



OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT

N E W S L E T T E R

History Was Made When RI General Assembly Passed Separation of Powers Resolution

Constitution will change after voters approve Question #1 on the 2004 Ballot

By Janice E. Carlson

On June 30, 2003, in an historic move, both the House and Senate unanimously passed a resolution for a true separation of powers constitutional amendment. Their work will allow voters in the November 2004

had voted for the change in non-binding referenda in 2000 and 2002. Kudos to all members of the General Assembly who voted, and to House Speaker William Murphy and Senate President William Irons

sands of members. And in the end the tenacity and fore sight of many, including the voters of Rhode Island really brought the issue home.

Also, invaluable was the support of the *Providence Journal*, and other daily and

weekly newspapers and media outlets, which kept the issue alive through coverage and editorials.

Finally, everyone in Rhode Island can be proud of this momentous result of citizens' participation in state government.



Photo by Will Barbeau

At the Governor's Press conference July 3, displaying the *Providence Journal* headline "General Assembly Unanimously Approves Separation of Powers" are from left to right: Phil West, Executive Director of Common Cause; Senator J. Michael Lenihan, SOP bill sponsor; Robert Arruda, Operation Clean Government Chairman; and Bruce Lang, President of Rhode Island Separation of Powers Committee.

election a binding vote on the resolution to make it a part of the state's Constitution, thereby aligning the structure of our state government with that of the federal government and 49 other states.

In this epic move, the General Assembly confirmed the will of the people who



Photo by Will Barbeau

Representative Nick Gorham, SOP bill sponsor, addressing the SOP coalition.

for shepherding the bill through the legislative process. And accolades to Representative Fausto Anguilla for his bill, which sparked a good and true debate on the issue

But, the special honors belong to the bill's sponsors: Representative Nicholas Gorham and Senator J. Michael Lenihan who persisted when many others resisted. And clearly, Governor Carcieri's declaration within a week after his election to make SOP a priority in his new administration, and his testimony before the Separation of Powers House and Senate Committees, gave the bills fresh momentum.

This historic moment did not come easily. The road to passage of this resolution was often tortured and fraught with resistance to the relinquishment of power.

But, in a remarkable show of unity, individuals and organizations came together to form a task force, and eventually through the efforts of Phil West of Common Cause and Bruce Lang of RISOP, and supported by Operation Clean Government, formed a core coalition of 33 citizens, business, religious and environmental groups with thou-

Proposed Constitutional Changes Passed by General Assembly

New language

- "No senator or representative shall, during the time for which he or she was elected, be appointed to any state office, board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity exercising executive power under the laws of this state, and no person holding any executive office or serving as a member of any board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity exercising executive power under the laws of this state shall be a member of the senate or the house of representatives during his or her continuance in such office."
- "The governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint all officers of the state whose appointment is not herein otherwise provided for, and all members of any board, commission or other state or quasi-public entity which exercises executive power under the laws of this state; but the general assembly may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they deem proper, in the governor, or within their respective departments in the other general officers, the judiciary, or in the heads of departments."

New language underlined

- "The powers of the government shall be distributed into three separate and distinct departments: the legislative, executive, and judicial."

Eliminated language

- "The general assembly shall continue to exercise the powers it has heretofore exercised, unless prohibited in this Constitution."

Separation of Powers Coalition

These 33 citizen, community, religious and business groups worked cooperatively toward passage of the Separation of Powers referendum.

Aquidneck Island Clergy Association • American Association of University Women
Central RI Chamber of Commerce • Citizens Concerned About Casino Gambling
Coalition for Consumer Justice • Common Cause/RI
Conservation Law Foundation • Cranston Chamber of Commerce
East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
Environment Committee of the Diocese of RI • Environment Council of RI
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce
Jamestown Town Council • Jewish Federation of RI
Kay Coalition Against Casino Gambling • League of Women Voters
Manufacturing Summit • Newport City Council
Newport County Chamber of Commerce • Northern RI Chamber of Commerce
Operation Clean Government • Portsmouth Concerned Citizens
Priests for Justice • RI Public Interest Research Group
RI Separation of Powers Committee • RI State Council of Churches
RI United Methodist Association • Save The Bay • Sierra Club/RI
The Energy Council of RI • Unitarian-Universalist Churches
Urban League of RI

RIEC Staff Proposes Regressive Changes in Code Regulations

By Janice E. Carlson

In January, the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (RIEC) staff sent a multiple page memo to the Commissioners recommending “possible regulatory changes.” The memo and subsequent comments during open meetings of the commission indicate that these changes are based on concerns raised by commissioners during the past year and a half.

The Commission voted last month to hold an open session workshop on these proposed changes after their regular hearing on June 10, 2003. Unfortunately, the commission failed to meet on that day due to lack of a quorum and re-scheduled the workshop for June 24. Again, due to a lack of a quorum, there was no meeting.

Any changes accepted by the commissioners will be subject to public hearings after a thirty-day notice.

These proposed recommendations include two “proposals” regarding Regulation 1001 that would set the commission back at least ten years.

The first, “sealing the ethics complaint until there is a finding of probable cause” is based on a review of how ethics regulators in 26 city & state jurisdictions deal with public access to complaints.

In a related second proposal, present commissioners have expressed strong opinions favoring a “gag order” on all filed complaints until the earlier of a finding of probable cause or the dismissal of the complaint.

RI Ethics Regulation 1001 can be found on page 39 of the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government and Regulations, or online at <http://www.state.ri.us/ethics>. Call the RIEC at 222-3790 for a copy of the proposed changes

Regulation 1001 was enacted by the 1991 sitting commission after a 1989 United States District Court of Rhode Island ruling struck down the “gag order” regulation as a violation of the First Amendment.

The current RIEC staff makes the above stated proposals purportedly “to afford a minimum level of confidentiality to those accused of ethics violations.” However, if enacted, it would set the RIEC on a slippery slope of protecting alleged violators at the expense of the public’s right to know.

A third proposal would exclude the complainant from the process entirely. Currently, those who bring a complaint are given notice at all stages of the process and allowed to attend the probable cause hearing.

The proposed change is based on the commission’s interpretation of 1001 (d) as meaning: “the Complainant is not a party in

interest [in] sic an ethics action.” This view is without merit. If someone is brave enough to come forward and submit a written complaint that is ultimately approved by “The Executive Director or designee” who “shall be responsible for the review and processing of such information in order to determine whether to conduct a preliminary investigation...” that person should certainly be allowed to monitor the ensuing review process of their own complaint.

Furthermore, Reg. 1001 (d) goes on to say that even if the person who filed the complaint later wishes to “withdraw [the] complaint” it will have no impact on “the continuing jurisdiction of the Commission over the complaint.” Clearly, this regulation is meant to protect the complainant (and the Ethics Commission), and is not intended to serve as a basis for excluding the complainant from participation in the complaint review process.

A fourth proposal recommends, among other things, a change that springs from a complaint filed by Operation Clean Government, *In re Robert Arrigan*, No. 2001-56, regarding reporting not-for-profit organizations on financial disclosure forms. (See *The Dysfunctional Ethics Commission* article page 4 of this newsletter.)

Clearly, the Code of Ethics regulations are subject to interpretation by any standing RIEC staff and the commissioners. And furthermore, each has a duty to promulgate rules and regulations that would improve the process of maintaining an ethical climate in RI government. The above-described recommendations by the current staff, however, appear antithetical to that purpose.

Also stated in the RIEC memo is the claim that “It is the expectation that it [the staff recommendations] will be used as a starting point for discussion.” Let us hope that the discussion concludes with the realization that Rhode Island would not be served by the adoption of these recommendations.

Indeed, only recently has the commission finally begun to file complaints on its own, and those are exclusive to the financial disclosure process. Until the RIEC begins to acknowledge violations to the Code of Ethics and file and initiate complaints themselves, it is incumbent upon private citizens and “watchdog” organizations to take on this responsibility. (The vast majority of complaints filed in recent years have been by Operation Clean Government.)

While the complaint process may be awkward and apparently not to the liking of the staff, it must be recognized as the only avenue available for the public to bring notice to the commission about possible code violations.

House, Press Ignore Attempt To Intimidate SOP Advocate

By Burt Hoffman

Left behind in the struggle to separate the powers of state government is the reported attempt by two unidentified members of the House to threaten the president of Roger Williams University and intimidate



Professor Carl Bogus

Photo by Leo Mathieu

a law professor who is a major separation of powers (SOP) advocate.

This alleged attempt by elected officials who opposed SOP to use their political power to stifle free speech and academic independence and to corrupt the democratic process becomes even worse because of the indifference to it by state legislators, the media and the public itself.

Worst still is that the threat was partially successful when Roy J. Nirschel, RWU president, sent an emissary to Carl T. Bogus, a law professor at RWU, to express his concern over Bogus’s SOP advocacy. Fortunately, Bogus was not cowed.

The incident came to light when the weekly political scene of *The Providence Journal* reported on April 21 that Bruce Kogan, dean of the law school, relayed a “concern raised” by Nirschel over any perceived connection between the Bristol university and Bogus’s outspokenness. *The Journal* said Kogan asked Bogus to make clear that he expressed his own opinions when supporting SOP, not those of the university.

According to Bogus, Nirschel’s explanation for what Bogus called a “bizarre” request, was that two legislators with whom Nirschel met said Bogus’s advocacy could make it difficult for them to support retaining the university’s property tax free status. Although Nirschel refused to acknowledge the clear implication, the legislators obviously suggested that the university’s tax status was being jeopardized by the words of Bogus, chairman of the Common Cause Task Force on Separation of Powers and a major contributor to the legislation that OCG supports.

Nirschel, *The Journal* reported, said he did not consider the comments threatening.

However, it strains credulity to construe loss of support for continued tax exemption unless Bogus were restrained as anything other than a threat. If Nirschel did not consider the comments threatening, then why did he send Kogan, the law school dean, to talk to Bogus? Nirschel also declined to identify the two legislators who mentioned the *quid pro quo* possibility.

While attempting to flesh out the story, I learned that Nirschel, seeking support to retain the tax-free status threatened by state and local politicians to fill budget deficits,

invited several lawmakers to meet with him, individually and collectively, often at RWU’s Providence classroom building. During the meetings of about 30 minutes, Nirschel, usually accompanied by Jeffrey Gillooly, his executive assistant, argued that RWU’s property tax exemption was offset by its contributions to Bristol and the state.

Because of the university’s Bristol location and the membership on the House Separation of Powers Committee of two Bristol lawmakers who opposed Bogus’s SOP positions, I asked both legislators – Rep. Fausto C. Anguilla (D) and Rep. Raymond E. Gallison Jr. (D) – if they had discussed SOP and RWU’s property tax free status with Nirschel.

Anguilla said he met with Nirschel and discussed taxes, but not SOP; Gallison said he was out of town and did not meet with Nirschel. I also learned that Rep. Peter F. Kilmartin (D-Pawtucket), another member of the SOP committee, had told a questioner he was not one of the unidentified legislators.

Members of the House SOP Committee were silent on May 20 when I testified that their business was unfinished as long as the two legislators who threatened Nirschel were unidentified.

The attempt to intimidate Bogus, I said, illustrated legislative corruption and was the antithesis of the democratic process to which Committee Chair Elaine A. Cordere (D-Pawtucket) and Vice Chair Paul W. Crowley (D-Newport) frequently alluded. I suggested that Cordere call Nirschel as a witness to identify the two legislators. Cordere said my comments were inappropriate to the committee’s consideration of the amended version of the SOP legislation.

Equally silent about the threats were reporters covering the hearing. No mention of my testimony appeared in stories by Liz Anderson of *The Journal*, Jim Baron of *The Pawtucket Times*, Joe Baker of *The Newport Daily News* and Margo Sullivan of *Newport This Week*. None of their newspapers had followed up the political scene column item supplied by Anderson.

Until Nirschel stops covering up for the legislators who threatened RWU and they are identified, the House has a pall over it. Advocates of good government must undertake the burden of discovery by asking members of the House whether they met with Nirschel and discussed Bogus, tax exemptions and separation of powers. Public questioning at forums and other appearances could be particularly productive and will increase public awareness.

Note: After 23 years as a journalist, Hoffman spent 10 years on congressional staffs, five with Speaker Thomas P. O’Neill Jr. and Whip John Brademas (D-IN) and five split between Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) and Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-CA). Later, as a senior vice president of Hill and Knowlton, he was an adviser to Indonesian cabinet ministers dealing with the economy. He subsequently directed a USAID program in Ukraine before retiring to Newport in 1997. He is a member of the governing board of Common Cause/RI, a member of Operation Clean Government and is a vice president of the RI Separation of Powers Committee.)

How can YOU help Rhode Island?

Join OCG today!

See page 4 for details.

Ethics Speakers Challenge Citizens

By Will Barbeau

OCG's breakfast forum on "Improving the Ethics Climate in RI: How to get there from here" brought forth a balanced review of this difficult issue. Held May 4 at the Airport Radisson, the forum, moderated by



Arlene Violet

Photo by Will Barbeau

Arlene Violet, featured Rae Condon, former director of the Conflict of Interest Commission which preceded the RI Ethics Commission (RIEC); Sara Quinn, former director RIEC; Providence Mayor David Cicilline; and John Gudavich, a retired Associate Inspector General from Washington, DC.

OCG Chairman Robert P. Arruda was roundly applauded during his introductory remarks when he proclaimed that OCG "would not be intimidated" by the Ethics Commission's current attack "on the messenger" now being litigated in court.

He pointed out that OCG had filed 90 percent of recent complaints, 47 having to do with non-compliance in filing financial disclosure forms in 2001. As a result, the RIEC implemented a follow-up program which has increased the rate of filings dramatically.

Rae Condon, gave a brief history of the Conflict of Interest Commission, which she headed between 1977 and 1987. She revealed the high antipathy of the legislature towards that commission, demonstrated through hindered salaries, withheld furniture and repeated initiatives to postpone, weaken or eliminate the commission.

She expressed pride that the diverse group of commissioners – despite the interference – knitted themselves together to turn the commission into a successful group. She noted, "no commission vote was ever corrupted by partisan political interests." Ms Condon concluded that ethics codes are still a "young" activity and that they will always be "a work in progress."

Sara Quinn's remarks focused on the current non-performance of the Ethics Commission. She emphasized that the state constitution gives the Ethics Commission the power to file complaints, but that the commission has never done so. As she put it, "The Ethics Commission now makes no particular effort to abide by its basic constitutional mandate." Posing the question: "How many hearings on ethics complaints have been held since 1995?" Her answer: "Virtually none."

She also criticized the General Assembly's Roney Amendment, which allows the RIEC to fine citizens up to \$5,000 for filing "frivolous complaints."

Ms. Quinn said a ruling by Judge Pettine in 1989 stated that citizens filing complaints through the Ethics Commission cannot be muzzled through secrecy regulations because it violates first amendment rights to free speech.

In her concluding remarks, Attorney Quinn challenged the audience to become "citizen critics . . . You have to assume the responsibility to hold government accountable and make the Ethics Commission function properly."

Mayor Cicilline described his efforts to create a new "ethical culture" in Providence's government. His "report from the field," revealed that he has already created an "Ethics Task Force," was in the midst of drafting a "comprehensive municipal Code of Ethics," and has created an "Office of Municipal Integrity" tasked to both educate city employees and enforce the Code of Ethics.

He eliminated the long-time practice of city employees contributing money to the Mayor's election campaigns. He also eliminated the notorious tow list, a long-time source of election funds, by putting towing out to public bid, producing \$300,000 in new revenue for the city. He explained the difficulty of changing a culture which has functioned for decades. "The city government is like a rubber band," he said, "I've stretched it, but every day it tries to spring back to its old ways."

The final speaker, John Gudavich, explained, "politicians must try to accommodate the public's many views, but never include enriching themselves. They have the obligation of integrity. Democracy requires a high degree of confidence that all decisions are being made for the public . . . and the ultimate judgment of that integrity rests with the public."

He cautioned the audience that the public should look at politicians in a positive way, yet also "build safeguards that will prevent fraud and mismanagement." He explained how an Inspector General's office functions in a completely independent fashion, responsible only to the public. He concluded by noting that honesty in a politician's career is its own reward; such individuals need never fear attack and always enjoy the gratification of having improved the world they live in.

The forum ended with questions from the audience, the final one from OCG Chairman Robert Arruda who asked how Mayor Cicilline planned to enforce his ethics codes in view of the state Ethics Commission's failure to perform. The Mayor responded that he could not depend on the state's Ethics Commission and therefore has set up Providence's own ethics Task Force, with a published Code of Ethics and an office charged with educating public employees and enforcing the code.



Panelists, left to right: Rae Condon, Sara Quinn, John Gudavich, Mayor David Cicilline

Photo by Will Barbeau

Mark Your Calendar !!!

**The Second Biennial Candidates' School
will be held March 27, 2004
at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick**

Hypocrisy in the House

By William H. Clay

The General Assembly recently passed legislation requiring cities and towns to report their financial problems to the state. This legislation was signed into law by the Governor on June 27, 2003. Bill sponsors were Majority Leader Montalbano in the Senate and Majority Leader Gordon Fox in the House. Fox said, "If a town is having financial difficulties we have the tools . . . to put them on a diet."

In the meantime, the House rejected Representative Dennigan's bill that would have required the General Assembly to adhere to the open records law as required by all but the judiciary. Her bill also would have

required annual audits of the legislature's accounts and expenditures. Such sunlight would expose how the General Assembly manages its own budget — \$26.9 million for fiscal year 2002-2003.

House Speaker Murphy said he sees no need for it, thereby allowing the House controlled Joint Committee on Legislative Services to continue creating no-show jobs and providing health insurance to these no-show employees while denying public access to its records.

Don't the new self-proclaimed reform-minded General Assembly leaders recognize the hypocrisy of their actions?

Accolades to William H. Clay

William H. Clay was honored during a recent brunch at the Coast Guard House in Narragansett. Bill stepped off the OCG board of directors in January after being elected chair of the Exeter/West Greenwich School Committee.

A founding member of OCG in 1993, he was also editor of the OCG newsletter and served for the past three years as Chair of the Organization Committee.

Bill gave unselfishly of his time and expertise while doing a myriad of activities in the fight for good, responsible and responsible government over the past ten years.

His efforts in research, writing and testifying for legislation as well as his wise counsel in board decisions were invaluable to the organization. He also prepared the full-sized broom and wrote the testimonials for the coveted OCG Golden Broom awards.

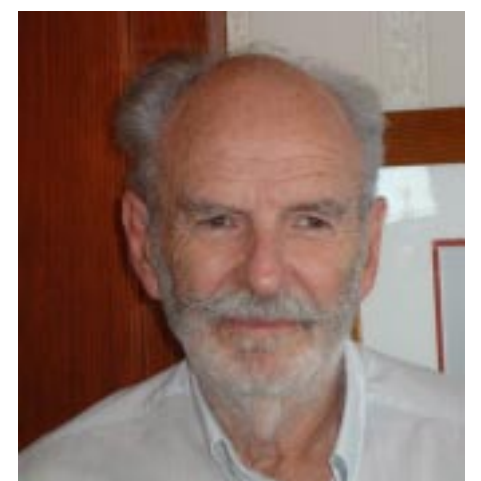


Photo by Stan Spink

Although he no longer attends board meetings he continues to take an active interest in the workings of OCG, for which we are very grateful.

Visit OCG's Website

www.ocgri.org

Our Dysfunctional Ethics Commission

By Beverly M. Clay

Problems with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (RIEC) are more far reaching than simply the defective appointment process and lack of diversity among commission members. The Commission also needs a competent and motivated investigative staff.

The RIEC has dismissed several complaints solely due to inadequate investigations by RIEC's investigative staff. How do we know? Operation Clean Government (OCG) complainants have been present during the probable cause hearings and have observed that RIEC investigators have been unable, inexcusably, to answer many basic factual questions put to them about their cases.

The most recent example was the probable cause hearing on April 1, which alleged that former House Speaker John Harwood had hired, improperly, one of the state's highest paid lobbyists, Attorney Robert Goldberg, to defend him in the Wendy Collins case. (This case eventually caused Harwood to be replaced as speaker, although not by reason of any action by the RIEC.)

RIEC investigators concluded that Goldberg was hired not by Harwood but by Richard Kearns, the Executive Director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services (JCLS), a five-member committee of legislative leaders chaired by Speaker Harwood. Kearns was also chief legal counsel in the Speaker's office. The RIEC investigation pivoted on an affidavit signed by Kearns stating that he contacted and hired Goldberg to represent the JCLS.

Supporting OCG's complaint were seven articles written by Katherine Gregg, reporter for the *Providence Journal*, stating that:

- the JCLS had not met in years
 - the two senate members of the JCLS did not know that Goldberg had been hired or that Wendy Collins had been given a \$75,000 settlement until they read it in the newspaper
 - Goldberg did not have a contract with the JCLS
 - Goldberg spoke for Harwood, explaining Harwood's statements
 - Goldberg appeared at Harwood's side at press conferences.
- Furthermore, the investigators could

not answer basic questions by the RIEC commissioners such as "Did Harwood re-use during activities?"... "Is it possible he's controlling who they hire?"... "Is he part of it and possibly orchestrating it?" The investigative team also failed to determine who authorized Kearns to hire Goldberg, answering only that "the JCLS has not been exactly regular, no minutes, no vote recorded."

It would have been simple for the RIEC investigators to have verified the *Providence Journal* articles by interviewing the four other members of the JCLS, and Commission members should have insisted that the investigators undertake those interviews. To make matters worse, only four RIEC Commissioners out of a full panel of nine were present for the Harwood hearing, with a 3 to 1 vote for dismissal.

Previously, inadequate investigations led to the dismissal of two complaints against Worker's Compensation Court Chief Judge Robert Arrigan. The first complaint, dismissed in December 2001, alleged that Arrigan had interfered with a request by OCG for Arrigan's court attendance records. A RIEC investigator determined that there were no attendance records at the court. But the complaint was not about whether there were attendance records, but rather Arrigan's interference with OCG's request for the records.

Only after RIEC dismissed the case was it disclosed that records were indeed kept, and were destroyed each year in January — a questionable act in itself. The *Providence Journal*, on April 28, 2002, quoted the Ethics Commission prosecutor for this case as stating: "That was the information we had at the time... even if records existed, the commission can't reconsider its action, 'there would be nothing we could do about it now.'"

A second complaint dismissed in April 2002 alleged that Arrigan had for several years failed to disclose on his financial disclosure form that he served as President, Vice President and Trustee during a six-year period of two non-profit corporations, the International Association of Industrial Accidents Boards and Commissions and the In-

ternational Workers Compensation Foundation.

The financial disclosure form clearly requires that leadership positions in either profit or non-profit corporations must be disclosed. Nevertheless, the commissioners struggled inexplicably with whether they should be requiring disclosure of leadership positions in non-profit corporations.

They discussed groups with little financial impact, such as the Boy Scouts, little league, church groups, etc. The investigative staff failed to mention that the IWCF had annual budgets approaching one million dollars. Although this information was easily obtained by OCG, RIEC investigators failed to inform commission members of these and other pertinent facts.

After dismissing this complaint, the commissioners placed a one-year moratorium on filing complaints for the non-disclosure of leadership in non-profit corporations, stating they would study RIEC regulations and hold hearings on proposed new regulations.

Nearly one year later, on April 1, the commissioners voted to extend this moratorium, because they had not yet proposed the rule changes, which would be followed by public hearings.

A prior OCG complaint against Harwood was dismissed in November 2001. The allegations were that Harwood was representing private clients before the Depart-

ment of Environmental Management and the Department of Business Regulation, state agencies for which he, as speaker, held budgetary control. This time, the investigative staff recommended that one of the four counts be investigated, but commission members copped out, wrongly interpreting the Supreme Court Ferrey decision to mean that only the courts can determine the activities of attorney-legislators.

To the contrary, an opinion piece by Chief Justice Frank Williams, in the *Providence Journal*, January 31, 2002, stated "Although the Supreme Court has issued an opinion related to the licensing of out-of-state attorneys [Ferrey], no opinion has been rendered on the matter of conflict of interest involving lawyer-legislators."

As these cases demonstrate, the Ethics Commission needs not only a full complement of commissioners willing to ask hard questions, but also a motivated investigative staff to give them the correct answers. The Commissioners need to be better informed when cases are heard, so that they no longer dismiss complaints with the false excuse that the ethics regulations are not adequate to address the situation.

Rhode Island has one of the strongest ethics commissions constitutionally in the United States, but functionally one of the weakest. Changes should be made to ensure that the Ethics Commission does its job properly.

Nominations for OCG Officers/Directors

Elections for officers and five directors will be held at the annual meeting, Nov 6, 2003 at 7 P.M. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. The Organization Committee is requesting that OCG members submit their nominations by August 20, listing:

- The name, address and telephone number of the person nominated
- Whether the person is willing to serve
- Current and past activities with OCG
- Recent civic, community and political activities.

The Organization Committee will screen the nominations for eligibility under the by-laws and present their recommendations to the board at the September board meeting. All eligible nominees will be on the ballot at the annual meeting.

Please send the above information with your name, address and telephone number to: Operation Clean Government, P.O. Box 8683, Warwick, RI 02888

WHO WE ARE...

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is a grassroots organization working to bring about positive changes in Rhode Island state government. We advocate the passage of legislation which will provide Honest, Responsible and Responsive state government. We file court suits and ethics complaints and alert the public to government wrongdoing via OCG newsletters, press releases, opinion pieces on editorial pages and appearances in the electronic media. Dues are \$12 for an individual membership and \$15 for a family membership. Donations of any amount are also welcome. As an all volunteer organization, there are no salaries or compensation other than the satisfaction that we are giving our best effort to make a positive difference in Rhode Island. Our costs include newsletters, mailings, court filing fees, office materials and supplies, publicity and public forums.

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

My membership contribution to OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT is enclosed:

\$12 Individual \$15 Family (list all names to be included) \$25 \$50 \$100 \$____ Other

Name(s) _____ Home Phone _____

Street _____ Business Phone _____

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.

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

I heard about OCG from _____

OPERATION CLEAN GOVERNMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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June Spink, North Kingstown
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To promote HONEST, RESPONSIBLE and RESPONSIVE STATE GOVERNMENT in RHODE ISLAND