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# Compass2Truth

*Citizens Serving God, Truth and Liberty*

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January 27, 2013

Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County  
c/o Al Hamilton, President  
P.O. Box 13  
Placerville, CA 95667

**RE: Taxpayers Association Bylaws, Policies & Procedures, Standing Rules, Resolutions and all applicable Federal, State & local laws, codes, regulations and ordinances**

Mr. Hamilton,

During the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Taxpayers Association my 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights to free speech were violated. Both you and Bernard Carlson deprived me the opportunity of addressing public servants Terri Daly and Kim Kerr when I attempted to ask a valid question concerning all El Dorado County taxpaying citizens.

That's when I was discriminated against and cut off in mid-sentence before the question could be asked. You were out of order when you remarked, ***"I am a dictator...Meeting is adjourned...You're not going to ask any questions about your personal issues."***

Numerous taxpayers could be heard on the audio requesting to hear my prepared question. The "issues" are relevant to the **Monday 1/28/13 Special BOS meeting**. The question was, ***"When may I expect your formal written response to DOT, CIP and TIM fees that was due 9/1/12 in order that they may be disseminated to affected residents in the Coloma-Lotus region?"***

Twenty eight people in the room included county employees, Jack Sweeney, Supervisors Ron Mikalaco and Brian Veerkamp. They witnessed a blatant display of discrimination, conflict of interest and tyranny. It appears the despotic demonstration has been modeled for you by the Board of Supervisors with encouragement of County Counsel.

I also find it peculiar that Editor Mike Raffety exited the room approximately 8:15 AM indicating that your display may very well have been pre-arranged. Comments included, ***"I still want to hear the question!"*** ***"Let her ask the question!"*** ***"We haven't heard the question."*** ***"Wow, would this make an interesting story!"*** and ***"We need a letter to the editor on this one!"***

For the record I am attaching the original 2009 **COMPAS** News Release (now **Compass2Truth**) that states our mission and goals as a Watchdog organization. Note these are **public** matters concerning the Taxpayers Association and all EDC citizens.

Submitted by Melody Lane

at Board Hearing of 1-28-13  
# 3 12-1578

Also included is a libelous and bizarre letter sent to me by Bernard Carlson. This is not the first time Bernard has acted inappropriately against TP members. His disdain for women and deteriorating ability to behave in a reasonable or respectful manner makes it apparent he is unfit to serve the Association in any positive capacity.

The apparent GOB conspiracy raises many questions about the legitimacy of actions taken by the Taxpayers Association Board, particularly since the death of my good friend Leonard Stroud. I'll address only a few issues in this correspondence with the expectation that you will fulfill your obligation to **respond in writing within 30 days** of the date of this letter.

1. **IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section A(4)** states: *"In the event of a mid-term vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Directors shall elect a replacement from those among the eligible general membership who consent to run, within one month after the vacancy is announced. The election will be by written ballot."* Why was Leonard's replacement delayed for several months, and what happened to the uncounted ballots that Bernard Carlson walked out of the room with in his pocket on July 23rd?
2. This question has previously been asked but no response received: What is the status of the Policies & Procedures Committee (Bill George, Karl Weiland & Bernard Carlson) discussed during the 8/13/12 TP meeting, and what are their plans regarding **Conflict of Interest, Records Retention & Destruction, Whistleblowers, Midterm Director Replacement and Non-Discrimination?**
3. The despotism displayed during the 1/14/13 meeting is inconsistent with the **BYLAWS II. OBJECT A** - *"The object of the Taxpayers Association is the creation and maintenance of a forum within which to study the issues of government and the problems of those who are governed...These discussions shall be directed by the Association in an effort to educate all taxpayers as to the current issues, how they may be affected, how to reveal and understand the true costs of government, and to encourage awareness of individual responsibility. The Association shall monitor and be involved in the process of governance to help insure that the blessings of freedom shall be forever perpetuated."* As a lawyer employed by EDC, how do you explain your illegitimate reign as dictator over the members of the Taxpayers Association?
4. It appears you've created a **conflict of interest** with the goals and purposes of **IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Section A(3)** *"Directors with conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest shall report them to the Board in a timely manner. A written Conflict of Interest Policy shall be maintained in the organizations Policies and Procedures Manual."* What is your response to this issue?
5. I question the validity of the December 2012 Board meeting. **IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS Section A** states: *"...At the second meeting in December the 15 nominees with the most individual votes shall be announced, shall be considered elected, and will be seated at the first meeting in January. 2. Directors shall refrain from any self-dealing or the appearance of self-dealing. Directors shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the organization as set forth in the formation documents, operating policies and with all applicable law."* Since you were not yet seated in December and therefore ineligible to direct the meeting, wouldn't that invalidate any and all unlawful actions taken by the Directors described in the December 17<sup>th</sup> Board minutes? (Specifically: **"Control and prevent non-taxpayer or personal issues from being presented by requiring an advance written input for approval by the President."**)
6. I also question the legitimacy of the spontaneous meeting you called immediately after the adjournment of the 1/14/13 debacle. **IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS A(5)** states: *"Special Board meetings may be called by the president or Secretary upon five (5) days receipt of individual written, electronic or verbal notice."* What was your purpose and justification of this short notice meeting?

7. The following comment was received by Bernard Carlson 1/14/13 at 11:10 AM: *“Melody, please note the minutes of the December 17<sup>th</sup> Directors meeting that was approved unanimously by the Directors. Hard copies were given to all persons in attendance at the January 7, 2013 meeting that you did not attend.”* Was Bernard accurate in saying that the December minutes were **“unanimously”** approved, and if so, did that include seated President Ellen Day?
8. Wouldn't unanimous action make each of the Directors and Officers culpable of malfeasance as accessories to the fact and therefore liable as individuals as well as an organization?
9. According to **VI. MEETINGS Section A**: *“Through the use of speakers, discussions and the review of upcoming governmental action, the organization shall endeavor to contribute to a more informed citizenry.”* Also **VII. COMMITTEES Section A(2)**, *“Committees shall be comprised of eligible persons and shall keep minutes of their meetings.”* Routine email distribution to all members of TPA minutes would provide better transparency & accountability plus keep the membership properly informed. Why hasn't Bernard responded to several requests for the regular Board and Committee meeting minutes to be distributed in the same manner as the monthly speaker agendas?
10. Since Bernard Carlson submitted his resignation earlier in the year as Secretary/Director, it appears he was in violation of **VI. MEETINGS Section A(3)** *“The Secretary shall cause to be created a contemporaneous record of the general meetings and of all Board business conducted and action taken.”* In view of his resignation, why was Bernard permitted to attend, vote and act in the capacity of an Officer during the December 2012 meeting?
11. **NAME AND RECITALS Section A(4)** states: *“The organization shall strive to operate in a manner consistent with non-profit best practices and shall maintain all records required to be made available for public inspection.”* When may I view the minutes and ballots heretofore described in this correspondence?

We look forward to the courtesy of your respectful reply in order that it may be properly disseminated to the Taxpayers Association and other interested members of the public.

Regards,

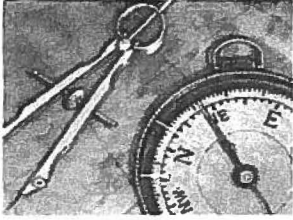
Melody Lane  
Founder – **Compass2Truth**

Attachments

Acts 5:29 – “Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God.” ~ Thomas Jefferson ~

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# COMPAS

*Citizens Organized to Monitor Protect And Serve*

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact • Melody Lane • 530-642-1670 • [melodylane@calis.com](mailto:melodylane@calis.com)

Coloma, CA November 12, 2009 - *COMPAS*, a new citizens association has been formed in El Dorado County to do just what the name says - *Citizens Organized to Monitor Protect and Serve*. This very compelling mandate is the cornerstone of the newly formed group which dovetails perfectly with the Preamble of the CA Brown Act:

**"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created."**

*COMPAS* is comprised of concerned citizens, residents and dedicated volunteers. We believe that this statement and the hundreds of other legal requisites of the Ralph M. Brown Act and The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act pertain to the River Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), the State Department of Parks & Recreation, Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park, and other affiliated organizations in El Dorado County that work closely with government agencies.

The mission of *COMPAS* is to sustain the high quality of life in El Dorado County, to educate residents and visitors while providing focused direction and assuring protection from the effects of unmonitored management and a general degradation of the wonders and benefits of this historic county.

The goal of *COMPAS* is to preserve the environmental and historic heritage of El Dorado County for present and future generations. Included in this goal is the method of accountability of funds used to maintain the historic environment that makes the western slope of El Dorado County a safe and desirable area for residents and tourists alike. This objective includes citing informed suggestions for more desirable methods of operation in addition to accountability for historic artifacts, natural resources and designated funds.

Long standing controversies associated with the El Dorado County River Management Plan and the Marshall Gold Discovery Park have captured the attention of Governor Schwarzenegger and other legislators in

Sacramento. However few citizens fully comprehend the complexity of the controlling powers or how to effectively navigate these shark infested political waters. In a CA non-profit benefits corporation the anonymity of group members is protected from intimidation or retaliation for exposing illegal operations and/or abusive manipulation by all agencies and their affiliates.

A serious crisis of public safety and fiscal accountability lurks at the “world wide renowned Marshall Gold Discovery Park.” The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and CA State Parks Director Ruth Coleman have continually turned blind eyes & deaf ears to concerned residents calls for action. *COMPAS* is calling for **investigation and action into these violations**, for which there are both Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions. We pledge to get this information properly disseminated to the general public, State & National government offices, watchdog organizations and the media. Consultants view this as significant breakthrough in undetected and/or underreported accounts of dreadfully serious malfeasance at the site where the 1849 California Gold Rush had its beginning.

*COMPAS* now has the tools and first-hand knowledge to expose many of the problems that for years have plagued this historic American River region. They may be partially summed up as: mislaid records, thousands of missing \$\$\$, lost artifacts, lack of code & law enforcement, private property encroachments, 5 recent arson fires, unethical business conduct, censorship and many serious public safety issues that have been swept under the rug of government bureaucracy. *COMPAS* provides the concerned citizens of El Dorado County a powerful venue to navigate conflicts and ensure that local and State government officials will no longer ignore those citizens in favor of special interest groups.

Since 1998 *COMPAS* President, Melody Lane has resided adjacent to the 500-acre Marshall Gold Discovery Historic State Park. She is Past President of the Bay Area Chapter of Executive Women International, has worked for El Dorado County Human Services as well as for the Executive Staff at Sacramento City Hall, and served as the 2001 President of the Gold Discovery Park Association. Her judicious record-keeping and deep concern for the area assures validity in forthcoming reports and materials *COMPAS* will bring forward. Additionally her wide experience involves several art organizations, an essential financial support to the area. She is currently the Public Relations/Membership Director for the International Association of Pastel Artists. Her home is ideally situated upon the historic Mt. Murphy overlooking the South Fork of the American River where the panoramic views have provided inspiration to artists of all mediums from throughout the world.

Melody is available for interviews of all kinds. 530-642-1670 • [melodylane@calis.com](mailto:melodylane@calis.com) Photo included.

October 3, 2012

Melody, Just my personal opinions!

Monday I said that people should join organizations that they support, not oppose, or join to use them for their personal agenda.

You said that Sue Taylor supported Taxpayer issues. Wrong.

- She is against EDAC that Taxpayers support.
- She is against developments like the Grado Diamonds Springs project that Taxpayer supports.
- She wants TIM fees INCREASED! Taxpayers want them reduced.
- She is negative about everyone's project except her own; thus, she clearly is in direct opposition to the Taxpayers positions.

At Taxpayers, you bring up your personal issues and try to link them to other supposedly wide community issues. In trying to enlist support for something Monday you went on and on, to the annoyance of members and guests, about things that are not pertinent to taxpayer community wide issues. As I see it, Taxpayer's mission isn't to:

- Harass or attack the River Management Committee/rafters for their position on Judge Riley's ruling against you.
- Attack Supervisor Briggs, the Board of Supervisors, or CAO Terri Daly.
- Attack the Mountain Democrat.

Please understand that your attacks will always drive people away and against you –even if they are unconcerned and not involved in the issue.

Progress is made by taking a POSITIVE approach working with others on issues of substance and importance.

You have a problem! Get over it! Take a Christian approach and forgive those that you perceive to have done you wrong.

Holding a grudge damages you more than the opponent(s).

You will never get better advice. Try it! Smile. Be Happy. Have a good day!

Bernard 