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### FOAC-ILLEA NEWSLETTER 5/15/22

Folks,

This Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, we have a very important primary election in the Commonwealth.

New lines have been drawn, the districts have been changed, seats are open that weren't before and eager people are vying for your vote.

Some are seeking the opportunity to represent us in the halls of government to help get our Commonwealth and Country back on track. Others are trying to retain their seats so that they can continue to selflessly serve the people. Then there are some who are clamoring to remain "in power" and maintain their station among the "elected class" of privilege and unaccountability.

It is really hard to say which of the above is the case without educating yourself on what the candidates are about, what they say they will do, and what they HAVE done.

New untested fresh blood in the political game has to be taken at face value. What is their message? What are the positions that they stand upon? What affiliations do they have? What organizations have recommended them and why? However, folks who have held office in the past have a record. You can see what they have voted for, pushed for, campaigned on, and WHO they have associated with. Who has bankrolled them in the past and where are they getting their money from so that they can "earn" your vote?

When someone says, "my vote doesn't matter", let them know that candidates spend MILLIONS of dollars to earn your vote.

**If your vote didn't matter, they would they spend so much money to get it?**

If you follow the money and educate yourself about a candidate, you can get a sense of if a candidate, will fight FOR you or if they will fight AGAINST you when they are in office.



As this is a primary election, you also have to consider who this candidate is going to run AGAINST in the general election in November.

**The primary election gives us the ability to choose the right horse to run in the big race in November.**

One of [FOAC Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Educational Action](#)'s missions is to educate. If you would like to educate yourself on the records of a person who is currently in office, use the [FOAC-PAC website](#) as a resource.

[Pennsylvania Legislators](#)  
[Federal Legislators](#)  
[Find your PA State Officials](#)  
[Find your County Officials](#)

If you would like to educate yourself on who FOAC-PAC recommends in the primary, [download the FOAC-PAC voter guide](#).

## FOAC-ILLEA POSITION STATEMENT: A VOTE FOR THE ARTICLE V CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IS AN ANTI-GUN VOTE

Firearms Owners Against Crime has been fighting the Article V Constitutional Convention since the 1990's. We consider the Article V Convention to be a potential threat to our right to Bear Arms as well as to ALL of our rights and our Constitutional Republic as we know it.

Do you *REALLY* believe that a government that is restricted by the Constitution will not remove those restrictions when they have the license to change it?

***When it comes to the Constitution, there can be NO COMPROMISE.***

**CONTACT PA SENATE  
 MAJORITY LEADER  
 KIM WARD**



Contact Pennsylvania [Senate Majority Leader, Kim Ward](#), and urge her to let [SR67](#) and [SR152](#) die on the table. As Majority Leader, she is in control of what items are brought to a vote or are left to die in the pile. Let her know that you don't want to give license to elected officials to change the rules by which this country is to operate.

You can call her office directly at 717-787-6063. Let her know that you are a gun owner, FOAC Member, and a Pennsylvanian that values the individual's right to self-defense... NO to SR76 and SR152.



## Dark Money—Not the Grassroots—Is Behind the Convention of States Organizations

**By Judi Caler, Citizens Against an Article V Convention**

Patriots are rightly concerned that Mark Meckler, lobbyist and President of the Convention of States organizations (COS), has spent tens of millions of dollars spreading misinformation and cajoling State Legislatures into passing applications asking Congress to call a convention under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Thirty-four States are needed to pass such applications to trigger a constitutional convention, where a new Constitution would likely be proposed, along with an easier mode of ratification. So, who is behind COS?

Meckler tells state legislators that COS is a grassroots movement, funded by thousands of ordinary citizens. In fact, since December, 2017, the COS [homepage](#) boasted:

**WHO'S BEHIND THIS THING?**

The American people. We thought you'd never ask! The Convention of States Project is first and foremost a movement of grassroots citizens who are fed up with business as usual in D.C. We're funded by thousands of everyday patriots who have committed their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to protecting liberty for future generations.

But **Andy Schlafly**, attorney and son of conservative icon Phyllis Schlafly, testified at a **Pennsylvania hearing** on Oct. 22, 2019 against COS's Article V convention application (@ 11:55):

Schlafly: "...[W]ho's funding them? Where's the money coming from? There's a lot of **money** behind this. And they're not disclosing where the money behind this push to change the Constitution is coming from. That should scare everybody in this room. Who are these people who are pushing to rewrite the Constitution? I suspect some of them are globalists, but ask them...it's not disclosed. And I'm certainly not in favor of allowing billionaires who don't disclose their identity...[or] their real agenda...to rewrite our Constitution. That's **not** a good idea."

Meckler, at the same **hearing**, feigning outrage, fumed (@ 46:11):

Meckler: "...[W]ho's funding this? Any of you at any time are welcome to visit our very fancy corporate offices **in my house in Texas. In my personal home office off the kitchen, where all the billionaires apparently come visit me. It's an outrage and a slander.** And this kind of slanderous politics takes this discussion to some place it should not go, which is frankly, it's just slander, and innuendo. It's gutter politics. And I don't believe in it..."

"I can tell you who my donors are. See, because the person that raises the money for...this organization is my wife of 26 years who works in the office next to mine, who has raised money from over 80,000 individual grassroots patriots all over this country. So, if those are the millionaires and billionaires that Mr. Schlafly is afraid of, well, he might want to talk to the grandmas who send me checks and say, 'it's five bucks a month out of my fixed income, and I'm sorry I can't afford any more.' Again, an outrageous slander on the tens of thousands of people supporting this movement."

Notice that in one fell swoop, Meckler masterfully deflects attention from the source of his funding, while playing the victim and accusing his opponents of slander.

So, what's the truth? Let's go straight to the tax-exempt returns that Meckler is required to file with the IRS every year. These returns, also known as 990s, are public information and filed by all nonprofits.

The most recent 990s available for Meckler's organizations are for the years 2020, 2019, and 2018. The Meckler organizations appear to include Convention of States Action (COSA); Citizens for Self-Governance (CSG); Citizens for Self-Governance Action (CSG Action); and Defending Liberty, Inc. (DLI). Each year, Meckler filed a 990 return for each entity, as required by law, and signed them under penalty of perjury.

Nonprofits are not required to disclose the identity of their contributors—so all contributors are anonymous, unless the organization chooses to disclose them. That's why the accompanying Schedule B doesn't include the names & addresses of the donors—only the total amount of all donations totaling \$5,000 or more from each numbered donor during the year. Still, those figures are revealing.

Donations of \$5,000 or more to each entity are summarized by year on the accompanying Chart. The source documentation for figures on the Chart can be found mostly on Schedule B of the linked 990s.

Here's the short version:

Between 2018 and 2020, contributions ranging from \$5,000 to \$2,000,000 per donor, to the four entities totaled \$16,751,011, or 63% of the \$26.7 million in contributions reported on Meckler's combined 990s for the 3-year period. And that \$16.7 million was from *at most* 168 unique anonymous persons; thus, their average contribution was almost \$100,000 [ $\$16,751,011 \div 168 = \$99,708$ ].

But likely, Meckler has fewer than 168 major donors, as repeat donors over the 3-year period are to be expected. So, depending upon how many major donors gave in one, two, or three years and/or gave to multiple Meckler entities, the average donation per major donor over the three-year period amounts to *at least* \$99,708, and may be more than \$200,000 or \$300,000! **So, COS isn't a grassroots organization funded from the bottom up by small**

**donors.** Schedule B provides proof that COS's agenda to replace our Constitution is coming mostly from major donors.

Meckler frequently sends out emails asking for money, to his list of unsuspecting patriots. Unsurprisingly, most of his requests are accompanied by an offer from a "generous donor" to match each contribution. The patriots on Meckler's email list probably have no idea that Meckler has been receiving almost two-thirds of his contributions from multi-millionaires and/or billionaires while drawing salaries for himself and his wife totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

We can only conclude that Meckler is disingenuous when he ridicules the suggestion that his organizations are funded by undisclosed multi-millionaires and billionaires. And while his organizations may well receive some small donations, he denies that the bulk of his money comes from the superrich. And all the while, he yells "slander" with a straight face, and shamelessly conjures up Grandma wishing she could give him more of her paltry income, when asked about the millions in **dark money** he's amassing!

We know why the liquor, drug, and tobacco industries invest millions in lobbyists to influence state legislation. But why would major donors invest millions in COS to bring about a convention to rewrite the U.S. Constitution?

The total amount of money spent over the years by the Meckler organizations to trigger a constitutional convention is astonishing. Meckler needs to be confronted everywhere he goes by opponents, supporters, & legislators alike—and asked why he is hiding the fact that he's working for the superrich. We have a right to know; it's our Constitution they're after!

You can download the 990 forms from the accompanying Chart and copy Schedule B, so you'll have ammo to push back with, the next time Meckler plays the Grandma card.

[Click on the chart to be redirected to the source article and original links](#)

<b>Meckler Entities Anonymous Major Contributions (≥ \$5,000) For Years 2018 through 2020</b>					
<b>Meckler Organizations' Forms 990</b>	<b>(A) # of Major Donors (Sched. B)</b>	<b>(B) Total \$ from Major Donors (Sched. B)</b>	<b>(C) Total of all Contributions: Form 990 p.1, line 8</b>	<b>B + C Major Contributions' % of Total</b>	<b>B ÷ A Average Major Donation</b>
<a href="#">COSA 2020 47-2245708</a>	55	\$4,112,370	\$7,159,560	57%	\$74,770
<a href="#">COSA 2019</a>	45	3,884,001	6,777,645	57%	86,311
<a href="#">COSA 2018</a>	26	2,239,125	4,872,216	46%	86,120
<a href="#">CSG 2020 27-1657203</a>	8	1,016,800	1,622,566	63%	127,100
<a href="#">CSG 2019</a>	13	633,100	961,914	66%	48,700
<a href="#">CSG 2018</a>	13	1,844,815	2,319,810	80%	141,909
<a href="#">CSG Action 2020 27-4648506</a>	1	2,000,000	2,000,000	100%	2,000,000
<a href="#">CSG Action 2019</a>	2	305,800	305,800	100%	152,900
<a href="#">CSG Action 2018</a>	2	535,000	581,000	92%	267,500
<a href="#">DLI 2018: 812320022 No revenue 2019-20</a>	3	\$180,000	180,000	100%	60,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$16,751,011</b>	<b>\$26,780,511</b>	<b>% of total contributions ≥ \$5,000*</b>	<b>Avg. \$ per Major Donor - at the very least*</b>
*See note below				<b>63%</b>	<b>\$99,708</b>
<p>*Note: \$16,751,011 in major contributions [≥ \$5,000] out of \$26,780,511 total contributions [63%] were reported, from 168 Major Donors giving \$5,000 or more to the above Meckler entities from 2018-2020. Thus, the Average contribution given by a Major Donor was at the very least \$99,708 [<math>\\$16,751,011 \div 168</math>] and may be over \$200,000 or \$300,000 if the same Major Donors contributed in multiple years and/or to multiple Meckler entities.</p>					

[1] Dark money is money donated to politically active nonprofit organizations or anonymous corporate entities, which spend this money to influence political campaigns or other special interests but are not required to reveal their donors.

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE TESTIFIES THAT IT MISLEADS THE PA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ANNUAL FIREARMS REPORT REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECK DELAYS AND MORE...



Posted on [Prince Law Blog May 13, 2022](#) by [Joshua Prince, Esq.](#)

Yesterday, during our hearing for a preliminary injunction against the [Pennsylvania State Police in relation to the substantial delays in its responses to background check determinations](#) (i.e. approvals/denials)

in [Firearms Owners Against Crime – Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Educational Action \(FOAC-ILLEA\)](#), et al v. PSP Commissioner Evanchick, 218 MD 2022, Lieutenant Shandra Keeler, Director of the Firearms Division, testified, under oath, that they purposely do not include the time the PICS

Operations Unit is closed (i.e. 10PM to 8AM) in the calculation of their average determination times provided to the General Assembly in the PSP's annual firearm reports as required by 18 Pa.C.S. 6111.1(i). During further questioning, Lt. Keeler admitted that if a background check determination was submitted at 9:30 PM and not approved until 8:05 AM the next morning, the PSP would calculate that approval/determination time as 35 minutes, instead of 10 hrs, 35 minutes or 635 minutes. In doing so, it would appear that the PSP is violating Section 6111.1(i), as the PSP does not include a notice to the General Assembly of this practice in its annual reports. Further, she testified that the average delay time in 2019 was 15 minutes, but in 2021, it was 82 minutes - a 550% increase. She did not have information as to the average delay currently.

Lt. Keeler also testified that they have two shifts (7AM - 3PM and 2:30 - 10:30PM), whereby the first shift has double the number of PICS operators as compared to the second shift, based on the number of transactions typically occurring during those time frames. During cross-examination, she stated that the shift patterns are typically reviewed annually, but that she could not recollect the last time they were reviewed, that they have no present intention to review the shift patterns, and she agreed that it would likely make sense that more background checks occur outside of normal business hours (9AM - 5PM) for those who are employed and thus, the second shift should have more operators than the first. She also stated that while they previously mandated overtime, they are not currently doing it and while they have an estimate of for 100 calls in the queue, their operators can get through them in 1 hour, she admitted that they've never actually verified the accuracy of that estimate and they don't have a margin of error rate for this "estimate."

Moreover, she testified that the PICS Operations Unit, at full complement, should be 72 employees, but currently only has 64 and that they have a high turnover rate (41 employees left between 2019 and 2021). She also admitted that they've requested an additional 20 employees (which would bring the total complement to 92) for the PICS Operations Unit, but contended that they were awaiting appropriations from the General Assembly to fund those position. On cross-examination, she conceded that in the PSP's budget request, it admitted that the PSP can already fund the additional 20 employees for the PICS Operations Unit from the Gun Check appropriation fund (which is a restricted fund that can only be utilized for background check-related expenses) but that they have not posted those 20 jobs as being available. Basically, the PSP is holding law-abiding gun owners/purchasers hostage for its desire to obtain even more appropriations, after just last year, its General Government Operations appropriation (which is how it pays its employees) more than doubled, going from \$183,253,000 to \$441,366,00. And that is just in relation to that appropriation. The PSP's total current appropriation grew to almost \$1.4 billion in total for July 2021-June 2022...and now it is seeking even more for the July 2022-June 2023 fiscal year...

If you're appalled by the actions of the PSP, contact your state representatives and demand that they hold the PSP accountable.

If you would like to donate to the FOAC-ILLEA Legal fund, contact us today!



**QUOTE:**

*"Today we need a nation of minute men; citizens who are not only prepared to take up arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as a basic purpose of their daily life and who are willing to consciously work and sacrifice for that freedom. The cause of liberty, the cause of America, cannot succeed with any lesser effort."*

President John F. Kennedy,  
1/29/1961





Volunteers at the 2021 Holiday Luncheon

### FOAC-ILLEA EVENTS:

Concealed Carry Seminar - sponsored by Rep. Matt Dowling  
 Date: 05/18/2022  
 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
 Location: Farmington Volunteer Fire Department  
 Address: 119 Elliotsville Road, Farmington, PA 15437  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Monthly Meeting - June  
 Date: 06/12/2022  
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
 Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

Firearms License to Carry Satellite Event  
 Date: 06/25/2022  
 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Location: South Park Community Center  
 Address: 2575 Brownsville Rd., South Park, PA 15129  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Monthly Meeting - July  
 Date: 07/10/2022  
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
 Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

Firearms License to Carry Satellite Event  
 Date: 07/16/2022  
 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Location: North Fayette Community Center  
 Address: 580 Donaldson Rd., Oakdale, PA 15071  
**more information**

Firearms License to Carry Satellite Event  
 Date: 08/6/2022  
 8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
 Location: Allegheny Valley Volunteer Fire Company  
 Address: 851 Parkway Dr., Harwick, PA 15049  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Monthly Meeting - August  
 Date: 08/14/2022  
 10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
 Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

Concealed Carry Seminar - sponsored by Rep. Barb Gleim  
 Date: 08/17/2022

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
Location: Carlisle Fire and Rescue  
Address: 117 Carlisle Springs Road, Carlisle, PA 17013  
**more information**

FOAC Monthly Meeting - September  
Date: 09/11/2022  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

Harrisburg 2A Rally  
Date: 09/12/2022  
Start time: 10:00 am  
Location: Pennsylvania Capitol Stairs  
Address: 501 N. Third St, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
**more information**

Firearms License to Carry Satellite Event  
Date: 09/17/2022  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Location: Forward Township Municipal Building  
Address: 1000 Golden Cir., Elizabeth, PA 15037  
**more information**

Firearms License to Carry Satellite Event  
Date: 10/1/2022  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Location: Crescent Township Municipal Building  
Address: 225 Spring Run Rd., Glenwillard, PA 15046  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Monthly Meeting - October  
Date: 10/9/2022  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Monthly Meeting - November  
Date: 11/13/2022  
10:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Location: South Fayette Township Municipal Bldg.  
Address: 515 Millers Run Road, Morgan, PA 15064  
**more information**

FOAC-ILLEA Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon - December  
Date: 12/11/2022  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Location: TBD  
Address: TBD 15064  
**more information**

**IN CONCLUSION....**



Institute for  
Legal,  
Legislative  
and Educational  
Action

Do the work and educate yourself about who you are voting for this Tuesday. Urge you friends and family to get out and vote. Remember that the primary is an opportunity to align ourselves for success in November. **Make no compromise on the Constitution** and let us set up

Liberty for the win this fall; back the best horse to take us across the victory line in November.

Stay Armed and Be Well Regulated!

Yours in Freedom,

Klint Macro  
FOAC-ILLEA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
[kmacro@foac-illea.org](mailto:kmacro@foac-illea.org)