

Form 990
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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)

OMB No 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

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 01-01-2008 and ending 12-31-2008

- B Check if applicable
Address change
Name change
Initial return
Termination
Amended return
Application pending

Please use IRS label or print or type. See Specific Instructions.

C Name of organization
CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT
Doing Business As
Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
12 SOUTH SIXTH STREET No 1024
City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 554021525

D Employer identification number
36-3611426
E Telephone number
(612) 338-3605
G Gross receipts \$ 1,039,851

F Name and address of Principal Officer
DWIGHT TOSTENSON
12 SOUTH SIXTH STREET No 1024
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 554021525

H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? Yes No

H(b) Are all affiliates included? Yes 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 Web site: HTTP //WWW.AMERICANEXPERIMENT.ORG

K Type of organization Corporation trust association other

L Year of Formation 1988

M State of legal domicile MN

Part I Summary

Table with 3 columns: Description, Prior Year, Current Year. Rows include: 1-7a Activities & Governance, 8-12 Revenue, 13-19 Expenses, 20-22 Net Assets or Fund Balances.

Part II Signature Block

Please Sign Here
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including a and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than of)
Signature of officer: DWIGHT TOSTENSON CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

Paid Preparer's Use Only
Preparer's signature: Jay Abdo
Date: 2009-07-20
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4: ABDO EICK & MEYERS LLP, 5201 EDEN AVENUE SUITE 370, EDINA, MN 55436

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (See instructio

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (See the instructions.)

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission

See Additional Data Table

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 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 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 (4) organizations and 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 \$ 120,933 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

Education & Culture Policy Initiative The Center's founder and president Mitch Pearlstein continues to make the case that family breakdown is the overwhelming social disaster of our time and that lifting troubled lives almost always has more to do with personal responsibility and faith than with new governmental programs and higher taxes He also continues his strong advocacy for school choice and the academic research that shows the exciting promise it holds for poor and minority children in particular In 2008 he published a dozen op-eds, gave numerous speeches, led eight public forums, and edited numerous Center publications In addition he released his latest book Riding into the Sunset Al Que and a Life of Faith, Service & Civility

4b (Code) (Expenses \$ 90,838 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 12,565)

Public Programs The Center continued its tradition of bringing in prominent experts to bravely address important and timely topics In 2008 we hosted six public forums Prof Wilfred McClay on the future of conservatism, "Holding to Principle Can Politicians Do It Without Brutalizing Each Other," with former Minnesota legislative leaders Roger Moe and Steve Sviggum, "Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions What are the Real Economic Costs?" with respected economist Margo Thorning, "Troublemaker A Personal History of School Reform since Sputnik," with leading education critic Chester E Finn, Jr, "Lincoln's Political Faith Does It Still Have a Place in Presidential Leadership?" with Prof Joseph R Fornieri, a special RNC Convention Forum on presidential rhetoric with author and former speechwriter David Frum, and Powerline Blog's John Hinderaker Total registered attendance 590

4c (Code) (Expenses \$ 80,816 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)


















Health Care Policy Initiative Peter Nelson, J D leads our Initiative, a Minnesota-focused project of research, policy advising, education, and public events aimed at advancing high quality, accessible, and affordable health care for all We focus on consumer-driven reforms that engage consumers, expand competition, and eliminate counterproductive government regulation Gov Tim Pawlenty closed the 2008 legislative session by signing the most significant health care legislation in 15 years an omnibus bill containing several reforms that American Experiment helped shape In 2008 our prolific output included A Conversation about Canadian and American Health Care, with Lee Kurisko, M D , a fascinating first-hand account of the flaws in Canada's health care system from a former Canadian doctor (and staunch believer in its moral superiority) and how he finally decided he had to move to the United States to deliver a high standard of care, "Health Care Entrepreneurs Needed," a Star Tribune op-ed about the government obstacles that block entrepreneurs from entering the health care field and delivering better quality at lower prices, Appraising a Health Insurance Exchange for Minnesota, "What to Expect from Uniform Pricing of Health Care Services, a Policy in Detail report, and "Medical Home Policy Recommendations," a Policy in Detail report

(Code) (Expenses \$ 279,921 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$ 393)




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

4e Total program service expenses \$ 572,508 *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> 	Yes	
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors? 	Yes	
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> 		No
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> 	Yes	
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> 		No
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>		No
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> 		No
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> 		No
10	Did the organization hold assets in term, permanent, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i> 		No
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> 	Yes	
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> 	Yes	
13	Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i>		No
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the U S ?		No
14b	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>		No
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>		No
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>		No
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> 		No
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> 	Yes	
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> 		No
20	Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H</i>		No
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>		No
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>		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, questions 3, 4, or 5? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>		No
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>		No
24b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?		
24c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?		
24d	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> 		No
25b	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> 		No
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> 	Yes	
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> 		No

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> 		No
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> 		No
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> 		No
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>		No
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>		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>		No
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>		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations section 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>		No
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>		No
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>		No
36	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>		No
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5 percent 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>		No

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096, <i>Annual Summary and Transmittal of U.S. Information Returns</i> . Enter -0- if not applicable		
	1a 5		
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?	Yes	
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, <i>Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements</i> filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return		
	2a 8		
b	If at least one is reported in 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note: If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file this return.	Yes	
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year covered by this return?		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O		
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)?		No
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?		No
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?		No
c	If "Yes," to 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T, <i>Disclosure by Tax-Exempt Entity Regarding Prohibited Tax Shelter Transaction</i> ?		
6a	Did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?		
7	<i>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</i>		
a	Did the organization provide goods or services in exchange for any quid pro quo contribution of \$75 or more?	Yes	
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	Yes	
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?		No
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?		No
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?		No
g	For all contributions of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?		No
h	For contributions of cars, boats, airplanes, and other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C as required?		No
8	<i>Section 501(c)(3) and other sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations.</i> Did the supporting organization, or a fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?		
9	<i>Section 501(c)(3) and other sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</i>		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?		
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?		
10	<i>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</i> Enter		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12		
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities		
11	<i>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</i> Enter		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders		
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them)		
12a	<i>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</i> 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		
	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 2-7 below, and for a "No" response to lines 8 or 9b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body		
1b	Enter the number of voting members that are independent		
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its organizational documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?		No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a material diversion of the organization's assets?		No
6	Does the organization have members or stockholders?		No
7a	Does the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who may elect one or more members of the governing body?		No
7b	Are any decisions of the governing body subject to approval by members, stockholders, or other persons?		No
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
8a	the governing body?	Yes	
8b	each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	Yes	
9a	Does the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
9b	If "Yes," does the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with those of the organization?		
10	Was a copy of the Form 990 provided to the organization's governing body before it was filed? All organizations must describe in Schedule O the process, if any, the organization uses to review the Form 990	Yes	
11	Is there any officer, director or trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O		No

Section B. Policies

		Yes	No
12a	Does the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No", go to line 13		No
12b	Are officers, directors or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?		
12c	Does the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this is done		
13	Does the organization have a written whistleblower policy?		No
14	Does the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?		No
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision		
15a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official?	Yes	
15b	Other officers or key employees of the organization? Describe the process in Schedule O	Yes	
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
16b	If "Yes," has the organization adopted a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable Federal tax law, and taken steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

Section C. Disclosure

- 17** List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed MN
- 18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you make these available. Check all that apply.
 own website another's website upon request
- 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. See Additional Data Table
- 20** State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization
 CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT
 12 SOUTH SIXTH STREET STE 1024
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402
 (612) 338-3605

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

		(A) Total Revenue	(B) Related or Exempt Function Revenue	(C) Unrelated Business Revenue	(D) Revenue Excluded from Tax under IRC 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, gifts, grants and other similar amounts	1a Federated campaigns . . . 1a					
	b Membership dues 1b					
	c Fundraising events 295,726 1c					
	d Related organizations . . . 1d					
	e Government grants (contributions) 1e					
	f All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above 540,421 1f					
	g Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____					
	h Total (Add lines 1a-1f)	836,147				
Program Service Revenue	Business Code					
	2a FORUMS	611,600	12,565	12,565		
	b PUBLICATIONS	511,190	393	393		
	c _____					
	d _____					
	e _____					
	f All other program service revenue					
g Total. Add lines 2a-2f						
▶ \$ 12,958						
Other Revenue	3 Investment income (including dividends, interest other similar amounts)		465		465	
	4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds					
	5 Royalties					
	6a Gross Rents	(i) Real				
		(ii) Personal				
		b Less rental expenses				
		c Rental income or (loss)				
	d Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	11,730			
		(ii) Other				
		b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses	11,851			
		c Gain or (loss)	-121			
	d Net gain or (loss)		-121		-121	
	8a Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ 295,726 of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 Attach Schedule G if total exceeds \$15,000 a					
	b Less direct expenses . . . b					
c Net income or (loss) from fundraising events						
9a Gross income from gaming activities See part IV, line 19 Complete Schedule G if total exceeds \$15,000 a						
b Less direct expenses . . . b						
c Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . a						
b Less cost of goods sold . . . b						
c Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory						
Miscellaneous Revenue						
Business Code						
11a _____						
b _____						
c _____						
d All other revenue _____						
e Total. Add lines 11a-11d \$						
12 Total Revenue. Add lines 1h, 2g, 3, 4, 5, 6d, 7d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e		849,449	12,958	0	344	

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				
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	161,670	115,704	25,293	20,673
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	234,588	179,548		45,645
8	Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)	2,592	2,592		
9	Other employee benefits	54,670	39,469	2,205	12,996
10	Payroll taxes	33,603	25,205	2,949	5,449
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management				
b	Legal				
c	Accounting	11,401	9,394	821	1,186
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other				
12	Advertising and promotion				
13	Office expenses	23,351	18,926	1,654	2,771
14	Information technology	34,072	30,730	140	3,202
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy	33,870	27,909	2,439	3,522
17	Travel	4,243	3,072	4	1,167
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any Federal, state or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions and meetings	40,035	39,801	234	
20	Interest	5,337	4,398	384	555
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	4,016	3,309	289	418
23	Insurance	881	726	63	92
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	PUBLICATIONS	60,239	60,239		
b	FUNDRAISING	21,742			21,742
c	OTHER	13,819	11,486	1,004	1,329
f	All other expenses				
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	740,129	572,508	46,874	120,747
26	Joint Costs. Check <input 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				

Part X Balance Sheet

		(A)		(B)
		Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	4,052	1	82,768
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	37,972	2	7
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	8,000	4	
	5 Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees or other related parties <i>Complete Part II of Schedule L</i>		5	
	6 Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B) <i>Complete Part II of Schedule L</i>		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use		8	
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	3,735	9	6,038
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment cost basis			
		10a 118,994		
	b Less accumulated depreciation <i>Complete Part VI of Schedule D</i>			
		10b 108,670	3,971	10c 10,324
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	1,002
	12 Investments—other securities See Part IV, line 11 <i>Complete Part VII of Schedule D</i>		12	
	13 Investments—program-related See Part IV, line 11 <i>Complete Part VIII of Schedule D</i>		13	
14 Intangible assets		14		
15 Other assets See Part IV, line 11 <i>Complete Part IX of Schedule D</i>		15		
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	57,730	16	100,139	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	72,766	17	61,725
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue	11,280	19	4,410
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow account liability <i>Complete Part IV of Schedule D</i>		21	
	22 Payable to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons <i>Complete Part II of Schedule L</i>	99,000	22	2,000
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	55,000	23	200,000
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable		24	
	25 Other liabilities <i>Complete Part X of Schedule D</i>	97,000	25	0
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	335,046	26	268,135
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	-315,288	27	-167,996
	28 Temporarily restricted net assets	37,972	28	0
	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	-277,316	33	-167,996	
34 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	57,730	34	100,139	

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?		No
2b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	Yes	
2c	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?	Yes	
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?		No
3b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits?		

**SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or
990EZ)**

Public Charity Status and Public Support

OMB No 1545-0047

2008

**Open to Public
Inspection**

To be completed by all section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts.
Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. See separate instructions.

Department of the
Treasury
Internal Revenue
Service

Name of the organization
CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number

36-3611426

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (to be completed by all organizations) (See Instructions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (Please check only **one** organization)

- 1 A church, convention of churches, or association of churches described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(i)**.
- 2 A school described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)**. (Attach Schedule E)
- 3 A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. (Attach Schedule H)
- 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii)**. Enter the hospital's name, city, and state _____
- 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv)**. (Complete Part II)
- 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(v)**.
- 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)
- 8 A community trust described in **Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)
- 9 An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **Section 509(a)(2)**. (Complete Part III)
- 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety See **Section 509(a)(4)**. (See instructions)
- 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) See **Section 509(a)(3)**. Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h
 a Type I b Type II c Type III - Functionally Integrated d Type III - Other
- e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2)
- f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II or Type III supporting organization, check this box
- g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

- (i) a person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the the supported organization?
- (ii) a family member of a person described in (i) above?
- (iii) a 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

h Provide the following information about the organizations the organization supports

(i) Name of Supported Organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 9 above or IRC section (See Instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U S ?		(vii) Amount of support?
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in IRC 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.)

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")	524,000	467,208	563,262	909,208	811,152	3,274,830
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 line 1-3	524,000	467,208	563,262	909,208	811,152	3,274,830
5 The portion of total contribution by each person (other than a government unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceed 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						303,155
6 Public Support subtract line 5 from line 4						2,971,675

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	524,000	1,348	563,262	909,208	811,152	3,274,830
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	1,208	1,348	66	1,053	465	4,140
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)						
11 Total Support (Add lines 7 through 10)						3,278,970
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (See instructions)					12	1,975,861
13 First Five Years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						<input type="checkbox"/>

Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public Support Percentage for 2008 (line 6 column (f) divided by line 11 column (f))	14	90.630%
15 Public Support Percentage for 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f	15	86.940%

- 16a 33 1/3% 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
- b 33 1/3% Test - 2007.** If the organization did not check the 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
- 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
- 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
- 18 Private Foundation.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a or 17b, check this box and see instructions

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in IRC 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 Total of lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public Support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

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 30 June, 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 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here <input type="checkbox"/>						

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 for 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g	16	

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% 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% 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

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the information required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b, or Part III, line 12. Provide any other additional information. (see instructions)

Additional Data

Software ID:

Software Version:

EIN: 36-3611426

Name: CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Form 990, Part I, Line 1 - Briefly describe the Organization's mission or most significant activities:

Center of the American Experiment is a nonpartisan public policy and educational institution that brings conservative and free market ideas to bear on the hardest problems facing Minnesota and the nation. Through research, op-eds, public forums, legislative roundtables, and a stream of publications, we supply the intellectual ammunition necessary to change both public opinion and public policy.

Form 990, Part III, Line 1 - Briefly describe the organization's mission:

Center of the American Experiment is a nonpartisan public policy and educational institution that brings conservative and free market ideas to bear on the hardest problems facing Minnesota and the nation. Through research, op-eds, public forums, legislative roundtables, and a stream of publications, we supply the intellectual ammunition necessary to change both public opinion and public policy.

SCHEDULE C (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

OMB No 1545-0047

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

To be completed by organizations described below. Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, Line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities)

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
Section 527 organizations complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, Line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities)

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) complete Part II-A Do not complete Part II-B
Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

If the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, Line 5 (Proxy Tax)

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations complete Part III

Name of the organization CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number

36-3611426

Part I-A To be completed by all organizations exempt under section 501(c) and section 527 organizations. (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV
2 Political expenditures \$
3 Volunteer hours

Part I-B To be completed by all organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3). (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 \$
2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 \$
3 If the organization incurred in a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? Yes No
4a Was a correction made? Yes No
b If "Yes," describe in Part IV

Part I-C To be completed by all organizations exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3). (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities \$
2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's internal funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities \$
3 Total of direct and indirect exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2 and enter here and on Form 1120-POL, line 17b \$
4 Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year? Yes No
5 State the names, addresses and Employer Identification Number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which payments were made

Table with 5 columns: (a) Name, (b) Address, (c) EIN, (d) Amount paid from filing organization's internal funds, (e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization.

Part II-A To be completed by organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) that filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)). (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

- A** Check if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group
B Check if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures— (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)	(a) Filing Organization's Totals	(b) Affiliated Group Totals
1a Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grass roots lobbying)		
b Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)		
c Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)		
d Other exempt purpose expenditures		
e Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)		
f Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns— If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is: Not over \$500,000 Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000 Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000 Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000 Over \$17,000,000 The lobbying nontaxable amount is: 20% of the amount on line 1e \$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000 \$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000 \$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000 \$1,000,000		
g Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)		
h Subtract line 1g from line 1a Enter -0- if line g is more than line a		
i Subtract line 1f from line 1c Enter -0- if line f is more than line c		
j If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)
 (Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below. See the instructions for lines 1a through 1f of the instructions.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) Total
2a Lobbying non-taxable amount					
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column(e))					
c Total lobbying expenditures					
d Grassroots non-taxable amount					
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line d, column (e))					
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Part II-B To be completed by organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)). (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

	(a)		(b)
	Yes	No	Amount
1 During the year, did the filing organization attempt to influence foreign, national, state or local legislation, including any attempt to influence public opinion on a legislative matter or referendum, through the use of			
a Volunteers?		No	
b Paid staff or management (include compensation in expenses reported on lines c through i)?	Yes		
c Media advertisements?		No	
d Mailings to members, legislators, or the public?		No	
e Publications, or published or broadcast statements?		No	
f Grants to other organizations for lobbying purposes?		No	
g Direct contact with legislators, their staffs, government officials, or a legislative body?		No	
h Rallies, demonstrations, seminars, conventions, speeches, lectures, or any other means?		No	
i Other activities If "Yes," describe in Part IV		No	
j Total lines 1c through 1i			
2a Did the activities in line 1 cause the organization to be not described in section 501(c)(3)?		No	
b If "Yes" enter the amount of any tax incurred under section 4912			
c If "Yes" enter the amount of any tax incurred by organization managers under section 4912			
d If the filing organization incurred a section 4912 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year?			

Part III-A To be completed by all organizations exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6). (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

	Yes	No
1 Were substantially all (90% or more) dues received nondeductible by members?	1	
2 Did the organization make only in-house lobbying expenditures of \$2,000 or less?	2	
3 Did the organization agree to carryover lobbying and political expenditures from the prior year?	3	

Part III-B To be completed by all organizations exempt under section 501(c)(4), section 501(c)(5), or section 501(c)(6) if BOTH Part III-A, questions 1 and 2 are answered "No" OR if Part III-A, question 3 is answered "Yes." (See the instructions for Schedule C for details.)

1 Dues, assessments and similar amounts from members	1 \$
2 Section 162(e) non-deductible lobbying and political expenditures <i>(do not include amounts of political expenses for which the section 527(f) tax was paid).</i>	
a Current Year	2a \$
b Carryover from last year	2b \$
c Total	2c \$
3 Aggregate amount reported in section 6033(e)(1)(A) notices of nondeductible section 162(e) dues	3 \$
4 If notices were sent and the amount on line 2c exceeds the amount on line 3, what portion of the excess does the organization agree to carryover to the reasonable estimate of nondeductible lobbying and political expenditure next year?	4 \$
5 Taxable amount of lobbying and political expenditures (line 2c total minus 3 and 4)	5 \$

Part IV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part I-A, line 1, Part I-B, line 4, Part I-C, line 5, and Part II-B, line 1. Also, complete this part for any additional information.

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Part II-B, Line 1	Explanation of Other Lobbying Activities	LINE B PAID STAFF OR MGMT OUR POLICY FELLOW WORKED PART TIME IN THIS CAPACITY IN 2008 DURING THE TIME WHEN THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE WAS IN SESSION HE DEVOTED LESS THAN 10% OF HIS TIME TO MONITOR AND TRACK LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO OUR ORGANIZATION LINE D MAILINGS TO MEMBERS, LEGISLATORS, OR THE PUBLIC NONE OF THE REPORTS WE RELEASED CONSTITUTED A LOBBYING ACTIVITY THE ONLY OTHER CORRESPONDENCE WE SEND TO ELECTED OFFICIALS IS TO RESPOND TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON A CERTAIN TOPIC LINE E PUBLICATIONS, OR PUBLISHED OR BROADCASTED STATEMENTS WE POST ON OUR WEB SITE ESSAYS AND REPORTS WHICH OCCASIONALLY PERTAIN TO LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY BUT DON'T CONSTITUTE A LOBBYING ACTIVITY IN 2008, WE PUBLISHED 12 REPORTS AND ESSAYS COVERING VARIOUS TOPICS LINE G DIRECT CONTACT WITH LEGISLATORS, THEIR STAFF, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, OR A LEGISLATIVE BODY OUR STAFF, IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES, OCCASIONALLY HAVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH LEGISLATORS, THEIR STAFF, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS EDUCATION REFORM, CULTURAL ISSUES, AND HEALTH CARE REFORM THIS CONTACT WAS EITHER BY PHONE OR IN PERSON LINE H RALLIES, DEMONSTRATIONS, SEMINARS, CONVENTIONS, SPEECHES, LECTURES, OR ANY OTHER MEANS WE HOSTED NUMEROUS PUBLIC PROGRAMS DURING 2008 HOWEVER THESE PROGRAMS DO NOT CONSTITUTE LOBBYING AND WE DO NOT LOBBY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON THESE OR ANY OTHER TOPICS

SCHEDULE D (Form 990)

OMB No 1545-0047

Supplemental Financial Statements

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 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12.

Name of the organization CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number 36-3611426

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.

Table with 3 columns: Description, (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows include Total number at end of year, Aggregate Contributions to, Aggregate Grants from, Aggregate value at end of year, and two questions about donor advised funds.

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

Table with 2 columns: Description, Held at the End of the Year. Rows include Purpose(s) of conservation easements, Total number of conservation easements, Total acreage restricted, Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure, and various monitoring and enforcement questions.

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.

Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Rows include questions about reporting art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research.

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 the 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 why in Part XIV and complete the following table

Table with columns for Amount and rows for 1c Beginning balance, 1d Additions during the year, 1e Distributions during the year, 1f Ending balance

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 the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

Table with columns (a) Current Year, (b) Prior Year, (c) Two Years Back, (d) Three Years Back, (e) Four Years Back and rows 1a-1g for various balance and expense categories

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

Table with columns Yes No and rows 3a(i) unrelated organizations, 3a(ii) related organizations, 3b If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

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.

Table with columns (a) Cost or other basis (investment), (b) Cost or other basis (other), (c) Depreciation, (d) Book value and rows 1a Land, 1b Buildings, 1c Leasehold improvements, 1d Equipment, 1e Other, Total

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	849,449
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	740,129
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	109,320
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	
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	0
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per financial statements Combine lines 3 and 9	10	109,320

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	1,028,121
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	178,672
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	178,672
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	849,449
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	849,449

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

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	918,801
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	178,672
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	178,672
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	740,129
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	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c . (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)	5	740,129

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 XIV, 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

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation

SCHEDULE G (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities

OMB No 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. Must be completed by organizations that answer "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, lines 17, 18, or 19, and by organizations that enter more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

Name of the organization CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number 36-3611426

Part I Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 17.

- 1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply. a Mail solicitations, b Email solicitations, c Phone solicitations, d In-person solicitations, e Solicitation of non-government grants, f Solicitation of government grants, g Special fundraising events.

- 2a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual... b If "Yes," list the ten highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements...

Table with 6 columns: (i) Name of individual or entity (fundraiser), (ii) Activity, (iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?, (iv) Gross receipts from activity, (v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col (i), (vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization.

3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit funds or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing

Part III 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
		<u>ANNUAL DINNER</u> (event type)	<u>FALL BRIEFING</u> (event type)	(total number)	(Add col (a) through col (c))
Revenue	1 Gross receipts	359,798	114,479		474,277
	2 Less Charitable contributions	223,343	72,383		295,726
	3 Gross revenue (line 1 minus line 2)	136,455	42,096		178,551
Direct Expenses	4 Cash Prizes				
	5 Non-cash Prizes				
	6 Rent/Facility costs				
	7 Other direct expenses	136,455	42,096		178,551
	8 Direct expense summary Add lines 4 through 7 in column (d) ▶				178,551
	9 Net income summary Combine lines 3 and 8 in column (d) ▶				0

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))
		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		
16		
17a		

Schedule L (Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Transactions with Interested Persons

OMB No 1545-0047

2008

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, lines 25a, 25b, 26, 27, 28a, 28b, or 28c, or Form 990-EZ, Part V lines 38b or 40b.

Name of the organization CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number 36-3611426

Part I Excess Benefit Transactions (section 501(c)(3) and section 501 (c)(4) organizations only).

To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 25a or 25b, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 40b

Table with 3 main columns: (a) Name of disqualified person, (b) Description of transaction, (c) Corrected? (Yes/No)

2 Enter the amount of tax imposed on the organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under section 4958 \$

3 Enter the amount of tax, if any, on line 2, above, reimbursed by the organization \$

Part II Loans to and/or From Interested Persons

To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 26, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 38a

Table with columns: (a) Name of interested person and purpose, (b) Loan to or from the organization?, (c) Original principal amount, (d) Balance due, (e) In default?, (f) Approved by board or committee?, (g) Written agreement?

Part III Grants or Assistance Benefitting Interested Persons

To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 27.

Table with columns: (a) Name of interested person, (b) Relationship between interested person and the organization, (c) Amount of grant or type of assistance

Part IV Business Transactions Involving Interested Persons

To be completed by organizations that answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 28a, 28b, or 28c.

Table with columns: (a) Name of interested person, (b) Relationship between interested person and the organization, (c) Amount of transaction, (d) Description of transaction, (e) Sharing of organization's revenues?

**SCHEDULE O
(Form 990)**

Supplemental Information to Form 990

2008

**Open to Public
Inspection**

Department of the
Treasury
Internal Revenue
Service

▶ 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.

Name of the organization
CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

Employer identification number

36-3611426

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
Form 990, Part III, line 4d	Other Program Services	<p>Publications In addition to audio from our Forums and numerous op-eds published in the Star Tribune and other outlets, we released the following publications in 2008 1 "A Conversation about Canadian and American Health Care, with Lee Kurisko, MD" A fascinating first-hand account of the flaws in Canada's health care system from a former Canadian doctor (and staunch believer in its moral superiority) and how he finally decided he had to move to the United States to deliver a high standard of care 2 When the financial crisis and bailouts began in earnest in Sept of 2008, we quickly solicited commentaries from thoughtful conservatives in Minnesota and across the country, posing the free-wheeling question "What's a Free Marketeer to Think?" In an exceptionally well-received package, we wound up electronically publishing 31 pieces in eight installments over three weeks 3 What Does It Mean to be an Urban Conservative? A symposium featuring 40 writers from around Minnesota and the nation 4 "Safeguarding and Rebuilding America's Physical Infrastructure The Indispensable Role of Markets," from a Forum with Robert Poole of the Reason Foundation 5 "Vitalizing Conservatism in Minnesota and the Nation," by Prof Wilfred McClay 6 "Searching for Climate Change A More Temperate Take on Global Warming," by respected climatologist John Christy 7 "Holding to Principle Can Politicians Do It Without Brutalizing Each Other," with former Minnesota legislative leaders Roger Moe and Steve Sviggum 8 "Lincoln's Political Faith Does It Still Have a Place in Presidential Leadership?" with Prof Joseph R Fornieri 9 "What to Expect from Uniform Pricing of Health Care Services," by Peter J Nelson 10 "Medical Home Policy Recommendations," by Peter J Nelson 11 Learning From Lincoln Principle and Pragmatism Getting the Balance Right A symposium featuring 29 writers from around Minnesota and the nation 12 "Why are American Jews so Liberal?" by Laurence D Cooper Expenses \$ 76518 including grants of \$ 0 Revenue \$ 393</p>
Form 990, Part III, line 4d	Other Program Services	<p>Intellectual Takeout Web Site Launched in 2005, IntellectualTakeout.com was the result of an in-depth process, aided by marketing professionals, to develop a name, look, and feel that specifically appealed to today's college students The site gave students instant access to both the fundamentals of conservative thought and talking points on current hot topics Finally, they had the intellectual ammunition they needed to challenge liberal professors on topics such as environmentalism, globalization and free market economics IntellectualTakeout.com was a powerful web site, but unfortunately its influence suffered from a lack of staffing to keep it updated, and a lack of funds to properly market this unique resource In 2008 a grant made it possible to update content and hire a skilled internet marketing company to redesign the site with the interactive and social networking features needed to appeal to today's students Once re-launched with proper updating and marketing, IntellectualTakeout will be poised to become a vibrant on-line community and the premier destination for students interested in an open and honest debate of ideas It will also serve as a visible counterweight to the ideological imbalance on campus by providing users with a conservative and free-market perspective on issues at their fingertips Expenses \$ 54128 including grants of \$ 0 Revenue \$ 0</p>
Form 990, Part III, line 4d	Other Program Services	<p>Energy and Environment Initiative When hysteria over global warming reached fever pitch a couple of years ago, we brought in Dr John Christy of the University of Alabama, one of the top climate scientists in the country to inject some clear thinking into the debate We professionally recorded his presentation and distributed the DVD to over 5,000 opinion leaders (including 1,000 school principals) in Minnesota It was such a hit we were given a grant in 2008 to send 60,000 DVDs to State Policy Network members nationwide Also, the over 500 participants at the 2008 International Conference on Climate Change each received a copy of the DVD in their welcome bag When liberal-funded "climate change advisory groups" began to spring up in a number of states we monitored and critiqued the activities of the Minnesota group and sent regular updates to a national watchdog Next we brought in respected economist Margo Thorning to discuss the real economic costs of reducing greenhouse gases We leveraged Ms Thorning's visit by scheduling a full day of media appearances and meetings with key members of legislature and the governor's staff Expenses \$ 38878 including grants of \$ 0 Revenue \$ 0</p>
Form 990, Part III, line 4d	Other Program Services	<p>ALL OTHER PROGRAM SERVICES Expenses \$ 110397 including grants of \$ 0 Revenue \$ 0</p>
Form 990, Part VI, Section A, line 10		<p>A COPY OF FORM 990 WAS PROVIDED TO EACH BOARD MEMBER FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO THE JULY BOARD MEETING AT THE JULY, BOARD MEETING FORM 990 WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD</p>
Form 990, Part VI, Section B, line 15		<p>THE ORGANIZATION'S CEO IS AN UNPAID VOLUNTEER POSITION HELD BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD COMPENSATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S PRESIDENT WAS RECOMMENDED TO THE ORGANIZATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY A COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS WHICH INCLUDED THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN THE COMMITTEE COMPILED AND REVIEWED COMPARABLE DATA FROM OTHER NONPROFIT STATE-BASED PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTES ON COMPENSATION OF THE TOP PAID EXECUTIVE POSITION THIS DATA WAS USED BY THE COMMITTEE IN MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD THE BOARD CONSIDERED THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS, DISCUSSED THE PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE AND APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF COMPENSATION, AND APPROVED THE PROPOSED COMPENSATION FOR THE PRESIDENT AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD MINUTES OF THE BOARD'S DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS WERE RECORDED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZATION, PRESENTED TO THE BOARD AT ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING, AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD COMPENSATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO) WAS DETERMINED BY A COMMITTEE OF THREE INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS, THE CHAIRMAN, THE VICE CHAIRMAN, AND THE PRESIDENT THIS COMMITTEE REVIEWED PERFORMANCE AND COMPENSATION DATA AND DETERMINED COMPENSATION FOR THE COO AND ALL OTHER STAFF OF THE ORGANIZATION EXCEPT FOR THE PRESIDENT</p>
Form 990, Part VI, Section C, line 19		<p>CENTER OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST THE ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</p>
		<p>A COPY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE PROVIDED TO EACH BOARD MEMBER FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO THE BOARD MEETING AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING, THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS IS THEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p>
FORM 990, PAGE 7, PART VII, COLUMN F	MITCH PEARLSTEIN'S OTHER COMPENSATION	<p>DURING 2008, MITCH RECEIVED OTHER COMPENSATION OF (\$50,518) FROM THE ORGANIZATION THE (\$50,518) CONSISTED OF \$37,482 OF NONTAXABLE BENEFITS PAID TO OR ON BEHALF OF MITCH AND THE (\$88,000) WAS FOR DEFERRED COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO MITCH THAT WAS FORGIVEN DURING THE YEAR THE \$88,000 OF FORGIVEN DEFERRED COMPENSATION WAS NOT TAXED IN THE YEAR EARNED AND THEREFORE IS RECOGNIZED AS A SUBTRACTION TO OTHER COMPENSATION IN COLUMN F OF PART VII OR FORM 990</p>