

Respondent Name
Lowell Brad Peck
Complainant Name
LaWanda Hatch
Complaint Description
<p>Hatchlawanda (Wed, 29 Jul 2020 at 5:51 PM)</p> <p>Franklin County Commissioner, Brad Peck, that is running for re-election, claims he was endorsed by the Tri-Cities TEA Party, when he was not. Mr. Peck put on his JULY 18th, re-elect Brad Peck Commissioner FB page, 3 days before a fake TEA Party Endorsement letter was emailed to 3500 past TEA Party members, as a man named Roger Lenk, bragged to me over a phone call. Commissioner Peck has been informed that it was a fake endorsement by the Board of Directors of the suspended TEA Party, yet, he continues to post that he was. The Tri-Cities TEA Party elected a man named Roger Lenk as their Chair in 2014. It is a 2 year term, according to their by-Laws, Article 7. The TC TEA Party then decided to suspend their group in 2016. They kept their Board of Directors, but did not have any elections. They did so with the caveat that if they felt it necessary, they would unsuspend it. No meeting was called and no vote was taken to unsuspend the Party or to elect new officers. It would take all of them to vote to do this. They didn't and are still in suspension. The only thing they kept up was their fb page that Mr. Lenk has no access to and their bank account of which Mr. Lenk did have, but fraudulently took the other signees off and put others on without the knowledge of the Board of Directors. To change signees, they would need to have the 8 members vote to sign it over. There was no meeting, so no legal meeting minutes, allowing for that. They never did and I have the 5 other board members to testify to that. They are listed below. They no longer meet and they no longer have a website. They still own the name, "Tri-Cities TEA Party". It seems Mr. Lenk thinks that he is the chair in perpetuity. Recently, Mr. Lenk was given a position on the County planning commission by Brad Peck and has been helping Brad Peck with his current campaign. He recently contacted the founding chair of the TEA Party, Jerry Martin, and founding member, Wayne Vertz, and said he wanted to email some information to the past TEA Party members, if he could send it using the TEA Party list. He was given that list, but never the permission to use the TEA Party letter head or that it was coming from the TEA Party, at all. He mailed a 21 page document, where every page had the Tri-Cities TEA Party letter head on it and the cover letter states that it is coming from the TC TEA Party Board of Directors. (He now states that because 3 past members met they all voted for each other, they have the authority to use the TEA Party Name. Again no other founding members were contacted, no meeting was called, and no vote was taken to unsuspend.) They list 1 candidate from every race that they want voters to consider voting for and link people to only those candidate's websites. Clearly, an endorsement. Commissioner Peck is the first one listed. Now, Mr. Lenk says it was not an endorsement and is threatening to sue me for libel, because as the State Committee woman for the Franklin County Republicans and because he only lists Republicans and there are other Republicans that he leaves off of this List, our local party, as well as myself, are trying to correct this dishonest attempt to defraud the voters. If Mr Lenk sent the letter from himself, there would be no issue. If Mr. Peck would have removed his July 18th post and state on his fb post that he was not endorsed by the TEA Party. (As he was notified of by several sources, including his fb post about the endorsement)(Curious that Mr. Lenk isn't threatening to sue Peck for using the term "endorsement".) and if Mr. Lenk would send a letter out to those 3500 voters he emailed and to the voters he told them to share the letter to, that the TEA Party did not send out that list, and if he would go to the media and correct this fraud, then we would not have to report them, As it is, 8 days after he was notified and 11 days after posting that he was endorsed, he still has it there and we have no idea how many people have shared that post. It's also curious that Mr. Peck knew about the endorsement before any other candidate and 3 days before the letter went out. (Peck also has a list of people that endorsed him on his FB page from 2016. One of those gentlemen have since passed away.) The Tri-Cities TEA Party now is considering on hiring an attorney asking Mr. Lenk to cease and desist, take him off of the bank account, and Mr. Peck to remove his claim of endorsement.</p>
What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?
<p>It fraudulently makes people think that Commissioner Peck is someone that believes in TEA Party values, yet he raised out taxes twice, after giving himself 3 raises.</p> <p>It also is an embarrassment to the candidates that were on this fraudulent list, causing them public embarrassment.</p> <p>Peck also has dead people listed on his fb posting</p>
List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

Original email that was sent out, The attachment of the Fake TEA Party Endorsement attachment to the email, the Correction Letter disavowing the email by the TR-Cities TEA Party, the By-Laws of the TC TEA Party showing that the chair's term is 2 years (Article 7), The fb Post by Peck on his campaign FB page clearly showing the date he posted this and today's date, showing he hasn't removed it. His wives fb post about that was shared by a man named Rob Puckett- which proves Peck had the endorsement 3 days before anyone else and that it is being widely spread, The FB Post by the TEA Party declaring they do not endorse or recommend candidates, the threatening letter mailed to me by Roger Lenk-clearly stating when he was elected was 2014. I'm also including a screen shot of Commissioner Peck's 2016 endorsement list, still on his page.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

Jerry Martin, Wayne Vertz- 509-205-5202, Leon Howard, Mary Ruth Edwards- (509) 832-0239. (Founding Memebtrs of the Tri-Cities TEA Party and the Board of Directors.)

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


← About




 (509) 727-2808


 brad4commissioner@gmail.com

 <http://bradpeck.org/>

 Committed to limited government, low taxes, individual accountability, and government by, and for, the people of Franklin County.

 [Political Organization](#)

 Typically replies within an hour
[Send Message](#)

 **Mission**
Steadfastly and honestly serve the best interests of Franklin County citizens without regard to personal, political or other implications.

 **Awards**
A FEW OF MY ENDORSEMENTS:
Former Congressman Doc Hastings
Washington State Farm Bureau
Franklin County Farm Bureau
WA State Rep Brad Klippert
Bill Lampson, Lampson, Int'l
Ed Ray & Anne Hayden-Ray
Bob & Meri Lee Tippet
Jim Klindworth, Port of Pasco
Commissioner
Ron Reinman, Port of Pasco Commissioner
Burl Booker
Kati Sant
Stephanie Swanberg
Bob & Crista Whitelatch,
Dr. Mike Korenko



Rob Puckett

Jul 18 • 🌐



Debra Peck

Jul 18 • 🌐

6:23 AM Sat Jul 18

LTE 91

Done

2020 Primary Candiadtes Who Share Our Values.pdf



Re: AUGUST 4, 2020 PRIMARY CANDIDATES WHO SHARE OUR VALUES

LOCAL CANDIDATES

County Commissioners

Franklin County

**Franklin County Commissioner Dist. 1
Brad Peck**



"We the People" captures my political views. The government at all levels is subordinate to the people. All power is vested in the people. Our rights come from our creator...not from the government. The government's proper role is to protect those rights...not trample them as we have seen at the national level in recent years."

I have served the people Franklin County for the past 33 years. The first 21 were as an Air Force officer serving around the

globe...including a tour in the Middle East and four years in the Pentagon with Congressional support experience on Capitol Hill. Returning home to Washington in 2003,



I spent the next six years in electric power generation as Executive Project Manager and Assistant to the CEO at the region's only nuclear power facility on the

Hanford reservation. The past seven years have been as a Franklin County commissioner driving fiscal responsibility, ensuring Franklin County's interests are fully represented in bi-county activities and protecting my constituents from overzealous federal agencies infringing on private property rights through the endangered species act. I am an NRA Benefactor member, private pilot and aircraft owner, hunter, fisherman and historic preservation advocate (see my restoration project at www.mooremansion.com) I hold a BA degree from Central Washington University and an MS degree from Eastern Washington University."

<https://www.facebook.com/BradPeck4Commissioner>

 **Tri-Cities Tea Party**

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i We Can Make a Difference... The Tri-Cities Tea Party's concern is to unite like-minded people and educate fellow citizens...

👍 286 people like this including 25 of your friends

👤 284 people follow this

🌐 <http://www.tricitiesteaparty.com/>

📞 (509) 832-0239

💬 [Send Message](#)

🏢 Nonprofit Organization

Photos [See All](#)



 **Tri-Cities Tea Party**
11h · 🌐



👍 2 **💬 1 Comment**

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Bill Boulds
strange... people must be receiving fake endorsement emails from Brad Pecks campaign manager indicating that the Tri-Cities Tea Party endorsed him Franklin

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**Re-Elect Brad Peck County Commissioner**
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Jul 18 · 🌐




 Dallas Parr, Tracy Goetz and 21 others


2 Comments

**Re-Elect Brad Peck County Commissioner**
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Jul 18 · 🌐 · THANK YOU to the Tri Cities TEA Party for endorsing my candidacy for re-election. The current polarization of society and our political parties must not be allowed to undermine our collective efforts to protect and preserve individual liberties.

 Dallas Parr, Ma Lew Crawford and 22 others


8 Comments





**Brad Peck** ▶ **Re-Elect Brad Peck County Commissioner**









Jul 20 · 🌐 · My opponent in this race is touting his success taking money from citizens to fund his campaign. By comparison, I have been declining contributions...all contributions. At a time when many households are struggling to make ends meet, and businesses are on the verge of bankruptcy, it seems self-serving and tone-deaf to take money to promote one's own political...

 Dallas Parr and 22 others

1 Comment

**LaWanda**





+10

179



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tri-Cities Tea Party is not a valid organization anymore. We have not had a board meeting for 6 years and became invalid 4 years ago when the Board Members' terms expired.

There has been a letter sent out to many voters that has been interpreted as a Tri-Cities Tea Party "endorsement" ... It is not. It is a list of one or two past Board Members opinions of the candidates running for office. The mistake was made when it was sent out on Tri-Cities Tea Party letterhead ... For it to have had the sanction of the TCTP, it would have had to been approved by a quorum of Board Members and, as there is no valid Board Members, it couldn't have been approved.

We were a non-partisan, educational group and it was against our by-laws to endorse candidates.

If we were still an active entity, we would have had a Vetting Committee of 3 to 5 Board Members interview each candidate and report their findings to the entire Board of Directors and then approved by a quorum of those Board Members. Obviously, that couldn't happen today.

We, the former Board Members, regret the confusion made by the invalid use of our letterhead.

Sincerely,

*Leon Howard,
Co-Founder and Original TCTP Events Coordinator*

VIA UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
PRIORITY MAIL®

Roger Erich Lenk
1817 N. Road 76
Pasco, Washington 99301-1830
(509) 542-0489

July 24, 2020

La Wanda Hatch
1530 Falls Road
Pasco, Washington 99301

**Re: PENDING COMPLAINT FOR DEFAMATION AND LIBEL *PER SE*
RCW 7.96.40 Request For Correction**

Dear Ms. Hatch:

First, I note that I do not know you and have not knowingly met you. Our only communication was my telephonic response to your July 21, 2020 4:28 pm voicemail.

On July 23, 2020, I received a number of phone calls and emails concerning your social media posts relating to me and my position as the Chair of the Tri-Cities Tea Party. Each of the posts you made on Facebook were knowingly false in their entirety. The numerous responses I received indicated that they were distributed widely.

Below, please find your posts by date, noting the defamatory statements associated with your posts:

On July 21, 2010 at 9:54 pm, you posted (along with the August 4, 2020 Primary Candidates Who Share Our Values pamphlet):

"There is a fake email being sent in the name of the Tri Cities (sic) TEA Party. The email address is not our local Tea Party's address and the endorsements are fake. This email lists no chair or officers and there is no website for them. At least not yet. None of the candidates I have spoken to were interviewed by our TEA Party, nor participated in any TEA Party forum. I'm not sure if this was designed to embarrass or fool certain Republican candidates or by someone desperate for endorsements, but these disturbed games are wrong and should stop. It only hurts our Republican cause. As the FRANKLIN COUNTY STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN, I have a responsibility to call this out and protect our candidates from embarrassment."

1. I have been the Chair of the Tri-Cities Tea Party since approximately 2014.
Defamatory Statement No. 1.
2. The Tri-Cities Tea Party has been in existence since prior to April 23, 2012.

- Defamatory Statement No. 2.
3. Working with the Tri-Cities Tea Party Board, we developed our regular "Candidates Who Share Our Values" pamphlet. Defamatory Statement No. 3.
 4. The Tri-Cities Tea Party has multiple email addresses. Defamatory Statement No. 4.
 5. Candidates were called and either interviewed, left voicemail messages which were returned or not. Defamatory Statement No. 5.
 6. Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted was the word "endorsements" used. Defamatory Statement No. 6.
 7. The Tri-Cities Tea Party is in no way affiliated with the Franklin County Republican party, and does not serve to advance its cause. Defamatory Statement No. 7.
 8. No Franklin County Republican candidates were embarrassed as no negative statements were emanated. Defamatory Statement No. 8.

On July 22, 2020, 9:26 am you posted:

"Just learned Brad Peck's campaign manager is one that (sic) sent out the fake TEA Party endorsements. Endorsing Peck (sic)."

1. I have been the Chair of the Tri-Cities Tea Party since approximately 2014. Defamatory Statement No. 9.
2. The Tri-Cities Tea Party has been in existence since prior to April 23, 2012. Defamatory Statement No. 10.
3. Working with the Tri-Cities Tea Party Board, we developed our regular "Candidates Who Share Our Values" pamphlet. Defamatory Statement No. 11.
4. Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document created or posted by you does the word "endorsement" appear. Defamatory Statement No. 12.
5. The only accurate statement is that I sent out the Tri-Cities Tea Party's "Candidates Who Share Our Values" pamphlet.

On July 23, 2020 3:59 pm, it is noted you posted:

"Steve Simmons I mean, it endorsed all of Brad's big government friends including Newhouse and Peck raised taxes last year. No TEA PARTY would ever endorse that"

1. Brad Peck's "big government" friends were not endorsed. Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted was the word "endorsed" used.. Defamatory Statement No. 13.
2. Dan Newhouse was not "endorsed". Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted was the word "endorsed" used.. Defamatory

Statement No. 14.

3. "No Tea Party would endorse that (sic)". Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted was the word "endorsed" used.. Defamatory Statement No. 15.

On July 23, 2020 4:00 pm, it is noted you posted:

"Sarena Sloat Because it is a hoax. Firstly, no TEA Party group would ever endorse Newhouse. That was my first clue, then when you do further investigation you learn it is fake"

1. I have been the Chair of the Tri-Cities Tea Party since approximately 2014. Defamatory Statement No. 16.
2. The Tri-Cities Tea Party has been in existence since prior to April 23, 2012. Defamatory Statement No. 17.
3. Working with the Tri-Cities Tea Party Board, we developed our regular "Candidates Who Share Our Values" pamphlet. Defamatory Statement No. 18.
4. The Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted is not fake. Material Mistreatment No. 19.
5. The Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted is not a "hoax". Defamatory Statement No. 20.
6. Dan Newhouse was not "endorsed". Nowhere in the Tri-Cities Tea Party document you posted was the word "endorsed" used.. Defamatory Statement No. 21.

It is noted that your postings were published to individuals other than myself (I have no social media accounts). In addition, your statements were false, knowingly false, and required little or no effort to determine the truth. Moreover, your postings injured my reputation. None of your postings were opinion, but stated as fact. Finally, none of your postings were privileged.

It is clear that your postings forcefully advance your lofty stature ("As the FRANKLIN COUNTY STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN" - emphasis original). This illustrates your ability and desire to to cause harm to an individual to whom your defamatory postings are directed.

As you should be aware, I am a well respected member of the Tri-Cities Community, and was well respected in my previous communities. I have spent my entire life establishing this positive reputation. Being involved in the Boy Scouts of America for over 51 years in multiple capacities, I labor to keep the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Unfortunately, you have seen fit to disregard the reputation I have worked so hard to build, by posting, and spreading inaccurate, malicious, and unfounded information. This has damaged my personal and community character. Your actions have negatively impacted my community respectability, the respect of the many Boy Scouts and their parents I work with, and has brought

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concern from my sons, an Eagle Scout and soon to be Eagle Scout with eight (8) pending Eagle Palms. Furthermore, your defamatory statements have been seen by friends, family, and Church members, which has negativity impacted my reputation with them.

As you should be aware, the State of Washington prohibits individuals from committing defamation and libel. Said actions are subject to damages arising out of harm caused by the false content of a publication, including all publications, including writings, broadcasts, oral communications, electronic transmissions (emphasis added), or other forms of transmitting information.¹

At this time, Counsel has advised that you attempt to resolve the matter under state law. RCW 7.96.010 provides in part:

“Chapter 294, Laws of 2013 seeks to provide strong incentives for individuals to promptly correct or clarify an alleged false statement as an alternative to costly litigation. The options created by chapter 294, Laws of 2013 provide an opportunity for a plaintiff who believes he or she has been harmed by a false statement to secure quick and complete vindication of his or her reputation. Chapter 294, Laws of 2013 provides publishers with a quick and cost-effective means of correcting or clarifying alleged mistakes and avoiding costly litigation.”

Absent resolution in accordance with RCW 7.96 et. seq., another defamatory posting by yourself or reply to the original postings, Counsel has indicated that she shall file litigation. It has not been determined if such action will be under state law, or the less lenient federal statute.

Consistent with RCW 7.96.050, this document includes reasonably available information material to the falsity of your defamatory or otherwise actionable statements. Consistent with RCW 7.96.070, you have 30 days within delivery of this notice to correct your Defamatory Statements of fact to my satisfaction in order to avoid the filing of litigation.

Should you desire to resolve this matter by clarifying mistakes and avoiding costly litigation, please have your legal counsel contact me no later than ten (10) days after the delivery of this letter. This will provide me the opportunity to review his or her draft correction in order to ensure that all defamatory statements are addressed, a proper means of distribution is enumerated, and the parties agree in writing that it is timely and sufficient.

Best Regards,



Roger E. Lenk

¹ Chapter 7.96 RCW UNIFORM CORRECTION OR CLARIFICATION OF DEFAMATION ACT

BY-LAWS OF TRI-CITIES TEA PARTY

Adopted: March 15, 2010

Revised: September 27, 2011

ARTICLE 1
NAME

SECTION 1: The name of this association shall be "TRI-CITIES TEA PARTY" and the principal place of the business of this association shall be in Tri-Cities (Richland/Kennewick/Pasco), WA.

ARTICLE 2
PURPOSE

SECTION 1: The purpose of this association shall be to arrange meetings for the education and enlightenment of the general public, and to promote such other activities as may be decided upon by the Board of Directors and members of the association.

SECTION 2: The association shall further cooperate with and assist other TEA Parties and like-minded groups as the Board directs.

SECTION 3: The association shall function as a non-profit, non-partisan association, and it shall have no capital stock.

ARTICLE 3
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Membership shall be open to any reputable person who concurs with the objectives of the association and who shall follow the procedures as outlined below.

SECTION 2: Membership in the association shall become effective upon:

- A. Pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
- B. Signing a form with contact information to include: full name, e-mail address, telephone number, and city of residency.

SECTION 3: A member may resign from the association at any time upon:

- A. Written notice to the Secretary, or
- B. Electronic mail notice to the Secretary, confirmed by telephone.

SECTION 4: Membership shall/may be terminated for cause upon unanimous consent of the Board of Directors. When membership ceases, all interests remain in the association.

SECTION 5: This association may sponsor a "youth" group. Ages 18 to 40 years will be eligible for membership.

BY-LAWS OF TRI-CITIES TEA PARTY

Adopted: March 15, 2010

Revised: September 27, 2011

ARTICLE 4 DONATIONS

SECTION 1: Donations will be accepted from the general public at events or through the Tri-Cities TEA Party Website, www.tricitiesteaparty.com.

ARTICLE 5 OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The elected officers of the association shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Media Relations/Events Coordinator, and Technical Coordinator.

SECTION 2: DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

A. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at regular meetings of the association and the Board of Directors. The President shall sign written contracts and obligations of the association over One Hundred dollars (\$100.00). The President shall appoint standing committees with the approval of the Board of Directors.

B. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President. The Vice-President is charged with auditing the association bank accounts.

C. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of meetings, preside at meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-President, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

D. The Treasurer shall receive monies payable to the association, keep an accurate record, and be responsible to the Board of Directors for monies collected. The Treasurer shall maintain a checking account. Two signatures are required to dispense funds; the president, secretary, and treasurer are authorized. The Treasurer shall hold such monies for the association and pay bills, which have been approved for payment by the Board of Directors. A financial report shall be made at each Board meeting. The Treasurer shall be Custodian of the property of the association.

E. The Media Relation/Events Coordinator shall:

1. FAX, email, or U.S. mail Press Releases for all association events and follow up with news outlets to assure event has coverage.
2. Contribute to and coordinate with the Newsletter Editor for publication of the association's Monthly Newsletter by the last day of each month.
3. Act as Coordinator with other like-minded associations to assure the most news coverage and largest attendance for all events, locally, statewide, and/or nationally.

F. The Technical Coordinator shall operate and maintain the association's web site, electronic mailing list, and technical equipment.

BY-LAWS OF TRI-CITIES TEA PARTY

Adopted: March 15, 2010

Revised: September 27, 2011

SECTION 3:

A. Any officer who misses four (4) consecutive meetings may be replaced with another member, to be selected by the Board of Directors.

B. Any contract under One Hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be signed by any Board Member with Board approval. All other contracts will require the signature of the President.

ARTICLE 6 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1: The Board of Directors shall be comprised of a maximum of nine (9) members, including the elected officers, as noted in Article 5, Section 1 above, and additional Directors-at-Large needed to meet the goals and objectives of the Association.

SECTION 2: The meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held as needed but no less than quarterly. A quorum of at least 60% of the Board shall be required to conduct the business of the association.

SECTION 3:

A. The Board of Directors may fill any vacancy among officers of the association by appointment of any member in good standing, who shall serve until the next regular election.

B. The Board of Directors shall have general charge of the affairs, funds, property, and all other matters pertaining to the association.

ARTICLE 7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1: The Directors present at the Open Board Meeting in January of even numbered years shall elect the new officers from the eligible Board of Directors. The newly elected officers shall begin their terms of office at the next scheduled Board meeting.

ARTICLE 8 ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

SECTION 1: Open Board Meetings of the membership of the association shall be held on a bi-monthly basis or as scheduled by the Board.

SECTION 2: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on a monthly basis or as scheduled by the Board.

BY-LAWS OF TRI-CITIES TEA PARTY

Adopted: March 15, 2010

Revised: September 27, 2011

SECTION 3: The date, time, and location of the next meeting shall be determined at the close of each meeting.

SECTION 4: Roberts Rules of Order shall prevail at all meetings of the association and the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 9 AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: The By-Laws may be changed or amended as follows: The proposed change or amendment shall be signed by two (2) members of the Board and submitted to the Secretary, who shall read it before the Board of Directors. It shall then be voted upon and must be unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 10 AFFILIATIONS

SECTION I: The Tri-Cities TEA Party may affiliate with other like-minded associations if approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 11 DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: Upon written petition of any Board member and upon the majority approval of the Board, at a duly constituted meeting, this association may be dissolved.

SECTION 2: Upon dissolution of this association, after payment of all just obligations, remaining cash assets shall be donated to the "NATIONAL CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES". An auction will be held to convert any physical assets to cash. All unsold items, for lack of interest and still of good use, will be donated to "GOODWILL INDUSTRIES".

SECTION 3: In the event the association becomes dissolved, then by majority vote of the Board of Directors, the association is dissolved. The assets in this instance shall be distributed as provided in Article 11, Section 2.

Adopted March 15, 2010

Revised on September 27, 2011

Signed on October 5, 2011