



Citizens For A Better America® (CFABA.ORG)

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Visit our Internet Website at <http://www.CFABA.org>

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Dear Keep The Cross Campaign Friend:

We are sending this letter to those that have signed the Petition to Keep The Cross in the Los Angeles County Seal, those that have also signed our form to publicly endorse the petition as well as to contributors to Citizens For A Better America®. I would like to thank you for all of your help in our efforts.

With the deadline of the Petition drive to Keep The Cross in the Los Angeles County Seal coming to a conclusion on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, I wanted to bring you up to date with what we have done, are doing and plan to do.

I am also writing you to ask you for your help. If there are people that you know, whether they be relatives, neighbors, co-workers, church friends, that have not signed the petition please ask them to do so. Please have it postmarked / processed absolutely no later than Saturday, February 26, 2005, so that we would receive it no later than Tuesday, March 1, 2005.

Please mail it to:

Citizens For A Better America®
Keep The Cross Campaign
PO BOX 7647
VAN NUYS, CA 91409-7647

I also, really need you to send your most generous contribution you possibly can today. Please read this letter to find out what we need funds for.

Some background information about the involvement Citizens For A Better America® with the acronym and main website of [CFABA.ORG], has had in Keeping the little cross in the Los Angeles County Seal.

In **May 2004** the American Civil Liberties Union, also known as the ACLU threatened Los Angeles County with a lawsuit if they did not remove the little cross from the Los Angeles County Seal.

On **June 1, 2004** the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in a 3 to 2 vote, voted in favor of giving into the demands of the ACLU. Fortunately, the Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and the Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe both voted to keep the seal unchanged. Unfortunately, they were part of a 2 to 3 minority.

The majority which included First District Supervisor Gloria Molina, Second District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, and Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky all voted to cave into the demands of the ACLU.

On a weekday, Tuesday, **June 8, 2004** about three thousand (3,000) people showed up at the Board of Supervisors meeting at the Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles. Only about 250 were allowed to take seats within the hall where the supervisors meet, because of limited space. One hundred and ten (110) people filled out "comment cards," which allow them to be able to speak to the Supervisors. I have since learned that only one (1) out of those 110 was in favor of removing the cross.

**HONORARY
NATIONAL
CHAIRMAN**

Congressman
Bill Dannemeyer

Served from 1979 to
1992 in the US House
of Representatives.
Orange County,
California

**VOLUNTEER
NATIONAL
CHAIRMAN,
FOUNDER**

Robert Colaco,
California

CHAPLAIN

Rev. Jim Hendricks,
West Virginia

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Robert Colaco
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**EXECUTIVE
ADVISORY
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Mervin R. Ralph,
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California

David Shemanski,
California

**Texas State
Chairman:**

Bob Sliva,
Harris County, Texas

On **June 15, 2004**, I personally attended the next meeting of the Supervisors to personally ask those Supervisors who had voted to remove the cross to instead support a resolution that Supervisor Antonovich introduced to allow Los Angeles County voters to vote on the issue (02). I told them I was already saddened and frustrated that they did not give the voters of Los Angeles the opportunity to vote on this issue and had instead already voted to give into the ACLU, but they now had a chance to show the voters of Los County that they did care about what they thought and they could support Supervisor Antonovich's resolution. Instead they voted against Supervisor Antonovich's resolution to allow Los Angeles County voters to vote on the issue (02).

On **July 30, 2004**, your Citizens For A Better America® registered the domains of KeepTheCross with the .com, .net, and .org extensions! It is our practice to do this so that our potential opposition is not able to register another KeepTheCross and tell the world: "that we changed our mind and we really do support removing the cross. Believe it or not this has actually happened in our political involvement since I ran for Congress between 1988 and 1992. It does cost us more to have this practice but it is much safer.

During the week of **November 14, 2004**, I began the process of discussions and plans with my friend Senior Pastor Gene Stabe to have a couple of events at his church, Living Springs Church. He was willing to meet with me on several occasions to discuss in detail our plans, how to implement those plans, the phone presentation to registered voters and its implementation. Pastor Gene Stabe has been a great asset to our efforts.

He was willing to have informational meetings on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 PM and Saturday, December 18 at 2:00 PM at his Church. He allowed us to make announcements from the pulpit to invite the congregation. He supported my concept of calling registered voters in the Agua Dulce area to invite them to come to those meetings.

On **December 06, 2004**, we launched our website entitled: [www.KeepTheCross.com]. It included a history like that above and more plus a copy of the petition to download and print out.

On Sunday **December 12, 2004**, Pastor Stabe allowed me to have an announcement and invite his congregation to sign the petition as well as to sign our form to publicly endorse the petition. It was a total success. It seemed that about ninety percent of the adult congregation signed the petition.

On Monday, **December 13, 2004**, we issued a News Release announcing this website to our national "Commentary and News Release List,"™. There is about 11,000 e-mail addresses on this list and so we were able to tell thousands of elected officials, political leaders, current and former candidates for office, and activist citizens about this issue and the launching of our website. This website has done great in terms of hits to it.

We were able to use some great strengths that we have as an organization, that being that our main website, CFABA.ORG has been in operation since September 2000 and is to our knowledge on every internet search engine in the world. So, once we put a link on our CFABA.ORG website to KeepTheCross.com we started to have search engines pick us KeepTheCross.com which is very exciting because those that are interested in this issue could find information about the subject.

On Tuesday, **December 14, 2004**, we had our first informational meeting at Living Springs Church. The handful of those there really appreciated the information, including presentation thorough overhead projector documents.

On Saturday, **December 18, 2004**, we had our second informational meeting at Living Springs Church.

We decided that we will not have any more of these meetings. Our time was far better spent reaching out to the Pastors of Churches. We needed to inform the pastors about this issue and encourage them to have someone from their congregation do an announcement about petition drive which included have petitions their to sign or to have us come down to their church to do so for them.

During the week of **January 09, 2005**, we received from Pastor Gene Stabe a list of referrals of Pastors that he knows. He asked us to use his name as an introduction. We called those Pastors during that week. It gave us an opportunity to see if our concept of calling the pastors was a workable one. We did come to the conclusion that it was.

On **January 14, 2005**, we began working on contacting and meeting with all the people that had been involved in previous campaigns and are connected to other civic leaders.

On **January 21, 2005**, Gail, our webmaster, bookkeeper, editor and my wife and I went down to the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder's Office in Norwalk, CA. We confirmed with three members of the upper management that all we needed to turn in out of the 8 page petition was page 5, where individuals signed the petition and page 8 where the circulator signed. We also had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Carl Davis. Dr. Davis is the former Chairman of the Los Angeles County Republican Party when I was involved with this group between 1989 and 1992. He continues to serve as a member.

On the weekend of **January 28, 2005**, we had to take time away from direct work on the Keep The Cross campaign to work on completing our reports to be filed with the Federal Election Commission and the California Fair Political Practices Commission. While these are time consuming they are necessary if we are to stay in business. I have more about this below.

Then on **February 04, 2005**, I went down to the records office of the Board of Supervisors and look through all the "Comment Cards," filled out by individuals speaking before the Supervisors on June 8 and 15, 2004. It took me about three hours to enter all the information from those cards.

I was frugal with CFABA.ORG funds by purchasing a \$3.00 one day pass to be able to ride anywhere on the subway and buses in Los Angeles, by the way, I enjoy not driving occasionally. I really enjoy not paying \$11.00 for parking. After getting done at the Hall of Administration I went across town to the West Los Angeles Federal Building. I did so to evaluate having a rally there. We have 'No' current plans for such a rally.

I was also able to meet with Bob Pegram. We had sent Bob a CFABA.ORG Candidate Questionnaire™ just as we regularly do to all candidate running for office who have their e-mail address on the state election website. He was running for Congress in the primary election, in California in March 2000. We endorsed Bob for that election, he did not win that election but Bob has become a great friend. We did not know Bob previous to that, but he has been a member of CFABA.ORG since then. I brought Bob up to speed about what we had been doing and our plans to call Pastors. He offered to call Pastors in his area, around Redondo Beach, CA.

On **February 07, 2005**, I started to call through the list of those that had filled out "Comment Cards," for the June 8, 2004 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. I called in last name alphabetical order. I finished A and B. I did leave plenty of message for people to call me back.

The exciting part is that I was able to talk to four people. Of those four people, three of them were willing to call Pastors. Ever since then we have been working feverishly to have the absolutely best possible impact. Because of confusion over the Petition, which for the record we did not have anything to do with its design or wording, we have had to take additional time trying to figure out how to make it simpler and thereby more saleable for busy Pastors to be able to download and use to get signatures. That was one of the reasons we went to Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder's Office in Norwalk, CA, back at the end of January.

Then on **February 11, 2005**, we received a call from Pastor Mike Valdez. Pastor Mike is the Senior Pastor of Stevenson Ranch Community Church. He was calling to talk about having us come and give our announcement and invite his congregation to sign the Petition. He had great questions which I answered. He was kind enough to invite us to come to his church.

We made that announcement on **Sunday, February 13, 2005**. Once again, the congregation was incredibly responsive. I believe we had between 80% to 90% of the adults in the congregation sign the petition.

Today, Thursday, **February 17, 2005**, I was able to spend the day at the library. It is somewhat humorous, but anytime I need to do what I call "creative writing," I need to do it in a place that no one can reach me. I have found public libraries and libraries in colleges to really work for that goal.

I am excited almost beyond belief that I have put the finishing touches on all the documents that will go on our KeepTheCross.com website for the final push of calling pastors throughout Los Angeles County.

One of the challenges in any campaign and certainly this applies to this campaign is how do we physically do the things that we plan to do. I recognize that I am primarily writing this report to those that have not been members of Citizens For A Better America ®. Our members, over the years, have had the chance to read about what we can and can not do, legally.

Just some brief background about those legalities. I founded CFABA.ORG on October 15, 1992 as a federal, nonconnected, independent, political committee. I did that so that we could be involved in any political campaign anywhere in America including those where we were either supporting or opposing candidates for federal office like President, Vice President, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress.

In simple terms we file disclosure reports with the Federal Election Commission. They require that if you spend money on any political activity you must account for it. We are talking about accounting for everything, even if someone buys me lunch at Jack in the Box while we are discussing the work of [CFABA.ORG]. That also applies when either Gail or I or both of us are out doing the work of [CFABA.ORG].

On April 05, 2004, we established a California Committee. This is so that we can accept funds from Corporations. As a result We now must also file reports with the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

I am sharing the background of the legalities because many people are not aware that we just can not just spend money on political activity without accounting for every penny. Even if those funds are used from our personal funds. We also can not just use such things as vehicles for political activity without accounting for it. Basically, if something costs money, even if it is a five (5) cent copy, we must account for it. I am not opposed to this, I do believe openness and accountability is absolutely critical for political leaders such as myself, but many folks are unaware of all the restrictions.

One of the practical ways that all the above legalese affects us, is in the use of vehicles. If we were to use our personal vehicle, then the government considers that a contribution unless we reimburse ourselves the then current rate that the IRS allows for mileage. For 2005 that is 40.5 cents per mile. We have already reached our personal limits on what we can contribute so we would not have the option of just making it a donation.

The result is that we made an organizational decision that it is less expensive for us to rent vehicles then to reimburse for the use of our personal vehicle. So, on January 14, 2005 we began to take advantage of Enterprise Rent A Car's weekend special. That special allows their customers to rent a Economy Car for \$9.99 a day for a minimum of three days and a maximum of 300 miles of driving. We reserve and attempt to rent an Economy Car for the fact that the rental amount is low and because the gas mileage is high. So, the good news is that it costs us \$32.44 for the weekend, plus the cost of the gasoline.

We have rented now from January 14 to February 11, four times. Twice they did not have an Economy Car. They were willing to upgrade our vehicle at no additional charge. However, depending on the person in charge they either agreed to pay for our gasoline or not. In fact on February 15, I spent practically the entire day dealing with Enterprise about this issue. In an 'Open Letter' to Mitchell Shenkin a District Manager, I expressed my disappointment about that. As a result we are now evaluating and taking advantage of other car rental options.

I share these things with you because people want to know when I ask them to fund our Keep The Cross Campaign, **what do we need the money for?** As you have read above, our current biggest cost is transportation. There is also mailing costs, like this letter. Coping costs. Long Distance and toll calls in the Los Angeles area, phone costs. And the cost of the occasional meals in fancy restaurants like Jack in the Box, McDonalds, El Pollo Loco.

One of the great benefits of doing our informational meetings, that I spoke of earlier was that I was able to see the expressions on the faces of the those that I was speaking to. So much of our the work that we do at [CFABA.ORG] is on the phone or in writing, like this letter. We are unable to see the people that we are talking to. It was really nice to see how passionate folk felt about this issue and which of my prop's got my points across best.

One of the "props" that I used when I asked people to give us money, to fund our efforts with the Keep The Cross Campaign was to use a summary page from our last filing that we had done with the Federal Election Commission. So many times, it seems that people have not wanted to give us money because they have the impression that because we are in politics then we have a great deal of money.

This is not the case as far as Citizens For A Better America ® is concerned. Yes, I do know that both the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee and all of their affiliates do have and receive a great deal of money. We are a nonconnected, independent political committee. Part of that, is that we are not affiliated or connected to them. So, we do not have their money.

The bottom line is we desperately need your most generous contribution you can send today (you can make that donation securely online at <http://www.cfaba.org/donate>).

I would like to ask each and every one of you reading this letter to become a member of Citizens For A Better America ® with a minimum yearly commitment of sixty dollars. If you can not send us sixty dollars today, then send us what you can and put on your check "Bill Me."

For you to see that I am not exaggerating our finances, I am including a copy of the summary page filed with the Federal Election Commission and the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

I would like to thank you for all of your help.



Robert Colaco,
Volunteer National Chairman Citizens For A Better America ®
Keep The Cross Campaign