

Local Government Humor

Courtesy of Local Government Resources

Lab Rats vs. Local Public Officials

Two biological researchers were attending a national convention in New Jersey. At the end of the second day after the last workshop ended they decided to go out to a local tavern and enjoy some refreshments. While sipping their adult beverages one researcher commented that her company recently stopped using lab rats in many of its experiments and adopted the practice of using local public officials. "Really, that's fascinating! What caused your company to make that decision?" replied the other researcher. "

"Well there were several factors we considered: First, our lab technicians never get attached to any of the local public officials - Second, local officials tend to breed much faster than lab rats, making them more plentiful for our needs - Third, animal rights, groups don't object to us using them and finally, there were some things we just could not get the rats to do."

Do you have a Second.

A question by Gabe Gabrielsen, OEO

The following reflects an actual event that took place in a community. Read the issue then discuss the options with a friend.

Imagine you are a Local Public Official

Over the years many of the lakes in your local government's jurisdiction have become infested with invasive aquatic plant life such as Eurasian Milfoil. Fishermen, recreational boaters, kayakers, canoers and property owners are all encountering problems with the explosion of these invasive plants in the water. Since tourism is a major contributor to your local economy the vast majority of citizens agree something must be done to clean the lakes. Several remedial options have been explored unfortunately all are expensive. Though your elected body agrees a lake restoration is needed there is no consensus on how to fund a lake clean up project. If you were a member of this public body what revenue source would you support?

- A) A special assessment for all waterfront property owners?
- B) Create a special taxing district to include all properties within one (1) mile of waterfront areas?
- C) Include the clean up costs in the general budget and levy all properties within the county?
- D) Institute a 1/2% county wide sales tax?

To cast your vote visit website www.betterpublicofficials.com or call 800-274-7757 and leave a voice message.

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Monitor the progress of this survey by visiting the "Reader Survey Poll" on www.betterpublicofficials.com.

Last month's survey involved a motion to televise all public meetings. In real life the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. A camera and microphone system were purchased for approximately \$20,000. Within two years the recording, sound and storage equipment was upgraded, major renovations were made to the council chamber and a public communication director was hired.

The Passing of a "Legislative Warrior"

It is with heavy heart that the National Coalition Of Motorcyclists announces the passing of William "Sputnik" Strain, legendary bikers rights activist from the Lone Star State. According to the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association; "Our great Leader, Sputnik, passed away suddenly at approximately 5:00 AM June 24, 2010 from a massive heart attack."



Sputnik, inspired in the early nineties after attending the NCOM Convention in Atlantic City, was instrumental in organizing the grass roots effort to repeal the mandatory helmet law in Texas. Not stopping there, the "Legislative Warrior" spread the word throughout the motorcycling community with his "Five Steps to Freedom" to "Take back our country" and, in turn, inspired countless motorcyclists across the country to become politically active.

In Texas, he went on to spearhead election campaigns to get bikers elected to public office and formed the most effective caucus in the state, eventually enacting numerous biker-friendly laws and killing not only every anti-biker bill proposed but the political careers of those who dared to introduce them. Sputnik wrote the book on Texas politics, literally, as school textbooks have chronicled his achievements.

In addition to founding the TMRA2, Sputnik was a longtime member of the NCOM Legislative Task Force, and served as NCOM-LTF Chairman the past three years despite his failing health.

"Sputnik believed in everything he said and losing that determination will be a great loss to the motorcycling community. The greatest tribute to him is to push forth with our fight for freedom and not let his death be in vain," said James "Doc" Reichenbach III, Chairman of the NCOM Board of Directors and State President of ABATE of Florida, Inc.

Echoing the sentiments expressed by the entire motorcycle community, NCOM Founder Richard M. Lester said; "Sputnik is so universally loved and respected, from MRO leadership to COC patch holders and from bikers on the street to state and federal lawmakers, that his passing leaves a void which can only be filled by all of us moving forward together with his spirit and resolve."

The upcoming 26th Annual NCOM Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. next May 5-8, 2011, will be dedicated to his memory.

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