

Celona snowball rolls on!



7 more officials and 7 more corporations

OCG started process that toppled Celona

BY R. B. ZIEGLER

Senator John Celona's conviction on corruption charges illustrates that grassroots activists can break the cycle of corruption that exists in the State House. While not widely known, it was an ethics complaint filed by OCG against the Senator in 2003 that initiated the chain of events that led to his conviction. Senator Celona's cooperation with federal prosecutors in turn led to the launching of a major federal probe of corruption in state government appropriately named "Operation Dollar Bill."

As a result of the Celona probe, two former executives of Roger Williams Hospital received jail sentences and two former executives of CVS have recently been arraigned in federal court. Federal prosecutors have said they are now investigating seven corporations and seven elected officials. News reporters have suggested those under investigation could include former Senate President William Irons, current Senate President Joseph Montalbano and current Senate Finance Chairman Stephen Alves.

The Ethics Commission found Senator Celona guilty of not disclosing his ties to CVS, Blue Cross and Roger Williams Medical Center. Even with disclosure of employment ties, OCG feels that all legislators should be prohibited from introducing, speaking to, or voting on legislation that affects his or her employer, business partner or a broad class

of clients. Some have argued that under the present law, four state Senators whose primary employers are unions may be free to introduce, speak to and vote for legislation favoring their unions. OCG has sent a letter to the Ethics Commission dated February 20 2007 requesting that the commission amend its rules and regulations to address this problem.

Operation Clean Government will continue to keep watch on the legislative process and will file complaints with the Ethics Commission when conflict of interest or questionable activities are uncovered. OCG is now awaiting the outcome of investigations by the Ethics Commission of complaints it filed against Senator Montalbano for failing to report income received from West Warwick and against former Senator Irons for using his office for financial gain.

One of the root causes of Rhode Island's corruption is voter apathy. The Celona conviction should show those who have accepted corruption in the state house as a way of life that it can be beaten. If OCG, an organization of 2000 members and a small dedicated group of volunteers, can take on and win a battle against corruption just think how much more it could accomplish with the support of 5000 or, better still, 10,000 members. To join OCG and learn more about its activities check out its web site at www.ocgri.org.

Continuing federal investigation involves elected officials and RI businesses

Former Senator John Celona is currently serving a 30 month prison sentence for accepting money and gifts from a number of Rhode Island businesses in exchange for his action on legislation that affected those companies.

As a result of Celona's cooperation with authorities, two business leaders of Roger Williams Medical Center have already been sentenced to prison.

Celona has and will continue to cooperate with authorities in their on-going investigation of not only many state house

elected officials, but also the entities that paid for their services.

The on-going investigation involves not only the FBI and the RI State Police, but also the US Department of Labor and the criminal investigation arm of the Internal Revenue Service.

US Attorney Robert Corrente said in a January 30, 2007 press release, "*our mission is to root out the corruption that has existed, and level the playing field for all who do business with our government.*"

OCG forum tackles the danger and high cost of corruption to RI

*Breakfast forum, open to the public,
Saturday morning, May 5th in Cranston*

Moderator

Dave Layman, Former Providence News Anchor/ Commentator

Panel

U. S. Attorney Robert C. Corrente who is conducting the Operation Dollar Bill investigation looking into ties between payoffs and legislation in the General Assembly.

Providence Mayor David Cicilline who has made huge inroads in bringing the capital city back from the corrupt Cianci years. He knows first hand how corruption can cripple economic development.

Arlene Violet, former R.I. Attorney General and veteran talk show host, brings her experience serving as the top law enforcement official in Rhode Island to the panel. Arlene continues to advocate for good government.

Jim Hummel, ABC6 News investigative reporter who has uncovered government waste and irregularities throughout RI. Jim was just honored with the prestigious *Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting* in recognition for his stories uncovering questionable spending practices in the North Kingstown School Department.

Mike Stanton, The Providence Journal's Pulitzer Prize winning investigative reporter and author of "The Prince of Providence," a probing chronicle of Providence corruption and its notorious mayor, Buddy Cianci.

This is a first of its kind public forum examining RI's corruption. The panel will probe into the depth of corruption, the damage it inflicts, and its causes. Panelists will explore why Rhode Islanders tolerate this ongoing dishonesty and perversion that taints the reputation of our state. A key part of the forum will feature a lengthy question and answer session between the audience and the distinguished panelists.

If you want to see Rhode Island clean up its act, you and your family and friends will not want to miss this provocative forum:

Saturday, May 5th 9:00-11:30 AM

Shriners Imperial Room at Rhodes Place, Cranston

Reserve by April 25 - \$20 per ticket - \$160 for a table of 8

**Send check to: OCG Forum, PO Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888
call 861-3900 for information - donations are appreciated**

OCG's new president wants group to grow

To the Members and Friends of Operation Clean Government,

I am using this initial report to the membership and friends of OCG as the new President of Operation Clean Government and someone relatively new to the organization to give my initial impressions of the organization and the mission of OCG. I will also



Arthur "Chuck" Barton

explain how I see my role emerging for this important group. As I piece together the many facets of this role to which I have been elected, my goal is to develop a plan that will allow OCG to continue in its important work monitoring RI government for years to come.

- OCG has a recognizable brand name, like Kleenex or Xerox. OCG is synonymous with keeping state government free of corruption and unethical behavior. Our organization's reputation has stood out in the numerous interviews I have given to various media outlets. When the media want an advocate for clean government, as the leader of OCG, they call me.
- OCG is approached by many individuals and organizations looking for our support, however there are more challenges to making good government a reality than any one organization can accomplish. Our support is solicited because our organization stands for strong ethics and ideals. While many of the requests are important, as an all volunteer organization, OCG must sometimes defer even worthy requests due to lack of time and/or resources to do those requests justice.
- OCG has a vibrant and talented executive committee and a dedicated board of directors. The executive committee blends a desire for action with appropriate caution and a respect for diligence in approaching problems to maintain OCG's reputation for integrity. However, fear is never a reason not to go forward if action is warranted.
- As we move from the excellent entrepreneurial leadership of Bruce Lang and Bob Arruda, the past Chairmen of OCG, the next step should be towards a more self-sustaining structure. I have been im-

pressed with the willingness of the board and the executive committee to take initiative while keeping in mind the needs of the organization. We are actively conducting research into ethics issues in the state legislature. Work is also being done for a forum on corruption, which you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

• A task force is looking at ways to increase membership. While I am apprised of the activities of these efforts, other leaders in OCG are doing the work. Volunteers are being incorporated in meaningful efforts to make OCG a team effort. Bruce and Bob have created a strong identity for OCG. I see my job as finding ways to maintain that identity and strengthen the organization by sharing the responsibility.

Working with other organizations, like the Rhode Island Statewide Coalition (RISC) and Common Cause, will enhance our strength and identity. With so much to do, our state needs a variety of groups, each with a unique focus, but sharing a sense of purpose and optimism about what Rhode Island government can and should be. We will not agree about everything, but more importantly, we will share our common goals rather than focus on our differences.

During my first four months as President of OCG I have learned that other watchdog groups are looking forward to our cooperation in order to achieve meaningful results. I see that we can agree to disagree but still remain strong and united when we share a goal and a vision with other citizen organizations.

While OCG has a great brand identity, we do not see as much growth in membership as we would like, even as our efforts to challenge corrupt and unethical behavior are seeing great success. Under Sandra Thompson, OCG has a task force set up to help increase membership and to improve our strength financially while maintaining OCG's credibility. There are some good ideas coming forth from the group, which I expect you will see develop during the spring.

This newsletter raises awareness of what we have done and what we will continue to do. But we need your support. If you are a member, please consider an additional donation. If you have been a member, please consider renewing your affiliation. If you are not a member, please join our cause, which is really the cause of every taxpaying citizen in Rhode Island – good, ethical government.

In my first four months, I have learned a lot about OCG and its impact on government in Rhode Island. We have a dedicated and talented team, but we are looking for more citizens to help us continue the good work done in the past and that is going on now. I am proud to be part of this team. I hope you will join us.

Chuck Barton

OCG seeks better ways to keep ethics panel staffed

Currently only three of the nine Rhode Island Ethics Commission members have un-expired terms and one of those will expire in August. A bill, introduced since 2004 by Senate Majority Leader Teresa Paiva-Weed at the request OCG, establishes changes in the appointment process of members of the Ethics Commission.

There is no change in the appointing authorities. The Governor has four appointments and the other five appointments come from a list of nominations from the House Speaker, the House Majority Leader, the House Minority Leader, the Senate President and the Senate Minority Leader.

There will be advice and consent by the Senate, including a vetting process similar to that of judges. This is appropriate for members of the only Ethics Commission in the United States which is empowered to write an Ethics Code without regard to legislative enactment or executive veto.

The expiration date of each five year term will be March 1, so as to coincide with the legislative session and to allow time for

Senate advice and consent. If the time frames for each step of the appointing process are not met, it will trigger a default nominating authority as described below:

- In the event that the legislative nominating authority shall fail to act within the times prescribed herein, any such right hereunder shall be forfeited and the governor shall make such nominations as is required by this section within (30) days of the vacancy occurring.
- In the event that the governor shall fail to act within the times prescribed herein, any such right hereunder shall be forfeited and the lieutenant governor shall make such nominations as is required by this section within forty-five (45) days of the vacancy occurring.

Additionally, compensation is increased from \$100 per meeting to \$200, not to exceed \$10,000 in a year. Currently, not even the \$100 is being paid to members.

It is important to get this legislation passed, so that the commission members will not be serving under expired terms.

Secretary Mollis supports use of pro and con arguments to explain referenda

Since 2001, Representative Steven Smith has introduced legislation at the request of OCG that would have pro and con arguments on ballot questions in the Voter Information Handbook. This legislation has strong support of Secretary of State Ralph Mollis, so we anticipate its passage.

The additional cost for the handbook was estimated to be \$7,000 to \$10,000 in 2002 by the staff of Secretary Edward Inman.

This legislation was modeled after California law, which allows not only arguments for and against each referendum question,

but also allows rebuttal arguments for each position presented. At least thirteen states distribute voter information guides. Alaska, California, Idaho, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Oregon, and Utah allow pro and con arguments, some with rebuttals, with limits up to 500 words, some with no limit on the number of arguments, some allowing citizens and citizen groups to write the arguments and rebuttals.

Passing this legislation would be a positive step towards giving more information to the electorate on referenda questions.

New OCG Officers



Officers elected to the OCG Board in November are: Seated left to right: Marian "Mimi" DeCesaris, Secretary; Arthur "Chuck" Barton, President; Sandra Thompson, First Vice President; Standing Nolan Byrne, Treasurer; Robert Senville, Second Vice President.

*YOU can help Rhode Island
Join OCG today!
See page 4 for details*

Why are union employees voting on union issues?

COMMENTARY BY REPRESENTATIVE DOUGLAS GABLINSKE

For years I – as an individual, a Rhode Island resident, a taxpayer and a small business owner, – have questioned how those members of the General Assembly who are full-time business agents of public and private employee unions could write, promote, and maneuver legislation through the General Assembly yet not be in violation of the ethics law.

Now, as a public official – a recently elected legislator myself – I wish to shine a bright light on this issue and seek a logical answer to this obvious question.

It is incredulous to me that this flagrant conflict of interest has been allowed to go on for as long as it has, right under our noses. How can a union business agent who is also a legislator be allowed to promote the interests of union membership without being conflicted out of the process?

I have no doubt that these union business agent legislators do a good job of representing their constituents. However, their livelihood is derived from representing their membership. Faced with a choice of voting for what is in the best interest of their constituents and what is in the best interest of their membership and paycheck, their integrity could and would, most likely, be compromised.

Wouldn't it stand to reason that their compensation is increased to the degree that they are successful in promoting the unions' interests? After all, that's their job! So, while the union members benefit, as does the business agent, the taxpayers take it on the chin.

To be fair to their constituents, a legislator needs to be "objective" in his or her deliberations regarding legislation. In many, many cases the devil is in the details and the volumes of general laws contain the details that have been promoted and passed due to the "subjective" interests of union business agent legislators.

To allow union representatives to operate in this way is, in many ways, at the heart of our fiscal problems today.

John Celona, a former legislator, was recently sentenced to jail in Federal and State Courts for his involvement in accepting money in exchange for promoting the private, subjective interests of Roger Williams Medical Center, CVS and probably others, in the General Assembly. If it is wrong for him to do so, why isn't it wrong for the union business agents who are paid hefty salaries to basically promote their memberships interests through legislation? The conflict is as obvious as the nose on your face.

There is a saying that "everything you needed to know in life, you learned in kindergarten" where we were taught what was right and what was wrong. And we all know that legislative involvement by someone with a conflict of interest is not right! Unfortunately, sometimes, unnatural things become natural simply because they go on for so long, without being questioned.

As elected officials of this state – be it the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer or legislator – our job...no...our obligation is to promote the

general interests of the taxpayer, taking into account our special interests and perspectives, but not letting those special interests outweigh our obligations to the taxpayers.

The State of Rhode Island is a government entity and the manager of the state's interests. Many times, that obligation is at odds with the unions self-serving interests.

I am not anti-union but, as a legislator, I do believe I am now part of management of the State of RI and, therefore, my first



Rep. Douglas Gablinske

obligation is to the taxpayer. The current situation allows unions to become **part of management...rather than working with management** to find solutions to common goals and problems.

The playing field at the General Assembly has become uneven, at best! A union business agent is, de facto, a lobbyist and therefore, belongs "outside of the rail" of the House and the Senate chambers with the rest of the lobbyists.

Through the years, it seems to me, many elected officials have subrogated their responsibilities to the few, over the interests of the taxpayer and it needs to stop.

Currently, there is a crisis of political confidence in the State of Rhode Island. In the last two decades, we have seen a Superior Court Justice of RI chased from office, a former Governor and a former Mayor of Providence do jail time for unethical and criminal public conduct, and now a State Senator is also being sentenced to jail for selling legislation.

A wide-ranging federal investigation into public corruption is underway and more indictments are anticipated over the next few months, probably against current and former legislators, which will undoubtedly further erode the public's trust in government in general and the General Assembly in particular.

All Rhode Islanders, including honest public servants, of which there are many, look to the RI Ethics Commission to move swiftly and provide leadership in this moment of crisis. We look to the Ethics Commission to take bold action, to help restore the public's trust in Rhode Island's government, so that honest public servants can move on to do the people's business, which is why we were elected in the first place!

Editor's note: Doug Gablinske, a democrat, is a freshman State Representative from Bristol.

Union power goes unchecked by the people

COMMENTARY BY SANDRA THOMPSON

Warning: Do not read this article if you are satisfied with the status quo in Rhode Island government.

What happens when for years and years the people ignore and thereby accept an 800 pound gorilla in their State House? When does the stink finally get so bad and the pile of gorilla *do-do* get so deep that someone finally notices this behemoth, and the damage it has caused, and takes action to remove the beast?

We all know this gorilla exists, and its hungry demands are being met by the taxpayers in the form of higher taxes. Common sense should tell us that the huge beast that has the General Assembly in its grip is running the state. So what is this powerful creature that we tolerate even though it is bankrupting our state? It is the Unions and their many minions whom they use to establish and keep their power. However, could this greedy animal exist if the public refused to participate in this charade, or are we still of the mind that, "Nothing will change."

Thankfully, freshman Representative Douglas Gablinske – Democrat, Bristol, has recognized the gorilla. He is asking the Ethics Commission not to allow union employees, who are also legislators, to vote on legislation that would favor their union employers. Is this conflict any different from that of Senator John Celona who is in prison for using his position as a state senator to help his employers at CVS, Roger Williams Medical Center and Blue Cross Blue Shield RI? It is a brave move on Gablinske's part to single-handedly confront the unions. Unfortunately, not one other elected official has come forward to join him in his effort to uncover the problem.

Surveys show that voters believe their legislator does a good job, and it is all the other legislators that are bad. If so, why hasn't your "good" legislator spoken up to bring fairness and balance to our state and some tax relief for you?

Ignoring the issue makes the "good guys" part of the ongoing problem. I asked one of the "good guy" legislators why no other legislator was joining Gablinske in his effort to improve ethics in government. The answer was that just about everyone up at the State House has some connection to the unions, and they are *fearful* of union retribution. In other words, if a legislator's spouse is a teacher (synonymous with union member) the legislator's financial well being could be affected, i.e. bigger co-pay

on health insurance or a reduction in some other overly generous benefit afforded the spouse. (Interestingly, Representative Gablinske's wife is a teacher.)

It's time to face reality: *your legislator's first priority at the State House is to serve him/herself*, and most times it is at the public expense. They keep throwing our hard earned dollars into the public trough for the beast to feed on. To attain and maintain power, the unions have kept their Democrat cronies in office and controlled the legislative agenda through the General Assembly leadership.

Those elected public officials who are not part of this leadership club have taken the go-along-to-get-long path to governing. By their lack of action they are saying, "I will keep quiet if you throw some crumbs my way every now and then for my constituents. I will continue to reap the benefits that go along with being an elected official, like free health insurance, business connections or employment, and other political favors."

These political shenanigans have resulted in a failing education system, oppressive taxes, a poor business climate, a State House that serves as an employment agency for the "connected" and a dark cloud of corruption that hangs over our state. Our children leave Rhode Island to find better paying jobs, affordable housing and lower taxes. Businesses that provide good jobs are not interested in locating in a state that is unfriendly to them.

Those who can afford to, leave the state to escape prohibitive estate taxes on money they have worked hard to obtain for their families. Even public employees retire early and escape to Florida with their pensions, which our taxes provide.

Rhode Island is facing hundreds of millions of dollars in deficits in the foreseeable future because the General Assembly made unrealistic promises to public employee unions – promises they cannot keep. The future of Rhode Island will be a train wreck if we adhere to the status quo with one party control of the state and with that party relying on the unions to keep it in power. The gorilla will remain in the State House feeding on our diminishing taxpayer dollars as long as the people accept the "Nothing will ever change" mentality. Is this what we want for Rhode Island?

Union lobbyists still fighting Voter Initiative

Union lobbyists from the State Association of Firefighters, the AFL-CIO, National Education Association/RI, and the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals showed up March 14 at the House Judiciary hearing to testify against Voter Initiative.

They are concerned about special in-

terests and big money controlling ballot questions. They don't seem to recognize that they are representing special interests.

OCG testified that big money is no guarantee that a ballot question will pass or be defeated after observing the results of gambling questions on the ballot in 2006 and 1994.

State faces financial fiasco

'Structural deficit' has gone on for years

BY ROY PRUETT

Is Rhode Island heading toward a fiscal crisis? The answer may be surprising. In a recent episode of OCG's cable TV program "State of the State," Executive Director Gary Sasse of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) sat down with OCG's past Chairman Robert Arruda to discuss R.I.'s budget woes. Arruda began the show asking why Governor Carcieri and the General Assembly announced last May with glee that the state finally had a balanced budget and then six months later, after the November elections, announced that there would be a \$105 million deficit for 2007 and a projected \$256 million deficit for fiscal year 2008?

The answer is simple; budgets are based on estimated receivable revenues. Rhode Island's projected revenues are underperforming by about \$75 million this year. The State was counting on its portion (\$35-\$40 million) of a national settlement with AIG Insurance for filing false financial statements, but this has not materialized. Gary Sasse went on to describe how a downturn in the local economy, low lottery proceeds, a softening housing market and weak personal income growth were all factors. Also mentioned, Rhode Island has been operating under a structural deficit for a number of years. That happens when operating expenditures exceed current year revenues, or simply stated, "the State spends more than it receives in revenues."

What spurs State spending? There are three major expenditures in the budget. Since 1997 entitlements accounted for 41 cents on every dollar, personnel for 21 cents on every dollar and local aid and school aid for 20 cents on every dollar. All three are very important governmental functions. However, is the cost of these expenditures justified? Many believe that emphasis should be placed upon how efficiently the government performs these tasks.

Sasse says, "Rhode Island is a very generous state." According to a RIPEC report,

Rhode Island ranks third in the country in welfare services and fourth in Medicaid expenditures. These programs factor into the state's budget deficit. What is needed is a total review of state entitlement programs to streamline the process. Rhode Island must compare itself to other states in regard to benefit structure and administration of services. Rhode Island has an entitlement mentality, spending money on excessive entitlements and leaving little to invest elsewhere. Sasse mentions the old adage, "Do you give a person a fish or do you teach that person to fish?" What is fundamental to all budgetary processes is that in order to compete in today's economy, the state must invest in higher education, infrastructure and workforce development.

State personnel costs have skyrocketed over the past decade. While the number of state full time employees (FTE) has decreased from 17,700 to 16,000, the median cost per FTE has almost doubled. The median cost of state FTE's today, which includes salary, health benefits and retirement is \$83,000 per year as compared to \$43,500 ten years ago. Lawmakers must look at what is driving these costs and remedy the problems. Some suggestions include freezing longevity benefits and rewarding employees by placing performance incentives in the union contract.

Rhode Island government cannot continue to do business as it has. Governor Carcieri and the General Assembly must act now to thwart an impending fiscal crisis. This topic will continue to be discussed on State of the State. Upcoming programs shall include interviews with Governor Carcieri (R) and Representative Steven Costantino (D), Chairman of the House Finance Committee, and others. Be sure to watch these upcoming programs for a closer look at this very serious problem.

Editor's note: Roy Pruett is a member of the production crew for OCG's State of the State cable TV program which discusses issues vital to RI government.

Could Ethics Commission die from neglect?

Today with regard to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, there is good news and there is bad news. The *good news* is that this ethics commission has more power to clean up both state and municipal governments than do similar commissions in most other states. In the past couple of years alone two of Operation Clean Government's complaints have brought about record setting fines. House Majority Leader Gordon Fox settled the ethics complaint against him by paying a \$10,000 dollar fine and shortly thereafter Senator John Celona was assessed a record setting fine of \$130,000 when he was found guilty of using his public office to benefit his employers.

The *bad news* is that this nine member commission is operating in the "red," so to speak, with one vacancy since Patricia Moran resigned last August and with *only* three of the remaining eight members fulfilling current terms, one of which will expire in September.

It is important to note there is a statute, R.I. Gen. Laws §36-14-8, that sets forth the process for appointments to the Commission which are currently being ignored. The Governor has four appointments. The other five appointments are from the House Speaker, the House Majority Leader, the House Minority Leader, the Senate President and the Senate Minority Leader. Each is required to send a list of five nominees to the Governor who will then appoint one person from each list. A commission member's term is for five years without reappointment unless a commissioner was appointed to fill an unexpired term, then s/he can be reappointed to a full five year term.

Commission member Richard Kirby's term expired in 2002. He was appointed by then House Speaker John Harwood. Speaker William Murphy has not seen fit to replace him since then, and word has it that Mr. Kirby plans to retire from the Commission this year whether he is replaced or not.

Governor Carcieri is delinquent in two appointments: Commission Chairman James

Lynch, Sr. was appointed by Governor Almond in 1997 to fill an unexpired term. He then was appointed to a full five year term which expired in 2006. Another Almond appointment is George Weavil, Jr. whose term expired in 2005. He is eligible for re-appointment.

Senator Montalbano has yet to submit nominations for the Moran seat. Finally, Minority Leader Robert Watson has yet to submit nominations to replace Frederick K. Butler whose term expired in 2005. Watson appointed him in 2004 to fill an unexpired term. Therefore he is eligible for reappointment to a full five year term.

Why is this such an outrageous situation? If these members with expired terms were to step down from the commission, it would be extremely difficult to come up with five members required for a quorum which is needed for any action to be taken under the Code of Ethics. These terms are staggered intentionally so that the Commission has only a few members at a time new to the process. To replace the entire board all at once would be chaotic.

In addition to ruling on ethics complaints, the board also issues advisory opinions on conflict of interest questions brought before the commission by public officials and employees. EC Executive Director Kent Willever told OCG that since the large fines were assessed to Fox and Celona, there has been an increase in the number of requests for advisory opinions coming before the Commission. Officials do not want to take a chance that they may not be in compliance with the Code of Ethics. Anything that enhances honesty in government is a good thing for the public.

OCG President Chuck Barton has sent a letter to those officials who are negligent in their duty to appoint ethics commission members, requesting that the terms of Ethics Commission members be kept current as required by law or to explain to the public why they are failing to do so at a time when a cloud of corruption hangs over our state.

Schedule for OCG's State of the State Cable TV Program

Saturday at 11 PM, and Sunday at 8 AM on Interconnect Channel A (13)
Thursday at 9 PM and Friday at 3 PM on local Public Access Channel 18

Issues of the day are discussed with elected and appointed officials.

**Sign-up for
OCG's email alerts
at www.ocgri.org**

Had enough? You CAN help change Rhode Island – join OCG

Operation Clean Government has, since 1993, had a simple, straight-forward agenda: to promote honest, responsible and responsive state government. If you have read the contents of this paper you have learned a little about the good work this all-volunteer group is doing. Every penny of your membership goes to fighting corruption and to working to reform state government. With your help we can change Rhode Island government.

OCG MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want to join other Rhode Island citizens and help to promote Honest, Responsible and Responsive State Government.

New member

Renewal

\$25

\$35

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$_____ Other

Individual

Family (list all names to be included)

Name(s) _____ Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Street _____ Email Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

OCG is a non-profit organization, however contributions are not tax deductible because our activities include lobbying.

Yes, I would like to volunteer some time or participate on one or more of the OCG committees. Please call me.

I heard about OCG from _____

April/May 2007

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT • PO BOX 8683 • WARWICK, RI 02888

Citizen Alert is a publication of
Operation Clean Government
PO Box 8683
Warwick, RI 02888
tel: (401) 861-3900
www.ocgri.org

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Beverly Clay, Editor
Will Barbeau, Chuck Barton
Janice Carlson, Sanford Miller
Sandra Thompson

OFFICERS:

President Arthur "Chuck" Barton, E. Greenwich
1st Vice Pres Sandra L. Thompson, E. Greenwich
2nd Vice Pres Robert Senville, Barrington
Treasurer Nolan Byrne, Cranston
Secretary Marian DeCesaris, Cranston

Past President: Robert P. Arruda

DIRECTORS:

Lynda Avanzato, North Kingstown
Will Barbeau, Barrington
John Carlevale, West Greenwich
David C. Clarke, Barrington
Beverly M. Clay, West Greenwich
James DeCesaris, Cranston
Rod Driver, Richmond
Deb Hogan, Bristol
Kerry King, Saunderson
Mary Langhorn, Providence
Charles Nelson, Johnston
Al Palazzo, West Warwick
Roy Pruett, Coventry
June Spink, North Kingstown
Robert Ziegler, Bristol

OCG holds public servants to the highest levels of ethical conduct