 3 and 8 in column (d)			()

Part III Gaming. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/Instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming (Add col. (a) through col. (c))
Revenue	1	Gross revenue			
Direct Expenses	2	Cash prizes			
	3	Non-cash prizes			
	4	Rent/facility costs			
	5	Other direct expenses			
	6	Volunteer labor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ % <input type="checkbox"/> No
	7	Direct expense summary. Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d)			()
	8	Net gaming income summary. Combine lines 1 and 7 in column (d)			()

	Yes	No
9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization operates gaming activities: _____		
a Is the organization licensed to operate gaming activities in each of these states?	9a	
b If "No," Explain: _____		
10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended or terminated during the tax year?	10a	
b If "Yes," Explain: _____		
11 Does the organization operate gaming activities with nonmembers?	11	
12 Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming?	12	

13 Indicate the percentage of gaming activity operated in:

a The organization's facility	13a	%
b An outside facility	13b	%

14 Provide the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records:

Name ► _____

Address ► _____

15a Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue?

b If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization ► \$ _____ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party ► \$ _____ .

c If "Yes," enter name and address:

Name ► _____

Address ► _____

16 Gaming manager information:

Name ► _____

Gaming manager compensation ► \$ _____

Description of services provided ► _____

Director/officer Employee Independent contractor

17 Mandatory distributions:

a Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license?

b Enter the amount of distributions required under state law distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year ► \$ _____

	Yes	No
13a		
13b		
14		
15a		
15b		
16		
17a		
17b		

**SCHEDULE I
(Form 990)**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

**Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations,
Governments, and Individuals in the U.S.**

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, lines 21 or 22.
▶ Attach to Form 990.**

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Name of the organization

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION

Employer identification number

52-2121856

Part I General Information on Grants and Assistance

- 1** Does the organization maintain records to substantiate the amount of the grants or assistance, the grantees' eligibility for the grants or assistance, and the selection criteria used to award the grants or assistance? **Yes** **No**
- 2** Describe in Part IV the organization's procedures for monitoring the use of grant funds in the United States.

Part II Grants and Other Assistance to Governments and Organizations in the United States. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than \$5,000. Check this box if no one recipient received more than \$5,000. Use Part IV and Schedule I-1 (Form 990) if additional space is needed ...

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section if applicable	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of non-cash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
SEA EXPLORER SHIP, FARALLON, INC. 1055 THIRD STREET OAKLAND, CA 94607	94-3307593	501(C)(3)	6,200.	0.			OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
MID-AMERICA BOY SCOUT COUNCIL DURHAM SCOUT CENTER, 12401 WEST MAP OMAHA, NE 68164-1853	47-0376545	501(C)(3)	10,000.	0.			OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
FREE CONGRESS FOUNDATION 1423 POWHATAN STREET, #2 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314	52-1096057	501(C)(3)	10,000.	0.			OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

- 2** Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations **3.**
- 3** Enter total number of other organizations

Part III **Grants and Other Assistance to Individuals in the United States.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 22.
Use Schedule I-1 (Form 990) if additional space is needed.

(a) Type of grant or assistance	(b) Number of recipients	(c) Amount of cash grant	(d) Amount of non-cash assistance	(e) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(f) Description of non-cash assistance

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the information required in Part I, line 2, and any other additional information.

SCHEDULE I, PART I, LINE 1: ACRU MAKES OCCASIONAL GRANTS TO SELECT ORGANIZATIONS. THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE MISSION OF THE ACRU. AS SUCH, GRANTS ARE MADE WHEN THEY ARE DEEMED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ADVANCING THE ACRU'S GOALS OF PROMOTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL AMERICANS. ACRU MANAGEMENT MONITORS THE GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF GRANT RECIPIENTS TO ENSURE THAT GRANTS ARE USED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE ACRU'S TAX-EXEMPT PURPOSE.

**SCHEDULE J
(Form 990)**

Compensation Information

OMB No. 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Attach to Form 990. To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 23.

Name of the organization AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION	Employer identification number 52-2121856
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Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions | <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax indemnification and gross-up payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef) |

b If line 1a is checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain

2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all officers, directors, trustees, and the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?

3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the organization uses to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee |

4 During the year, did any person listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a:

- a** Receive a severance payment or change of control payment?
- b** Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?
- c** Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?
- If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.

Only 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete lines 5-8.

5 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:

- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.

6 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:

- a** The organization?
- b** Any related organization?
- If "Yes" to line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.

7 For persons listed in Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III

8 Were any amounts reported in Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regs. section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III

	Yes	No
1b		
2		
4a		X
4b		X
4c		X
5a		X
5b		X
6a		X
6b		X
7		X
8		X

Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees. Use Schedule J-1 if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported in Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii). Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII.

Note. The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) must equal the applicable column (D) or column (E) amounts on Form 990, Part VII, line 1a.

(A) Name		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation reported in prior Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other compensation				
SUSAN A. CARLESON	(i)	150,000.	0.	0.	0.	6,524.	156,524.	0.
	(ii)	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.	0.
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
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	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							
	(i)							
	(ii)							

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990

▶ Attach to Form 990. To be completed by organizations to provide additional information for responses to specific questions for the Form 990 or to provide any additional information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION

Employer identification number

52-2121856

FORM 990, PART III, LINE 1, DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION MISSION:

THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION IS TO PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS, BY PUBLICLY ADVANCING A CONSTITUTIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF CIVIL RIGHTS; MONITORING JUDICIAL NOMINEES, JUDGES, AND LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHILE RESISTING THOSE THAT THREATEN CIVIL RIGHTS; AND FILING AMICUS BRIEFS IN CRITICAL CIVIL RIGHTS COURT CASES. BELIEVING THAT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS, IS THE GREATEST LEGAL DOCUMENT EVER WRITTEN, THE ACRU STANDS AGAINST HARMFUL ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL IDEOLOGIES THAT HAVE TAKEN HOLD IN OUR NATION'S COURTS, LAW SCHOOLS, AND BUREAUCRACIES. WHILE OTHERS PROMOTE ENTITLEMENTS AND LICENSE IN THE NAME OF "LIBERTIES", THE ACRU DEFENDS THE CIVIL RIGHTS SET FORTH AT THE AMERICAN FOUNDING.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 10: THE CEO AND THE OUTSOURCED ACCOUNTANT BOTH REVIEW THE 990 BEFORE IT IS FILED. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL RECEIVE A COPY FOR REVIEW BEFORE IT IS FILED FOR THE 2008 RETURN.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C: THE CEO COMPLETES A CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT EACH YEAR AS PART OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT. MEMBERS OF THE BOARD RECEIVE A COPY OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY THE YEAR IN WHICH THEY JOIN THE BOARD. IN 2009, THE BOARD WILL BEGIN CERTIFYING EACH YEAR THAT EACH MEMBER HAS READ AND IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15: CEO'S ANNUAL SALARY IS SET BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990

▶ Attach to Form 990. To be completed by organizations to provide additional information for responses to specific questions for the Form 990 or to provide any additional information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION

Employer identification number

52-2121856

PRACTICES, THE CEO RECUSES HERSELF FROM ANY DISCUSSION OR VOTE REGARDING
HER COMPENSATION. THE BOARD MUST APPROVE ANY SUBSEQUENT SALARY INCREASES.

FORM 990, PART VI, LINE 17, LIST OF STATES RECEIVING COPY OF FORM 990:

AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS
MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI,
WY

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19: THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, CONFLICT
OF INTEREST POLICY AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

SCHEDULE G, PART I, LINE 2B, COLUMN (V): ACRU'S CONTRACT WITH EBERLE &
ASSOCIATES AND HSP DIRECT PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT OF FUNDRAISING EXPENSES
SUCH AS POSTAGE, PRINTING, AND CAGING FEES. THESE AMOUNTS ARE NOT
INCLUDED WITHIN THE PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING FEES SHOWN IN COLUMN V.

TOTAL FUNDRAISING EXPENSES (EXCLUSIVE OF PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING FEES)
ADMINISTERED BY EBERLE & ASSOCIATES WERE \$818,545 FOR 2008. TOTAL
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES (EXCLUSIVE OF PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING FEES)
ADMINISTERED BY HSP DIRECT WERE \$125,447 FOR 2008.

SCH L, PART IV, BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING INTERESTED PERSONS:

(A) NAME OF PERSON: PETER FERRARA

(D) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION: MR. FERRARA PROVIDES SERVICES TO THE
ACRU IN HIS CAPACITY AS GENERAL COUNSEL. HIS DUTIES CONSIST OF LEGAL
ADVICE, LEGAL RESEARCH AND THE PREPARATION OF AMICUS CURIAE BRIEFS FOR
COURT CASES DEEMED IMPORTANT BY ACRU. THESE LEGAL SERVICES ARE CONDUCTED

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990

▶ Attach to Form 990. To be completed by organizations to provide additional information for responses to specific questions for the Form 990 or to provide any additional information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION

Employer identification number

52-2121856

BY MR. FERRARA VIA HIS WHOLLY OWNED LAW FIRM.

FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINES 13 AND 14

2009 WHISTLEBLOWER AND DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICIES

ACRU WILL ADOPT WRITTEN WHISTLEBLOWER AND DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICIES

DURING 2009.

Application for Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return

▶ **File a separate application for each return.**

- If you are filing for an **Automatic 3-Month Extension**, complete only **Part I** and check this box
 - If you are filing for an **Additional (Not Automatic) 3-Month Extension**, complete only **Part II** (on page 2 of this form).
- Do not complete Part II unless** you have already been granted an automatic 3-month extension on a previously filed Form 8868.

Part I Automatic 3-Month Extension of Time. Only submit original (no copies needed).

A corporation required to file Form 990-T and requesting an automatic 6-month extension - check this box and complete Part I only

All other corporations (including 1120-C filers), partnerships, REMICs, and trusts must use Form 7004 to request an extension of time to file income tax returns.

Electronic Filing (e-file). Generally, you can electronically file Form 8868 if you want a 3-month automatic extension of time to file one of the returns noted below (6 months for a corporation required to file Form 990-T). However, you cannot file Form 8868 electronically if (1) you want the additional (not automatic) 3-month extension or (2) you file Forms 990-BL, 6069, or 8870, group returns, or a composite or consolidated Form 990-T. Instead, you must submit the fully completed and signed page 2 (Part II) of Form 8868. For more details on the electronic filing of this form, visit www.irs.gov/efile and click on *e-file for Charities & Nonprofits*.

Type or print	Name of Exempt Organization AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS UNION	Employer identification number 52-2121856
File by the due date for filing your return. See instructions.	Number, street, and room or suite no. If a P.O. box, see instructions. 3213 DUKE STREET , NO. 625	
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. For a foreign address, see instructions. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314	

Check type of return to be filed (file a separate application for each return):

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form 990 | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-T (corporation) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 4720 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-BL | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-T (sec. 401(a) or 408(a) trust) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 5227 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-EZ | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-T (trust other than above) | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 6069 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Form 990-PF | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 1041-A | <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8870 |

ACRU

- The books are in the care of ▶ **3213 DUKE STREET #625 - ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**
Telephone No. ▶ **703-807-0242** FAX No. ▶ _____
- If the organization does not have an office or place of business in the United States, check this box
- If this is for a Group Return, enter the organization's four digit Group Exemption Number (GEN) _____. If this is for the whole group, check this box . If it is for part of the group, check this box and attach a list with the names and EINs of all members the extension will cover.

1 I request an automatic 3-month (6-months for a corporation required to file Form 990-T) extension of time until **AUGUST 15, 2009**, to file the exempt organization return for the organization named above. The extension is for the organization's return for:
▶ calendar year **2008** or
▶ tax year beginning _____, and ending _____.

2 If this tax year is for less than 12 months, check reason: Initial return Final return Change in accounting period

3a If this application is for Form 990-BL, 990-PF, 990-T, 4720, or 6069, enter the tentative tax, less any nonrefundable credits. See instructions.	3a	\$	
b If this application is for Form 990-PF or 990-T, enter any refundable credits and estimated tax payments made. Include any prior year overpayment allowed as a credit.	3b	\$	
c Balance Due. Subtract line 3b from line 3a. Include your payment with this form, or, if required, deposit with FTD coupon or, if required, by using EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System). See instructions.	3c	\$	N/A

Caution. If you are going to make an electronic fund withdrawal with this Form 8868, see Form 8453-EO and Form 8879-EO for payment instructions.