

## **Review of first six months of 2004. Plans for the future**

Henry Buhl, New York City philanthropist, has provided seed money for 9/11 FSA to establish itself. His help has been crucial in this process. Any success we have enjoyed is due to Mr. Buhl's faith in our organization. Our sincerest thanks to Henry.

### **I. The 9/11 FSA Foundation**

The 9/11FSA Foundation, recently incorporated in Delaware is in the process of applying for IRS recognition as a 501c3 tax exempt organization.

Jeffrey Namm, a member of 9/11 FSA, acting Executive Director of the Foundation. Member Bill Doyle is Treasurer. We will shortly begin soliciting donations from the public, although until the c3 status is granted tax deductibility of donations cannot be guaranteed.

After attaining c3 status we will apply for corporate grants. We will specifically target corporations which produce consumer items and which already provide funds to various open borders lobbying groups. We will explain to them the public relations difficulties that might arise for them if, as publicly identified financial supporters of open border and separatist groups, they were to deny similar funding to a group representing 9/11 family members who have suffered from the open borders policies of these groups.

### **II. 9/11 Families for a Secure America.** (Our lobbying arm)

We will incorporate 9/11 FSA so we can solicit contributions; we have delayed until we first showed that we could be successful in influencing events.

However, relying as we have on individual benefactors is not a practice that will sustain us. Therefore, we are about to decide which form we should assume: PAC, a 527 organization, or a 501c4. Most likely the choice will be as a 527.

9/11 FSA member Al Regenhard attended the December 2003 meeting of the FBI's Advisory Policy Board, whose member are high ranking officers of state and local police agencies. Al made some important progress in persuading them to abandon their political concerns and consider taking a stand on the matter of state and federal recognition of "consular I.D. cards" also known as "matricula consular" and on the issue of states granting drivers' licenses to illegal aliens. (Matricula cards are sham "I.D." given by foreign consuls in the US to people who are illegal aliens in the US.

Also attending the meeting were Rick Oltman and Jim Staudenraus of FAIR.

Conversations with individual members of these groups show a great deal of support for getting involved in reform efforts. We believe that 9/11FSA can mobilize supporters within these police organizations to move their leadership.

#### **Political Endorsements**

**9/11 FSA is strictly non-partisan. We endorse Democrats, Republicans, independents, liberals and conservatives, purely on the basis of the candidate's positions on securing our borders.**

UTAH. We endorsed Matt Throckmorton, primary challenger incumbent Congressman Chris Cannon. Cannon is a tool of the American Immigration Lawyers Assn and the rest of the open borders lobby. 9/11FSA volunteers sent 1100 hand addressed letters to the delegates to the nominating convention asking for support for Matt.

Matt had originally invited a 9/11FSA member to address the nominating convention. However, after our letters arrived, a few Cannon partisans attacked him for taking “out of state support.” At this point Matt ended 9/11 families’ involvement. Meanwhile, Cannon received large sums of cash from PACs outside Utah.

Cannon spent two hundred forty two thousand dollars prior to the convention, Matt only eleven thousand. Despite this Matt, perhaps with the help of our letter of support, won enough votes to force a primary.

Between the convention and primary PAC contributions to Cannon from outside Utah resulted in his having 10 times the campaign money as Matt for the primary.

Cannon appeared on Spanish language radio with his Campaign Manager who in Spanish told illegals that though they could not give directly to Cannon’s campaign, they could give to citizens who could pass through the cash. Such straw man contributions are violations of federal law. The result has been that federal poll watchers were sent to the polls. Hopefully, Mr. Cannon will face a criminal prosecution.

Despite the outside help provided to Cannon, Matt still failed to utilize our support. He lost 58% to 42 % in the June 22 primary.

I strongly believe Matt made a major error in not taking us up on our offer, particularly in view of the contrasting situation in North Carolina.

In **North Carolina**, Fern Shubert, running for the Republican nomination for Governor asked for and received the endorsement of 9/11FSA. Fern was a strong supporter of reversing state law which permits licensing of illegals. Also, a 9/11 FSA member provided the voiceover for a TV and radio ads currently running across the state which on behalf of 9/11 FSA asks voters to support Fern. These ads, at the urging of 9/11FSA, used images of the WTC, because incumbent Gov. Easley continues to support granting drivers’ licenses to illegal aliens and the unknown terrorists among them. (Recall that the 19 hijackers possessed 63 US issued DLs among them. These were the “valid IDs” that allowed them to board the planes.)

Fern has been running these ads, and naturally, Gov. Easley, who is a pawn of the open borders lobby, is angry about them. The ads can be viewed at <http://www.forfern.com/messages.asp>

The result has been tremendous coverage for Fern in the state newspapers, which because they support open borders, had been ignoring her campaign. She has gotten wide radio and TV in N.C and throughout the US, as well as coverage by AP.

Critics of the ad make two claims: 1. that Easley has strengthened DL laws in N.C. In fact, Easley’s “reforms” are phony, mere window dressing to use in his campaign.

2. that it was inappropriate for the families to authorize use of the WTC images. Considering that the same people who criticized us (Charlotte News and Observer, Alan Colmes of Fox, and a CNN commentator, have repeatedly used those images for commercial purposes it is transparently hypocritical of them to criticize us. WE are only using the images to advance policies that will prevent another 9/11, and to hold accountable those politicians like Mike Easley who want to continue giving licenses to terrorists through the millions of illegal aliens who apply for them.

The Shubert campaign shows that if Matt Throckmorton had availed himself of our support, he would have had at least a chance to overcome some of Cannon’s financial advantage by obtaining free media as Fern Shubert has.

We have also made approaches to other candidates, both Democrats and Republicans, who might be interested in our support.

**c. In the legislatures, victories and defeat**

In **Illinois**, State Senator Chris Lauzen credits 9/11 FSA for the defeat of both a bill to give drivers' licenses to illegals and then a bill to create a "driving certificate" for illegals. In a letter to us he said: "The [driver's license] bill was poised to pass, but I am convinced that your tireless efforts helped to turn the tide."

(As many as 600 illegal aliens per day had overrun the legislature on several days to support licensing illegals.)

After both forms of licensing were defeated the Illinois Secretary of State (whose office issues licenses) instituted on his own initiative a program to verify the SSNs of all license holders. Considering that the Secretary and the Governor are both Democrats, and the latter supported granting DLs to illegals, this is particularly significant.

In **Kansas**, a 9/11 FSA member spoke to the Senate Judiciary Committee and lobbied the state legislature for a single day in opposition to creation of a "driving certificate" for illegals. That Committee refused to approve the bill and on May 27, the bill died.

On the day that 9/11 FSA member lobbied, over 550 illegals were present to support the bill.

It was a very different story in **Tennessee**. This state is one of those that do not require DL applicants to be legally present in the US.

Sen. Bill Ketron and Rep. Donna Rowland were main sponsors of companion bills to reverse the current law. In the 2003 session their bills had passed three committees unanimously after several 9/11 FSA members appeared before them, but the bills had been stopped when opponents ran out the clock on the session.

This spring victory was in the air. Sen. Ketron told me that Gov. Bredesen who opposed their bill realized his position was no longer tenable, so Bredesen introduced a "driving certificate" bill to preserve illegal alien driving privileges. Bredesen's main selling point was that the new certificates would NOT be "acceptable for use as identification, but only for driving purposes."

Without warning Bill Ketron "stabbed us in the back" (Donna Rowland's words) withdrew his bill and threw his support to the Bredesen certificate bill. Ketron and Bredesen then lied to the public by claiming that their bill was the 'strongest in the nation.' This betrayal and deception resulted in the bill's passage.

Despite the Bredesen/Ketron promises that the certificate would not be usable as I.D., the Tennessee State Police have already announced that it will in fact accept the new "driving certificates" as identification.

In 2003 over a dozen 9/11 FSA members testified at **Maryland** House Judiciary hearings opposing a bill to give licenses to illegals. Although that bill was killed, the legislature passed a similar bill with less clear language that accomplished the same goal. Implementation was delayed pending hearings by a task force created by the bill.

That task force is weighted to favor licensing illegals, and the hearings have reflected that bias.

It is likely that the task force will issue a report favoring illegals in December.

**Connecticut**'s legislature disappointed us. We had commitments from a Democratic leader that a good bill would pass this year. We were "blindsided" by the introduction of a badly worded bill (one that I suspect resulted from input from AILA). The result was confusion, mixed messages from us and defeat.

We have met with some legislators. This issue will be taken up again. We will do what we can to help make this a significant issue in this fall's legislative elections. All members of both houses face re-election this year.

**d. Congress**

A small group of 9/11FSA members will lobby Congress in mid-July. The intent is to meet with some of those members with the worst records.

Our message will be very blunt: open borders resulting from policies you supported contributed to the deaths of our loved ones on 9/11. We are asking you to reconsider your support for open borders. We will take our case to your constituents.

We have worked closely with several members of Congress, including Elton Gallegly in soliciting sponsors for his bill HR 687 to deny federal acceptance of matricula cards.

**The Future**

Our main priority has to be incorporating 9/11FSA. Then we must raise money.

Those funds will have to be used to help the many volunteers who have expressed interest in actively working for immigration reform learn the ropes of lobbying, communicating, etc.

Lobbying of Congress and the legislatures is clearly a useful activity for 9/11FSA members and friends. As we begin to raise funds this will definitely be something we will do more of. We have heard from numerous Congressmen and legislators that 9/11FSA “has to be here much more often. The other side is here all the time.” Certainly we have seen with our own eyes the truth that statement.. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) runs bus trips for illegals on a continuing basis to any state capitol where relevant legislation is being considered. SEIU turns out people by the hundreds on a regular basis, and no state is exempt from these invasions of their legislature.

We need to find more candidates sympathetic to the cause of immigration reform whom we can endorse.

We are working to expand our contacts in Congress, in the legislatures, in the federal and state bureaucracies and private organizations.

Regards,  
Peter