

Mark Meckler Attacks and Belittles other Conservatives who do not Agree with him such as Phyllis Schlafly. (Taken from the book by Orlean Koehle, *America Needs Revival Not Revision, the Dangers and Risks of an Article 5 Convention*, pp.76-83)

In an article published in *the American Spectator*, Dec. 2013, [Meckler] accused Phyllis Schlafly of not being a constitution scholar. ⁱ He states:

She is no constitutional scholar... and she stands almost alone on the fringe of conservatism, with no significant support from legitimate scholars or notable commentators, clutching feebly to a letter written in the 1970s by liberal activist Chief Justice Warren Burger [that warns against a COS].

Meckler further accuses Phyllis of: *aligning with the liberal Burger against the American people's right and obligation to restrain a runaway federal government? She is unwittingly leading her supporters into a desperate, sad place of permanent citizen impotence and government overreach. Instead, she should change course and align her values with the Founders. We welcome her to join the fight, bring her troops, and help the people, via the states, to restore liberty.* ⁱⁱ

Obviously, Meckler does not know very much about Mrs. Schlafly, nor has he read her writings or books. She holds a law degree just as Mark Meckler does. She has been writing about the Constitution long before Meckler was born. Most of her 20+ books and writings refer to the Constitution. She has a reputation of being a brilliant constitutional scholar. She served as a member of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, 1985-1991, appointed by President Ronald Reagan. She has testified before more than 50 Congressional and State Legislative committees on constitutional, national defense, and family issues.



I think she knows what the values of the Founders are and is aligned with them far more than Meckler is. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington University in St. Louis. She received her J.D. from Washington University Law [School](#), which is rated 19th in the nation by the American Bar Association. She also received her Master's in Political Science from Harvard University. In 2008 Washington University/St. Louis awarded Phyllis an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mrs. Schlafly also has a reputation of being trustworthy, a highly moral and religious person, of living what she believes. Unlike Meckler, she is selfless and takes no personal salary for her life-long work in the national organization of Eagle Forum that she started.

Mark Meckler, on the other hand, graduated from Mc George law School, part of the University of the Pacific near Sacramento. It is rated 168th out of 197 law schools. Hmmm! I wonder which university might have the better Constitutional law course and who would be the better choice for one who is truly a constitutional scholar? According to several sources, his license to practice law was suspended by the California State Bar for more than five years for failure to pay his bar dues and for noncompliance with continuing legal education requirements.ⁱⁱⁱ Is that the reason one does not hear anything about him being a

lawyer when he is introduced? Nor was it mentioned on the brochure promoting the Article V, Convention of States.

Meckler’s History with the Tea Party Movement: When Meckler was national co-coordinator for Tea Party Patriots, he developed a reputation for greed, avarice, control and lawsuits to get his way and for hypocrisy, preaching fiscal conservatism, when he was raising and spending lavish amounts of money on himself.



Mark Meckler and Jenny Beth Martin on board Patriot One

However, it seemed to be a little hypocritical in how they were lavishly using funds collected from their vast donors across the nation. In the fall of 2010, they had a very expensive private-jet tour “flying for freedom and landing for liberty,” with their last stop on the west lawn of the Nation’s Capitol on November 2, election day. They were flown across the country for 30 speaking engagements on board what they called “Patriot One,” a private jet donated and paid for by a very wealthy donor. They had reporters flying with them, who would video them on board and also show them getting on and off the plane and **speaking before various crowds. These videos would go up on their website.**

The Tea Party Patriots were supposed to be a grassroots group that stood for conservative principles and fiscal responsibility without any real leaders. Meckler and Jenny Beth Martin, however, somehow became its co-coordinators. They would speak at rallies and meetings across the nation preaching that our government was totally out of control in their spending, that we needed to get back to sound fiscal policies, the main principles upon which the tea party movement was founded

Grassroot Activists? According to critics such as a reporter from the liberal *Mother Jones*, “The videos, which show the tea party leaders traveling in the style of Wall Street investment bankers, are hardly a humble display of the usual tea party thrifty pluck.” The donor of the plane was supposed to be kept secret, but through flight-tracking information, reporters were able to determine its owner. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the jet was registered to Eagle III, a private company in Kalispell, Montana. According to Montana corporation records, Eagle III belongs to Raymon F. Thompson, the founder and former CEO of Semitool, a semiconductor company that was sold in 2010 for \$364 million. Thompson is a Republican and a big donor to Republican candidates and causes.

The question was raised by reporter Stephanie Mencimer, “If tea party leaders jet around the country in a plane donated by a big GOP contributor, are they still considered ‘grassroots’ activists?”^{iv}

Meckler was critical of another national Tea Party group called Tea Party Express [that had broken away from Tea Party Patriots] because of their supposed affiliation with Republicans. In an AP story reported in September, 2010, he said, “They try to portray themselves as some sort of grass-roots movement, but they are a classic example of what those on the left would call Astroturf. They are fake, *they're not from the grassroots. These are longtime Republican political activists with their own agenda.*”

Hmmm, one wonders which group was financed by a big GOP contributor with their own private jet and also has received a million dollars also in additional funding and what kind of an agenda Tea Party Patriots has?

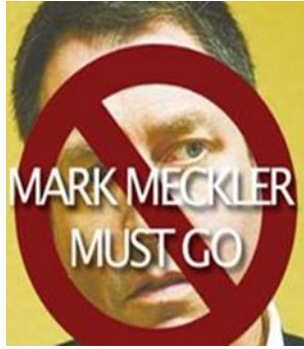
Many Tea Party Groups Broke Away from Meckler’s Leadership: Tea party leaders in California, who had formed groups under Meckler’s leadership and were using the Tea Party Patriot name, soon found that it was like a franchise. Some complained that Meckler, who had been one of the top leaders in the pyramid scheme called “Herbalife” before he became involved in the world of politics, was using some of the same tactics that Herbalife used, where only those at the top made any money, and the little people at the bottom were just pawns in their hands. Dawn Wildman of San Diego, who worked with Meckler launching Tea Party Patriots in California, and was in charge of the weekly conference calls, seemed to be of the same mindset. She is quoted as saying, “The message is important, but people are expendable.”^v

Harvesting of E-Mail Lists: Meckler was very controlling of the tea-party groups that belonged to the national organization and wanted all of their contacts and e-mail lists. Concerns over Meckler's intentions with the e-mail lists mounted when he announced that TPP had received a \$1 million anonymous donation which the group was going to divvy up via grants to its local affiliates. The grant criteria, however, “placed a high value on applications from groups that got a lot of members to register on the national TPP site, which meant turning over significant personal information.” This seemed to be more evidence that Meckler must be harvesting the e-mail lists and maybe selling them to the highest bidders for campaign uses.

After the announcement of the grant criteria, Laura Boatright, a California tea party activist who had a falling out with Meckler and TPP, warned on her blog against providing contact info to the group:

The 'power/gravitas' of Tea Party Patriots is their ability to say that they 'represent' or 'have access to' 20 million 'contacts.' When it comes to campaigns, political parties, or issue causes (like California's initiative process, and/or petition drives) that large number gets them notice and access to people who would not otherwise pay Mark Meckler, [national coordinator] or Jenny Beth Martin, or any other Board Members the time of day.^{vi}

Shown on the next page is a picture of what was circulating on face book by some of the tea party groups after their personal experiences with Mark Meckler. A typical comment by Tea Party leaders circulating by e-mails was: “*Meckler is such a sad example of what we are fighting AGAINST! What an embarrassment he has become.*”



Other Tea Party leaders began to spread word across the nation of Meckler's "uber control" over them and his intentions with their e-mail lists, so one by one, the vast majority of original Tea Party groups jumped ship and became independent, no longer having anything to do with Meckler or his organization.

Meckler's reputation was further tainted with his arrest in December 2011 when he tried to board an airplane in New York with his handgun and ammunition in a suit case and for his disorderly conduct when he was detained. It was decided it would be best if he resigned from his co-leadership of Tea Party Patriots.^{vii}

Of course, he reported that it was his decision to step down because he did not approve of how the Tea Party Patriots board was using their money.

Meckler is now running a group called Citizens for Self-Governance, which is affiliated with a group of the same name in Texas, referred to by one writer as "another pig at the trough," pretending to fight special-interest groups and crony capitalism, but they are examples of it themselves.^{viii}

Citizens for Self-Governance appears to be another great money-making enterprise for Meckler as well. Contributors were sending in money that was supposed to go to help elect good conservative candidates for the next election. According to Glenn Beck, who interviewed Meckler on his television show, December 18, 2013, his website is now being used to promote and collect money for the Convention of States Project.

One wonders how much money is actually going into the pockets of Meckler? I wish I could believe that he is doing this because of his love for his country and out of the kindness of his heart, but his reputation precedes him.

ⁱ <http://spectator.org/blog/57135/phyllis-schlafly-stands-firmly-roe-v-wade-justice-and-against-people>

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://truth-out.org/article/item/196-who-are-the-tea-party-patriots>.

^{iv} <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2010/10/tea-party-donor-patriot-one-raymon-thompson>.

^v <http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2010/10/tea-party-pyramid-scheme>.

^{vi} <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2010/10/tea-party-mark-meckler-herbalife?page=3>.

^{vii} <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/73255.html>.

^{viii} <http://stoptlr.com/blog/?p=325>.