A few weeks ago, we sent out a message to our members asking them to be cautious about donating to organizations and PACs who purport to be conservative and who claim to be raising funds to promote good patriotic candidates for office. We alluded to operations that use much of the money they raise to line the pockets of management and professional fund raisers — little money actually goes to candidates. I realized that many of our people were probably supporters of some of the organizations, so, not wanting to alienate party activists, I gave no specifics to offend loyalties. Our message was essentially an admonition to be careful how much you invest in the big Washington organizations as opposed to grass roots groups.

Some people sent inquiries asking that we name names. Again, I did not think it politically prudent to do so; besides, anyone using Google could have found information on the financial dealings of Washington-based organizations.

Just recently, pundit Ben Swann wrote an article on that very subject which vindicated what we cautioned our party members about. In particular he made mention of Tea party activist David Brat’s upset victory over GOP leader, Virginia Congressman Eric Cantor. In the article he made mention of specific organizations that claimed they had an impact in defeating Cantor and were then asking good conservative Americans to donated more money to their organizations in order to defeat other “RINOs” (Republicans In Name Only). However, when Ben Swann did his research, he found that some of those organizations that claimed they had helped defeat Cantor had not made a single donation to the David Brat campaign. Most of the hundreds of thousands of dollars raised went to pay the salaries and expenses of the promoters.

This is an area in which we can be grateful for the services of our volunteer fund raising team. One member has served on the staff of four presidential campaigns, specifically working on fundraising and financial management. I must emphasize that the significant amount of time and talent they invest — in addition to personal donations and party building activities — have proven critical to party growth. We do have paid staff as well, but we make do with only two part time helpers at the national headquarters in Lancaster.
As party leaders we do our very best to make the wisest use of your donations to build the party and to get on the ballot in as many states as possible. It is your consistent and generous donations that have made it possible to get the Constitution Party on the ballots in New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Alabama recently — and we are currently working on ballot access in Alaska.

I am thankful we have such dedicated members who serve in leadership positions, as candidates, and our thousands of supporters. Each group is vital to our progress.

Frank Fluckiger
National Chairman

P.S. Two recent legal cases: A federal judge has ordered state officials to allow the Constitution Party on the ballot. Also, Jennifer Young, our Wyoming Constitution Party nominee for Secretary of State, filed a federal lawsuit against Wyoming because state laws won’t permit anyone to give a campaign contribution to the nominee of a qualified minor party until after the August 19 primary. Yet the same state laws permit individuals to give to major party candidates running in primaries during the first half of the year.

The Howard Phillips Legacy Society

“Despite our depressed economy ... the United States continues to admit over one million Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) every year. And this does not count the additional hundreds of thousands of ‘temporary’ legal workers entering with special employment visas. Where do these LPRs come from? The top-five countries of origin are Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, China, and India. Sixty-five percent are here on the basis of family ties; 13 percent are employment-based; 16 percent are refugees and asylees ... We need a ‘time out’ from mass immigration.”

The above comes from an interview with immigration expert Dr. Wayne Lutton, and appears in the latest edition of the VICTORY REPORT — published exclusively for members of the Society.

Named after the founder of our party, The Howard Phillips Legacy Society provides the regular income necessary to run the “business end” of our work. Members receive a variety of premiums to join. Learn more about Howard Phillips here, and how to join The Howard Phillips Legacy Society here.
CANDIDATES ACROSS THE NATION

AL  Brent Beavers – Lauderdale Co. Commissioner District 1
Mark Syck – Elmore County Sheriff
Derrick Douglas – House District 91
Lamar Neighbors – Elmore County Coroner
Chris Sorrells – Marshall County Commissioner District 1
Jimmy Hodges – Marshall County Coroner
Ty Barrett – Lauderdale County Sheriff
David King – House District 55

AK  J. R. Myers - Governor
Maria Rensel – Lieutenant Governor
Pam Goode – District 9

CA  Robert Newman - Governor
David Christensen – US House, District 10
James Fariello – Adams County Sheriff
Steve Henderson - Mesa County Assessor
Doug Aden – State Senator, District 1

CO  Steven D. Pankey - Governor
David Hartigan – Lieutenant Governor
Christian Fioravanti - State Senate, District 1
Raymond J. Writz - State Senate, District 4
David Hay - State Representative A, District 30
Robert Gorgoglione - State Representative B, District 30

ID  Michael Oberline - Governor
Don Stone – Lieutenant Governor
Joe Bell – Attorney General
Stacy Moss – Secretary of State
Timothy Goodcase - Comptroller
Chad Koppie – US Senate

IL  Mike M. Bost - US House District 12
Michael Oberline - Governor
Don Stone – Lieutenant Governor
Joe Bell – Attorney General
Stacy Moss – Secretary of State
Timothy Goodcase - Comptroller
Chad Koppie – US Senate

LA  Randy Fontenot - Chief of Police, City of Eunice

MN  Tim Utz – US House District 41-B

MO  Doug Enyart - US House, District 8
Rodney Farthing - State Auditor
Jerry Dollar – State Representative, District 115
Michael Eberle - State Representative, District 59
Bill Gillmore - State Representative, District 126
Donna Ivanovich - State Representative, District 113
Butch Page - State Representative, District 57
Dan Plemons - State Representative, District 54
Cindy Redburn - State Representative, District 96
Joe Passanise - St. Louis County Executive
Richard McKie – Jackson Co. Legislator
Michael Jared Plemons – Johnson Co. Presiding Commissioner
Linda Cravens - Committeewoman, Cowan, Wayne Co.
Jan Farthing - Committeewoman, Franklin, Dent Co.
Rod Farthing - Committeewoman, Franklin, Dent Co.
B.J. Jordan - Committeewoman, Couch, Oregon Co.

NC  David Waddell - US Senate

NY  Joe Gilbert - US House, District 21
Donna Mulvihill - Governor

NV  David VanDerBeek - Governor
Mike Little – Lieutenant Governor
Jonathan Hansen – Attorney General
Kress K. Cave – State Treasurer

PA  Don John – US House, District 9
Bob Pyle – Governor
Bob Goodrich – Lieutenant Governor

SD  Wayne Schmidt - Public Utilities Commissioner
Lori Stacey – Secretary of State

TN  Shaun Crowell - Governor
Mark J. Rawles – US House, District 8
Tim York – Tennessee State Senate, District 27

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Alaska: The Alaska Constitution Party continues its ballot access efforts for all its candidates. Gubernatorial candidate J.R. Myers, and his running mate for Lt. Governor Maria Rensel, each need in excess of 4000 signatures to ensure a place on the November ballot, no easy task in such a large state with few population centers. If you are in Alaska or know someone who would be willing to sign their petitions, or be willing to collect signatures, contact J.R at: johricmye@yahoo.com

Washington: The Constitution Party of Washington recently sponsored a gathering of liberty groups in the Spokane area for a screening of the new independent film “Blue.” The movie is produced by J.D. King, a young Montana filmmaker with a passion for the principles of stewardship and private property applied to the ecological challenges we face in our world. He shows how current environmental regulations are destroying the very ecosystems they purport to protect. You can view the trailer at www.bluebeatsgreen.com. There will be another viewing with the producer in the Fall.

Alabama: State Constitution Party chairman, Joshua Cassity, reports that Elmore County Probate Judge John Enslen officially ruled that the Constitution Party will appear on the ballot in that county (Alabama statutes requires third parties to gain ballot access on a county-by-county basis.) The 1200 signatures turned in had to be verified, and a team of seven volunteers — including Judge Enslen — did so and worked nights so daily operations of the probate court would not be interrupted. The party is on the ballot in two other counties and has candidates in all three jurisdictions. Cassity also reports that the party’s Facebook page is about to surpass 1776 likes, and they have set a goal to hit this mark before Independence Day (July 4th). The Constitution Party of Alabama can be reached at: www.cpalabama.org

If you know of any candidates, state party news, or Constitution Party members who are currently holding elected office, please send their name, office, and state to: commsdirector@constitutionparty.com
LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING VIDEOS

State party leaders have often voiced the need for training and campaign resources and our national party has responded with various workshops or panel discussions at National Committee meetings. However, those who have requested the training often are not able to attend National Committee meetings, and there are the numerous state and county party leaders who are not members of the National Committee and do not attend those conferences, but need the training as much or more than those who do attend as these are the people who go out and do the work of the party.

Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of the Constitution Party National Media Director, Bob Peck — who provided the videography and editing — we have good news: all of the workshops and training sessions are now available online on the Constitution Party Leadership and Training Channel on Vimeo.com. Now party-building and campaign advice are only a click away.

If you were unable to attend the most recent National Committee meeting in Memphis, watch the videos listed below so that you will be up to speed with other party leaders. Both the workshops and featured speaker presentations can be found in the Memphis 2014 Album.

Review the partial index included in this edition of The American Constitutionist, then present one or two of these videos at each of your state party meetings so that state and local party leaders will be getting the training provided at national meeting. More will be listed in future editions.

The greatest waste of the training provided at our national meetings would be to have it go no farther than those who attend the meetings in person. The greatest use of that training is to have it passed along to state party chairmen, state committees, county party officers, candidates, campaign workers and every active volunteer in every state party.

PARTY BUILDING

Local and County Party Building - Bryce Hamilton, Utah Constitution Party

Local and County Party Building - Laurence Nordvig, Constitution Party of Virginia

State and Regional Party Building - Gary Dunlap, Eastern States Area Chairman

State and Regional Party Building - Lyle Nelson, Western States Area Co-Chairman

The Structure of a State Party - Zach Poskevich, Constitution Party of Tennessee State party structure, including bylaws, candidate vetting process and much more.


Observations of a New Party Member – Owen Shuler A new member of the Constitution Party, and someone with experience in the business world, shares his observations and recommendations with the Constitution Party National Committee.

BALLOT ACCESS

Ballot Access Panel Three Constitution Party leaders share insights and advice based on their experiences in achieving ballot access in their states.

Organizing a Ballot Access Drive - Frank Fluckiger, Western States Area Chairman & Rex Fritzler, Wyoming Constitution Party

Workshop on Collecting Ballot Access Signatures - Janine Hansen, Nevada Independent American Party & Nicholas Sumbles, Eastern States Area Co-Chairman

Workshop on Ballot Access & Petitioning – Frank Fluckiger, Janine Hansen and Nicholas Sumbles

Getting Petition Signatures – Nicholas Sumbles A tutorial on how to get petition signatures by the king of petitioning.

Collecting Signatures for Ballot Access – Janine Hansen A seasoned veteran of ballot access drives/petition signature collecting instructs workshop attendees on "How it's Done!"
If money is the mother's milk of politics, grassroots organizing is the baby for a successful political endeavor.

True grassroots political action is that which springs up from a cause that catches fire at the local level, then spreads to communities across the country. It does not come from the top down. The fervor for a cause arises like the "brushfires of freedom in the minds of men" as described by Samuel Adams, which spread across the landscape.

On the other hand, local political organizing is just as the name implies. It is an attempt by a larger organization to get people involved at the local level. People might get involved because they love the excitement of political action, because they aspire to political office, or even because they are ideologues who hold to a political credo they want to see become public policy. The organization serves merely as the mechanism to achieve a goal. Local political organizing thus is often a top down effort where a national or regional organization plans and coordinates the local effort.

I believe a successful political movement, one that shapes public policy, must meld the brushfire mentality of a grassroots uprising with the political structure of an organized political party. There are few truly grassroots movements that achieved that status. Unfortunately, most of them have been used by the anti-liberty crowd to eviscerate the Constitution.

The key to political success is not to try to inspire the masses with one’s correct ideology — it is to find the issues that will motivate the masses and become part of the movement promoting those issues, then organize for action around those grassroots issues within the party structure already in place. The Marxist/socialists have successfully used this tactic for years within the two major parties. They have even twice elected as president one from their ranks.

The lesson we can learn is that we will not likely be able to generate a grassroots movement from the top — or by promoting ideologically correct policy positions that actually motivate relatively few in the political world. We need to build a viable organization with the Constitutionally correct issues that will become part of the grassroots movement and then teach and train people in political action at the most basic levels.

The Constitution Party should embrace as new converts those inspired by the passion issues of the moment, participate in their events, and take every opportunity to channel their fervor into constructive political action. I’m talking about organizing them from the precinct level up. This is a version of community organizing, a term given a bad name because of that being the closest thing to a job that Barack Obama ever had!

The political junkies who come to a meeting or organize their neighborhood driven only by their ideology are few and far between, and most of those will gravitate to a major political party where promises have a better chance of being fulfilled. Those caught up in the enthusiasm of a cause, however, when organized into political action, can become those “brushfires of freedom in the minds of men” that Adams was talking about.

The most prominent recent grassroots movement is the so-called tea party movement.

Although the tea party movement gave rise to a number of national organizations trying to give it political structure, they have proven to be mostly money-generating vehicles, some used to help favored candidates, but much also used to line the pockets of their leaders and the professional fundraisers they hire. Those organizations most likely to succeed are teaching and training in political action — motivated by the passion of issues raised by the tea party movement.

We must take advantage of the opportunity we have to reach out to those motivated by tea party ideals and give them the organization they need to implement their ideals into public policy through the Constitution Party.