

EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 108



December 20, 2013

By John Hoffmann

NEWEST MEMBER OF THE GANGS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY: It has been five months since we were able to add a new member to the Gangs of Town and Country. Without any further adieu...the newest member is

Ronald L. Roberts of 12913 North Topping Estates Drive.

Roberts and his wife Sonya have lived at 12913 North Topping Estates since 2008.



12913 N Topping Estates Drive

Roberts was charged in a Federal indictment with three counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud. It is alleged that Roberts cheated investors out of \$2.5-million. The scheme involved Roberts telling investors that he needed their investment money to buy land next to property he owned in southern Missouri near Popular Bluff for a Wal-Mart store and promised returns between \$7 million and \$22-million. However there was never a deal for a Wal-Mart store. The Feds allege he used much of the money for gambling.

<http://www.fbi.gov/stlouis/press-releases/2013/local-man-indicted-on-fraud-charges>

Roberts has had a history of not paying tax bills. Here are some recent judgments issued against him or payment dates from court files: (however there are many more judgments filed against Roberts and his wife, Sonya)

02/08/08 Child Support Maintenance Order \$222 a month
07/10/08 Order to pay child support arrears
05/27/09 State of Missouri Recovers \$1,498.41 from Roberts
02/17/10 Order to pay Mo Department of Revenue \$1,040.29
01/31/11 Judgment to pay Missouri Dept. of Revenue \$1,581 (not satisfied)
06/10/11 garnishment of vehicle at 12931 N. Topping Estates (veh not found)
01/30/12 Judgment to pay Missouri Dept of Revenue \$5,049.86 (not satisfied)
09/19/13 Judgment to pay Missouri Dept of Revenue \$5,925.27 (not satisfied)
10/10/13 Judgment of \$46,814 for NJN Development (not yet paid)
10/01/13 Judgment of \$5,919 for Jerry Kelly Heating and A/C (not yet paid)

The house in Town and Country is in the name of Sonya Roberts. The last property tax bill was \$8,166.99 and was paid on December 4, 2013. All property taxes have been paid well in advance of the end of the year due date.

Roberts owes \$273 in back personal property taxes from 2011 and 2012 on his 2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo.

Ronald Roberts isn't the only one at home getting sued for not paying taxes or bills. His wife Sonya has a number of lawsuits filed against her including by some companies that are regulars service providers in local neighborhoods.

05/17/08 lawsuit for non-payment of \$20,895 at 12931 N. Topping Estates by **Linek Plumbing**
09/05/08 Mechanics Lien of \$3,427 by **Precision Irrigation**
06/03/09 Judgment of \$11,761 by **Pro-Tint**
09/19/11 Non payment suit by **MSD** at 12931 N Topping Estates (still pending next court date 6/13/14)
05/28/10 Judgment of \$4,086 by Mo. Div of Employment Sec
04/22/10 Judgment for \$21,406 for U.S. Candy and Tobacco (not yet paid)
07/30/10 Judgment of \$15,000 for **Follmer Yard Works**
08/27/10 Judgment of \$37,475 for GMAC and replevin of 2007 Corvette
12/13/10 Judgment of \$5,333 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
02/16/11 Judgment of \$1,548 for Capital One Bank
01/10/11 Judgment of \$443 for Mo. Div of Employment Sec (not yet paid)

01/14/11 Garnishment award to GMAC of Motor Vehicle
01/18/11 Judgment of \$55,709 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
01/25/11 Judgment of \$12,256 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue
01/25/11 Judgment of \$7,368 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
03/14/11 Judgment of \$1,399 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
04/05/11 Judgment of \$1,127 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue
06/08/11 Judgment of \$10,009 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
09/20/11 Judgment of \$5,723 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
10/18/11 Judgment of \$20,493 for Mo. Dept. of revenue (not yet paid)
12/15/11 Judgment of \$6,544 for St. Louis Co. Collector of Revenue (not yet paid)
01/23/12 Bankruptcy filed
02/27/12 Judgment of \$1,869 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue (not yet paid)
01/28/13 Judgment of \$1,023 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue
04/08/13 Judgment of \$3,909 for Mo. Dept. of Revenue
10/01/13 Judgment of \$5,169 for **Jerry Kelly Heating and A/C** (not yet paid)

Sonya Roberts for three years was president of Special Night Life, Inc. and in 2008 listed the company's corporate address at 12931 North Topping estates Drive. It appears as if this failed venture led to some of the judgments against Sonya.

AND NOW THE TOWN AND COUNTRY HONOR ROLL:

CURRENT MEMEBERS OF THE Gangs of Town and Country:

MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER: **William Lynn Gunter** of 1515 Mason Hill Court in the Mason Valley subdivision was charged with Murder 1st Degree in the death of his wife Suzy Gunter at their house. Gunter claimed to police and paramedics that his wife slipped and fell down the stairs. An autopsy showed otherwise. (Ward 2)



INVESTMENT FRAUD PONZI SCHEME S&K Investment **Ponzi Scheme Federal and State Fraud Convictions:** **Richard Neiswonger** (Ward 1) **Carl Kossmeyer** (Ward 4). In 2011 Neiswonger after serving time and moving to Nevada was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy in a fraud scheme that included actor Robert Wagner as a spokesman. Neiswonger pled guilty to those new offenses in June of 2012.

INVESTMENT FRAUD PONZI SCHEME: On July 19, 2012 61-year-old **Grahame Rhodes** of 13301 Thornhill Drive (Ward 2) was indicted by a Federal grand Jury for a \$2.5 million investment fraud/Ponzi scheme. Victims included friends, relatives and neighbors. He pled guilty to the offense a few days before Christmas.

Embezzler of church bulletin payments convicted: **John Gehm** (Ward 3)

Investment Embezzler convicted: **Don Weir** (Ward 3)

Embezzled \$25,000 from Homeowners Association convicted: **Richard Burbott** (Ward 2)

Mortgage Fraud: John Mineo, Jr. general manager of Mineo's Restaurant, convicted (Ward 2)



Serial Child Molester: Convicted **Eric Tolen** (Ward 1) Post Oak Drive. 35 years in prison for statutory



sodomy.

Drug Dealer: Brian Marchant-Calsyn convicted and served time in the federal Prison in Lewisburg, PA. Marchant-Calsyn later joined Neiswonger and Kossmeyer as a salesman for the S&K Investment Ponzi Scheme. He then created numerous internet sales companies that resulted in complaints to the Attorney



General by the dozen and lawsuits alleging fraud. Numerous judgments were issued against him and his companies. He moved out of his home on Topping Road in May of 2012. (Ward 2)

Sex assault: No charges filed but a T&C police investigation led to the resignation of the president of Maryville University in 2006 (Ward 4)

Bank Fraud, weapons violation, drug dealing, assault and spousal abuse and FBI informant that led to the downfall of State Senator Jeff Smith, convicted: **Milton Ohlsen III**, (Ward 1)



Medicaid Fraud: Dr. Abdul Naushad and his wife Wajiha Naushad civil award (Ward 4)

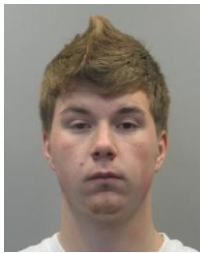
Felony Sexual Assault Second Degree convicted: **Stanley Williams, AKA Tommy Williams AKA Stanley Carter.** Thornhill Drive Thornhill Estates Subdivision (Ward 2)

Federal Income Tax Evasion: Convicted **William Bialczak** Ward 1, skimmed \$1,000,000 from his businesses S&H Parking and Metropolitan Towing, at the center of the St. Louis Police Tow Scandal. Feds seized \$874,978 in cash during searches of his businesses.



Burglary: Graham Redington of the 1600 block of Foxleigh Ct. (Ward 2) was arrested on March 24, 2011 after burglarizing a house on Horton Lane and then carrying a large flat screen TV and computer through the woods to a waiting car on Kent Manor Lane. He pled guilty in August of 2012 and was sentenced to a 15-day SHOCK jail term and placed on probation for five-years.

On March 27, 2013 Redington was arrested by Town and Country Police for DWID (Drugs), Improper Lane Use, Reckless Driving, Possession of a Fictitious Drivers License and Minor in Possession of Alcohol.



Graham Redington

Bank Fraud: Doug Morgan, 65, who lived in the Thornhill Estates subdivision (Ward 2), died on the day (Nov 9, 2011) of a scheduled hearing before a Federal judge. Morgan had been charged with Bank Fraud after allegedly making fraudulent loan applications for \$1.5 million. He is alleged to have also solicited close to \$2 million from two persons claiming to be a secret partner for a new casino in North County. Morgan was also the former head of the St. Louis County Planning Commission.

Drunk Driver Manslaughter: Edward T. Snodgrass Foxleigh Court Convicted Ward-2. As a drunk driver Snodgrass hit and killed a worker in a construction zone on Highway 40. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, then served a 90-day shock jail sentence before being released and placed on supervised probation for five whole years.

Serial Drunk Driver #1: Dan McLaughlin, residing in Ward 1 off of Ballas Road. McLaughlin refused to take a breath test in August of 2010 after Chesterfield Police responded to calls from motorists on Highway 40 about McLaughlin's SUV weaving. The police report indicates that it appeared that McLaughlin urinated in his pants, was falling down drunk, asked to be let go since he was only a few



blocks from home (several miles actually), and offered the officer a bribe. In

September of 2011 McLaughlin had multiple accidents on Baxter Road. He was so drunk that he could not figure out how to open his door, could not dial a phone, was falling down drunk and again refused to take a breath test.

Serial Drunk Driver #2: Jonathan (Jay) Forrest Dalton, Jr., 22, of Tundra Court (Ward 1) was arrested for DWI on January 1, 2012 at 3:35AM driving down Clayton Road in Ladue with no lights on his 2011 Audi. He then ran a stop sign in front of a Ladue police officer. He appeared to be drunk and refused to take a breath test. Police found three bottles of booze in the car. Less than six months later while his first arrest was pending in court on June 23, at 2:48AM he was clocked speeding by the Ladue Police on I-64. He again appeared intoxicated, was arrested and refused to take a breath test. He represented 9% of all of Ladue PD's DWI arrests in 2012.



In most of his facebook photos Jay seems to have a drink in his hand



Serial Drunk Driver #3: In March 2013 the County Prosecutor finally got around to charging 33-year-old **Danielle Derouin** of 19 Brookwood as a Felony Persistent Drunk driver. Derouin had two prior drunk driving related convictions in Des Peres and Kirkwood when in July of 2012 she was arrested for DWI on I-270 by Town and Country Police. Her BAC level was .21%. (Ward 2)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING VIOLATIONS: Alderman Tim Welby was fined and placed on two years' probation by the Missouri Ethics Commission for failing to file required campaign contributor and expense reports for over three years. Prior to the action, Welby had received a written warning for similar

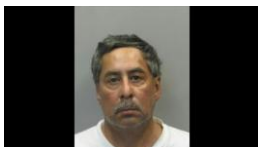


violations. Just what we need, a lawmaker who refuses to follow laws.

Criminal-Illegal Importation of Prescription Drugs...Civil-Medicaid & Medicare Fraud Dr. Abid Nisar of the Thornhill Estates subdivision. (Ward 2) Convicted

POSSESSION OF HEROIN AND DWI PRIOR OFFENDER: Andrew Baird of 11 Bellerive Country Club Grounds arrested Possession of Heroin and DWI by Prior Offender in the Pebble Acres subdivision at 3:40am on 3/25/12.

Serial Sex Offender: Marco Castaneda, 63, of 582 Pinebrook Court (Ward 4) was arrested exposing himself to a young woman in the office building at 763 South New Ballas. With that case pending Castaneda was arrested again on August 16 for exposing himself to a girl in the next door yard.



SEC VIOLATIONS: **Charles Russell Williams, II** of Mason Valley Road (Ward 2) was fined \$10,000 and the company in his name was fined \$10,000. Williams was stripped of his SEC standing as an investment advisor and prohibited for working as an investment advisor due to repeat violations of SEC rules and regulations.

Wire Fraud and Mail Fraud: **Charles Russell Williams, II** of Mason Valley Road was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on April 11, 2013 for two counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud for allegedly stealing \$700,000 from investors.

\$250,000 Embezzlement results in three Federal charges of wire fraud to go with a charge of Felony Bad Check in Circuit Court: **Richard T. Saddler of 1616 Featherstone** in the Mason Valley subdivision was indicted on July 17 for embezzling \$250,000 from five customers in a commercial loan “refinance” scheme. Saddler already had a pending felony passing bad check charge that was filed by the Town and County Police on May 18, 2012. Saddler also has judgments of \$62,543 and \$71,749 against him by the Missouri Department of Revenue for back taxes. He has another judgment against him in 2012 filed by a credit union where the court has ordered him to pay \$6,839, which on 7/18/13 has still not been satisfied.

Child Pornography: **Mark Alan Shklar**, a lawyer from Chesterfield who pled guilty in 2010 in 2008 to Missouri Child Pornography. He served two years allow with Federal Time he got on the same. He recently moved into a brick one story home at the far back of the property at 13332 Clayton Road, belonging to the Wirth family estate. (Ward 2)



INSURANCE FRAUD AND EMBEZZLEMENT: **Anthony Calandro**, a chiropractor, who lived at 740 Hampton Way (**WARD 4**) was convicted in November of 2012 after a Federal jury trial of Insurance Fraud in connection with his business, Chiropractic Accident Center of Crestwood. He was sentence to six years in prison. But before the April sentencing, in March of 2013 a trustee of the Hamptons homeowners association reported that Calandro as a trustee apparently stole \$40,000 in subdivision funds. A Town and Country Police investigation showed some of the stolen money was used at casinos.



WIRE AND MAIL FRAUD: **Ronald Lee Roberts** of 12931 N. Topping Estates was charged with three counts of wire fraud and one count of mail fraud in Federal Court. Roberts bilked investors out of \$2,500,000 claiming property he was acquiring was going to be a Wal-Mart super store. Instead he used

much of the money for gambling. He and his wife Sonya already had hundreds of thousands of dollars in judgments and tax liens piled up against them.

Honorary Member:

Murder: **Mary A. Mullenix**, 69, was charged with murdering her husband Ivan Mullenix with a knife on July 18, 2013. The police were called to the Mullenix home about 11pm on Wednesday July 17 by someone other than Mrs. Mullenix. Mary Ann Mullenix is on the Honorary Member list because she lived at 14 Country Life Acres Street in the Village of Country Life Acres. The 30 homes of Country Life Acres and 74 residents are surrounded by the City of Town and Country. Town and Country also provides police service to Country Life Acres for \$10,000 a year. In 2011 the median price for a house in Country Life Acres was 1.035,000.



BEHNEN STAND ON MARYVILLE REZONING GETS HIM AN OPPONENT IN THE PARIL ELECTION: Aldermen Phil Behnen, 51, normally runs unopposed every two years for reelection. Not this year!



Behnen did a good enough job of pissing off residents to get one of those residents to file against him. Behnen strongly backed Maryville University's effort to obtain rezoning to not only move athletic fields onto a piece of residentially zoned property, but to also move the maintenance facility into a proposed 28,000 square foot building and move its dump trucks, equipment and fuel onto the property along Conway Road.

On December 17th Behnen filed for reelection with the other incumbents, Skip Mange, Chuck Lenz and Gussie Crawford. The next day Linda Rallo, 49, who lives on Conway Village Drive, located just east of the rezoned property, filed to run against Behnen.



Here is a bio on Rallo from 2011 when she was on the faculty of the UMSL Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

Linda Rallo

Government Relations, Enterprise Holdings, LLC.

Linda Rallo finished her 3rd session as a legislative assistant for the Republican State Rep. Cole McNary (St. Louis Country) two weeks ago, and just started a new job in the Department of Government Relations at Enterprise Holdings, Inc. A graduate of the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism, Ms. Rallo has an extensive background in marketing and public relations. Her work in politics started after a 20-year career as a stay-at-home mom to three children, including a daughter at Mizzou. She joined Rep. McNary's staff after working as a campaign coordinator during his 2008 election, and was responsible for constituent services, directing legislation and overseeing his capitol office, as well as managing activities in the district. She serves as Vice President of the National Charity League, and is a member of the Chesterfield Day School Board of Trustees and the Community Relations Commission for the City of Town and Country. She is also pursuing a master's degree in public policy administration at UMSL.

Rallo has been writing on politics for mowonk.com.

Only Ward-4 Alderman Jon Benigas and Ward-2 Alderman Chuck Lenz did not vote for the rezoning. Benigas voted against it and Lenz was out of town and did not attend the meeting when the vote took place.

The residents along Conway Road are also upset with Fred Meyland-Smith who said and wrote some pretty stupid things while the issue worked its way to the Board of Aldermen, including how he would not mind having the maintenance facility in his neighborhood.

Mange in Ward-1, Crawford in Ward 3 and Behnen all voted for the project. I think these residents would love to find someone to run against Mange and Crawford. The neighborhoods along the west end of Conway Road have some of the wealthiest

residents in Town and Country and also residents who rarely bother to vote in city elections.

CRUCHING THE NUMBERS: Behnen, a CPA, is low key and fairly popular in his subdivision of Pebble Acres. Using our 2009 list of T&C voters we counted 151 voters in Behnen's subdivision. The streets where there were largest numbers of upset residents near Maryville University which would be Rallo's strong hold numbered 208 voters. (Keep in mind voter records are always about 25-to-30 percent high because residents' children first registered to vote at their parents' house and often remain on the voter rolls after they move away.)

300 votes would normally win an aldermanic seat. In a hotly contested race it might take 350 votes.

While Behnen has been the chair of the city's finance commission, Rallo had been on the city's Community Relations Commission, but wisely is no longer a member. The Finance Commission plays an important role of overseeing the mayor's budget, something aldermen have refused to do over the years. The Community Relations Commission is completely unnecessary and over the years appears to be in existence for housewives to throw parties on public property. The actual PR and journalism function of the commission is handled by Mary Olsen on the city's staff and is something she can easily do without interference from up to 10 people. (This commission currently has had three openings for an extended period of time.) The existence of the Community Relations Commission has done nothing to keep Mayor Dalton from using the city's newsletter as a free political mailing.

MANCHESTER AND FLORISSANT NO TEXTING AND DRIVING LAWS ARE NICE, BUT LIKELY ILLEGAL: Back in 2008 a terrible accident occurred on I-64 in Town and Country where a trucker was using his cell phone and drove on top of 20 cars backed up from I-270 killing people and maiming others. I was on the Board of Aldermen and introduced an ordinance to make it illegal to use a cell phone or to text or email while driving. At the time such behavior was outlawed in most of the world, in New York State, Washington, DC, Maryland and California. I could not get a second for the bill to even be voted on. However the bill drew a lot of media attention and attention of the state legislators.



In 2009 the State Legislature thanks to lots of interest from telecommunication industry and lobbyists made sure no smart ass like myself could start passing any city or county laws making cell phone and texting while driving illegal. They passed a statute making it illegal for person under 21 to text while driving. In that statute they included a provision making it illegal for any county or city government to pass any law regulating hand held communications devices. Here is the exact section.

Missouri Revised Statutes
Chapter 304
Traffic Regulations
Section 304.820

August 28, 2013

11. The state preempts the field of regulating the use of hand-held electronic wireless communications devices in motor vehicles, and the provisions of this section shall supercede any local laws, ordinances, orders, rules, or regulations enacted by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision to regulate the use of hand-held electronic wireless communication devices by the operator of a motor vehicle.

So as much as I appreciated how Manchester and Florissant are trying to make me safer, I'm pretty sure they broke Missouri law when they passed the anti-texting ordinances. Defense attorney should have little problems getting cases dismissed.

It is too bad that the state legislature has been more interested in making lobbyists and large corporate contributors happy over protecting citizens.

MEDIA WATCH: What a great partnership! The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and KTVI recently entered into a news gathering partnership. I thought of that when Bill McClellan wrote a column on Wednesday December 18, about Larry Connors being fired by KMOV-TV as their longtime anchor man. Bill has lots of independence since he is considered by liberals and conservatives as St. Louis' "Mike Royko." However I did have to wonder if there would have been much soul searching at the P-D if they still had the old partnership with KMOV instead of KTVI.

I agreed with Bill's position on how Connors basically got screwed by KMOV. They didn't like some Facebook postings by Connors suggesting that his current audit by the IRS could be related to him asking tough questions in an interview with President Obama. It was KMOV that was pushing Connors to make Facebook postings.



Bill McClellan



Larry Connors

KMOV has successfully invoked Connors' "no compete" contract clause that keeps him off area TV for one-year. I always felt KMOV should have simply taken Connors off the air and continued to pay him until the contract expired. But they fired him. It is one thing if he doesn't renew his contract it is quite another if KMOV doesn't honor the contract and fires him.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/mcclellan-the-court-of-common-sense/article_5e3d606e-6152-5895-8f89-68fa8d66972c.html

THE STUPID METER IS NOW ON: However the best part of Bill's column were some of the comments posted online from people who didn't know what they were talking about concerning the media. Here are a few examples:

. [Carol Laitinen](#) · Top Commenter · Works at [Retired Payroll/HR Manager](#)

Good article, you tell 'em, Bill.

(Bill writes columns not articles Carol.)

[Ray Hummel](#) · Top Commenter · [Univ. of Mo. St. Louis](#)

Walter Kronkite. good looking? Newcasters ultimate compliment is to be trusted and Larry was just that. A class act!

(Walter Kronkite? Was he the least trusted man in America? I believe you were thinking of maybe Walter Cronkite? I'll give you the typo for leaving the "s" off "newscasters" but the "c" and the "k" are nowhere near each other on the keyboard.)

[Josh Capo](#) · Top Commenter · [St. Louis](#)

No, they actually wanted to improve their new "investment" which is Sharon Reed brought down from Chicago... Huda has been thrown to the back of the bus. It's sad because everyone I know highly prefers Jasmine over Sharon... We cant stand Reed's personality and lable her a Queen B.

(Reed came from Cleveland not Chicago. Her contract was not renewed by the CBS affiliate in Cleveland. Before that she worked in Philadelphia, Miami and Baltimore but never Chicago.)

- [Chris Powers](#) · Top Commenter

Ken Erhardt is a prick in person, good for them demoting him too.... Now if KSDK could get rid of Diane Lane, all my Christmas wishes would be coming true.

[Reply](#) · [1](#) · [Like](#) · 5 hours ago

-

(How this went from Larry Conners to Kent Erhardt, I'm not sure, but at least Kent is originally from the St. Louis area.)

[Randy Wright](#) · Top Commenter

Chris Powers, Diane Lane? If you mean Deanne Lane, she's been gone since 2009. Otherwise who are you talking about?

(I'd like to thank Randy for doing my job.)

BILL BEGGS KEEPS MOVING CITY LIMITS: Town and Style Magazine columnist Bill Beggs' lack of knowledge of West County continues to be amazing. He recently put Queeny Park in Ballwin, while in reality it is in unincorporated St. Louis County surrounded on three sides by Town and Country and receives mail from the Des Peres Post Office. Beggs or his editors routinely use the Rock Hill city logo for pieces about

Richmond Heights. He recently moved the Manchester Wal-Mart to Ballwin in a column.

Now in a recent edition of Town and Style he has placed the Museum of Transportation inside the city limits of Des Peres. It is also in unincorporated County. Properly reported the Museum is either just outside of Kirkwood or Des Peres, but it is not in either city.



These trains are not located inside Des Peres.

FACTS...BEGGS DOESN'T NEED NO STINK'N FACTS: In the latest edition of Town and Style Magazine Beggs takes one side of an issue and then makes things up. In the December 18 issue of Town and Style Begg's clearly was on the side of Maryville University in the rezoning controversy. In his piece he wrote:

"The land in question, once a farm, belongs to the university."

This is completely false. The land in question belongs to the Ball family (and has belonged to the family for over 50 years) and is being sold to the university on a contingency contract only if the rezoning is approved.



Bill "I don't need facts or need to know actual locations" Beggs, Jr.

CHARITY COMPARISION UPDATES: Every year I get an email listing the charities with high overhead costs and the ones with the lower costs. Recently I decided to check the accuracy and found that the Snopes.com website along with Forbes Magazine had done a good job on it. Here is the report from Snopes.com, starting with the popular but very inaccurate email, followed by a recent breakdown of facts:

Charitable Compensation

Claim: Article compares the salaries of top executives of several large charitable organizations.

MOSTLY OUTDATED AND INACCURATE

Examples:

[Collected via e-mail, October 2010]

Keep these facts in mind when "donating". As you open your pockets for yet another natural disaster, keep the following facts in mind; we have listed them from the highest (worse paid offender) to the lowest (least paid offender).

The worst offender was yet again for the 11th year in a row is, UNICEF - CEO, receives \$1,200,000 per year, (plus use of a Royal Royce for his exclusive use where ever he goes, and an expense account that is rumoured to be well over \$150,000.) Only pennies from the actual donations goes to the UNICEF cause (less than \$0.14 per dollar of income).

The second worst offender this year is Marsha J. Evans, President and CEO of the American Red Cross... for her salary for the year ending in 2009 was \$651,957 plus expenses. Enjoys 6 weeks - fully paid holidays including all related expenses during the holiday trip for her and her husband and kids. including 100% fully paid health & dental plan for her and her family, for life. This means out of every dollar they bring in, about \$0.39 goes to related charity causes.

The third worst offender was again for the 7th time was, Brian Gallagher, President of the United Way receives a \$375,000 base salary (U.S. funds), plus so many numerous expense benefits it's hard to keep track as to what it is all worth, including a fully paid lifetime membership for 2 golf courses (1 in Canada, and 1 in the U.S.A.), 2 luxury vehicles, a yacht club membership, 3 major company gold credit cards for his personal expenses...and so on. This equates to about \$0.51 per dollar of income goes to charity causes.

Fourth worst offender who was also again in the fourth spot, for every year since this information has been made available from the start 1998 is amazingly yet again, World Vision President (Canada) receives \$300,000 base salary, (plus supplied - a home valued in the \$700,000 - \$800,000 dollar value range, completely furnished, completely paid all housing expenses, including taxes, water/sewer, telephone/fax, HD/high speed cable, weekly maid service and pool/yard maintenance, fully paid private

schooling for his children, upscale automobile and an \$55,000 personal expense account for clothing/food, with a \$125,000 business expense account). Get this, because it is a "religious based" charity, it pays, little to no taxes, can receive government assistance and does not have to declare where the money goes. Only about \$0.52 of earned income per dollar is available for charity causes.

Of the sixty some odd "charities" we looked at, the lowest paid (President/C.E.O/Commissioner) was heading up a charity group right here in Canada. We found, believe it or not, it was.....

The Salvation Army's Commissioner Todd Bassett receives a salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 Billion dollar organization. Which means about \$0.93 per dollar earned, is readily available and goes back out to local charity causes... truly amazing... and well done "Sally Ann".

No further comment is necessary..."Think Twice" before you give to your charity of choice as to which one really does the best for the most - or the least for the most, for that matter.

[Collected via e-mail, November 2012]

The American Red Cross

President and CEO Marsha J. Evans' salary for the year was \$651,957 plus expenses

MARCH OF DIMES

It is called the March of Dimes because only a dime for every 1 dollar is given to the needy.

The United Way

President Brian Gallagher receives a \$375,000 base salary along with numerous expense benefits.

UNICEF

CEO Caryl M. Stern receives \$1,200,000 per year (100k per month) plus all expenses including a ROLLS ROYCE.

Less than 5 cents of your donated dollar goes to the cause.

GOODWILL CEO and owner Mark Curran profits \$2.3 million a year.

Goodwill is a very catchy name for his business.

You donate to his business and then he sells the items for PROFIT.

He pays nothing for his products and pays his workers minimum wage! Nice Guy.

\$0.00 goes to help anyone! Stop giving to this man.

Instead, give it to ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

GO "GREEN" AND PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO SOME GOOD:

The Salvation Army

Commissioner, Todd Bassett receives a small salary of only \$13,000 per year (plus housing) for managing this \$2 billion dollar organization.

96 percent of donated dollars go to the cause.

The American Legion

National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars

National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Disabled American Veterans

National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Military Order of Purple Hearts

National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

The Vietnam Veterans Association

National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

Your donations go to help Veterans and their families and youth!

Make a Wish: For children's last wishes.

100% goes to funding trips or special wishes for a dying child.

St. Jude Research Hospital

100% goes towards funding and helping Children with Cancer who have no insurance and can not afford to pay.

Ronald McDonald Houses

All monies go to running the houses for parents who have critical Children in the hospital.

100% goes to housing, and feeding the families.

Lions Club International

100% OF DONATIONS GO TO HELP THE BLIND, BUY HEARING AIDES, SUPPORT MEDICAL MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD. THEIR LATEST UNDERTAKING IS MEASLES VACCINATIONS (ONLY \$1.00 PER SHOT).

Please share this with everyone you can.

Origins: When deciding which charities to donate to, many people consider an important factor to be the "efficiency" of these organizations — that is, what percentage of the monies taken in by a given charity goes to funding its mission rather than being eaten up by costs such as fundraising activities, salaries, and other administrative overhead.

The e-mail reproduced above, which began circulating in 2005 and has been re-circulated every year since then around Christmastime, attempts to steer potential

donors away from inefficient charities. Unfortunately, much of the information it presents was inaccurate back in 2005, and it has grown only more so in the years since then, resulting in a misleading and outdated view of various charities. We attempt to present accurate and up-to-date information about the named charities below.

The following efficiency information is derived from the [Charity Navigator](#) web site, the [GuideStar](#) web site and *Forbes* magazine's November 2009 [special report](#) on the 200 Largest U.S. Charities. Salary information is taken from Schedule J (Compensation Information) of the various charities' IRS Form 990 filings, an annual reporting return that certain federally tax-exempt organizations must file with the IRS which provides information on the filing organization's mission, programs, and finances. (In the context of this article, the term "efficiency" refers to the percentage of total budget/expenses that each listed organization spends on providing charitable programs and services, while the term "compensation" or "pay" includes salary, one-time payments, and deferred compensation.)

- **UNICEF:** The e-mail is not specific about which executive is being referred to here, as [UNICEF](#) (the United Nations Children's Fund) is a global organization with offices in 190 countries. We're assuming the reference is to the President and CEO of the [United States Fund for UNICEF](#), Caryl M. Stern, whose last reported total yearly compensation was \$472,891, not \$1,200,000. Both Charity Navigator and *Forbes* rate this organization's efficiency at 91%, far greater than the 14% claimed in the e-mail cited above. In response to the claim that UNICEF's CEO receives "a Royal Royce for his exclusive use where ever he goes," UNICEF told us that "There is no Rolls Royce or company car provided for any staff member at UNICEF or the U.S. Fund, including the President and CEO of the U.S. Fund or UNICEF's Executive Director.
- **American Red Cross:** The information presented above is outdated (as of October 2010), as Marsha J. Evans resigned her position as CEO of the American Red Cross in 2005. The current President and CEO of the American Red Cross (since 2008) is Gail J. McGovern, whose total yearly compensation for [2010](#) was about \$1,037,000 (considerably higher than the \$651,957 figure mentioned above) and for [2011](#) was about \$561,000. Charity Navigator and *Forbes* both rate this organization's efficiency at 92%, much higher than the 39% figure claimed in the e-mail.

- **United Way:** The United Way is another charitable organization that operates on both global and local levels. We're assuming the e-mail references the President and CEO of [United Way Worldwide](#), Brian A. Gallagher, whose last reported total yearly compensation was \$717,076 (including a base salary of \$415,613, which is a bit higher than the \$375,000 figure reported above). Charity Navigator rates this organization's efficiency at 89%, while Forbes rates it at 85%, both much higher than the 51% efficiency claimed in the e-mail.
- **World Vision:** [World Vision](#) is yet another charitable organization with global reach, but the message quoted above specifically references [World Vision Canada](#). That organization provided us with the following information:

[Dave Toycen](#) [President and CEO of World Vision Canada] salary is \$184,000 which is a matter of public record. As per our Board's compensation policy, Dave and all of our top executives earn substantially less than executives who run comparable organizations. This policy is overseen by our Board's Executive Committee and is regularly assessed by an independent external consultant. We disclose executive compensation as required to the Canada Revenue Agency.

Dave does not live in a \$700,000-\$800,000 home, and none of his housing costs are paid for by World Vision. He has lived in the same house outside of Toronto for more than 20 years. He travels economy class and does not use the most cutting edge technology.

Accountability in the use of funds and transparency to our donors are among our core values and they are taken seriously at World Vision. As evidence of this:

- [The facts about our executive compensation](#), including the President's remuneration, are published openly on our website;
- Our [annual report](#) and [independently audited financial statements](#) are also available for review.

World Vision Canada's (self-reported) efficiency is 81%, much higher than the 52% figure claimed above.

- **Salvation Army:** The information presented above is outdated, as W. Todd Bassett stepped down as National Commander of The Salvation Army in April 2006; the current National Commander of the Salvation Army (since 2010) is William A. Roberts. The Salvation Army is not required to file a Form 990 with the IRS because it is primarily a religious organization, but according to the Better Business Bureau ([BBB](#)), Roberts' last reported total annual compensation was \$126,920, much higher than the \$13,000 reported above. *Forbes* rates this organization's efficiency at 82%, a fair bit lower than the 93% figure claimed in the e-mail.
- **Goodwill:** [Goodwill Industries International](#) is not a business that takes in donated items and resells them for a profit. It is a not-for-profit organization that provides job training, employment placement services and other community-based programs for people who have disabilities, lack education or job experience, or face employment challenges. Goodwill raises

money for their programs through a chain of thrift stores which also operate as non-profits.

The CEO of Goodwill Industries International is not Mark Curran, nor does he make \$2.3 million a year. The current President and CEO of Goodwill is [Jim Gibbons](#), who in 2011 received a total reported [compensation](#) of \$725,000.

- **March of Dimes:** Charity Navigator rates the [March of Dimes](#)' efficiency at 64.6%, a fair bit lower than most of the charities mentioned here, but much higher than the 10% figure claimed in the e-mail example quoted above.
- **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital:** Charity Navigator rates the efficiency of [St. Jude](#) Children's Research Hospital at 70.3%, considerably lower than the 100% figure claimed of it above.
- **Ronald McDonald Houses:** Ronald McDonald House charities operate at local levels in dozens of different metropolitan areas in the U.S. with varying levels of efficiency. Charity Navigator rates the efficiency of the [parent](#) organization at 89.5%.
- **Lions Club International:** Charity Navigator rates the efficiency of the [Lions Clubs](#) International Foundation at 83.9%.

A 2011 addendum to the original message presented the following information:

The American Legion National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.
The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.
The Disabled American Veterans National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.
The Military Order of Purple Hearts National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.
The Vietnam Veterans Association National Commander receives a \$0.00 zero salary.

These organizations with no salaries have donations going to help Veterans and their families and youth.

According to the most recent available Form 990 filings, all of these statements are false and/or misleading (in large part because the National Commanders are not necessarily the top business executives of these organizations):

- The two men who served as National Commander of the American Legion during the 2009 tax year (David Rehbein and Clarence Hill) received total aggregate compensation of \$103,701. The American Legion's National Adjutant (Daniel Wheeler), who is described as "the administrative head of the organization," received \$201,661 in total compensation.
- The two men who served as the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Commander-in-Chief during the 2009 tax year (Glen M. Gardner, Jr. and Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr.) received an aggregate total compensation of \$329,868.
- In the 2009 tax year, the National Adjutant of Disabled American Veterans (Arthur H. Wilson), who is described as "serving as the DAV's chief executive officer," received a total compensation of \$328,252.
- The Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is a separate entity from the Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation (MOPHSF), although the former is largely dependent upon the latter to raise funds for its programs. For tax year 2009, the Executive Director of the

MOPHSF (Gregory A. Bresser), who left that post in August 2009, received \$142,986 in total compensation.

- In tax year 2009, the President of Vietnam Veterans of America (the closest match to the "Vietnam Veterans Association" mentioned in the e-mail), John Rowan, received a total compensation of \$69,874. (The highest paid executive was CFO/staff director Joseph Sternburg, who was paid \$137,902.)

Unfortunately, the five veterans-related charitable organizations mentioned above don't receive very high marks for efficiency (as determined by Charity Navigator, the BBB, or Form 990 information):

- American Legion: 55%
- Veterans of Foreign Wars: 84%
- Disabled American Veterans: 77%
- Military Order of Purple Heart Service Foundation: 35%
- Vietnam Veterans of America: 25%

Additional information:



[America's Most Efficient Charities](#)
(Forbes)

Last updated: 13 November 2013

Read more at <http://www.snopes.com/politics/business/charities.asp#Dc2L8pIWECGqUUHJ.99>

FOOD: Restaurant Review: On December 8 at the Town and Country Board of Aldermen agenda meeting, Mayor & Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton said there was a Big Deal in Town and country. I wrote in the last T&C Newsletter that when he said there was a "Big Deal" I immediately thought some important medical advancement was discovered at Missouri Baptist Medical Center or perhaps the police had arrested someone on the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted List.



But then Dalton said the “big deal” was that a chain restaurant, Cooper’s Hawk was opening at the Town & Country Crossing Center at Woods Mill and Clayton Roads. It opened on December 12th.

On Monday I was joined by two others to check out the place and the food.

Jean Whitney, former Chesterfield Patch.com editor joined me and my wife for a 1:45 lunch. We set the time later so as not to be part of the lunch rush. Our server said we were her first customers of the day. The place opens at 11:30.

We did lunch since this newsletter is not a profit making enterprise and we could get three opinions on three meals for under \$100.

Jean had the Gnocchi Carbonara for \$17 with a glass of “Romance” red wine. All the wines are from cooper Hawks’ Illinois vineyards.



Pretzel bread arrived with Jean’s order. It really didn’t have much pretzel taste. The pretzel rolls at Costco, Schnuck’s and Dierberg’s are all better.

Jean reported the gnocchi was a bit salty but good. She said her \$6.50 glass of wine reminded her of a Mogen David.

My wife had the roasted vegetables (\$3.99) and a cup of Crab and Lobster Bisque (\$5.99 a cup and \$6.99 for a bowl).



The roasted vegetables consisted of a carrot, some onions and leek plus a piece of zucchini. My wife reported the favor was good, but there weren't many vegetables. She likes the roasted veggies at Tucker's much better as you get much more for a \$1 less.



The Crab and Lobster Bisque was a big hit. It was tasty with lots of crab and lobster.

My wife had the Unoaked chardonnay (\$7.25). She wasn't impressed, but the server brought her a sample of the Lux chardonnay (\$9.50 a glass) which she said was excellent.

I went for the Cheeseburger (\$11 with a side) and choose "Betty's Potatoes" as my side instead of French fries. As a side it goes for \$4.



The half-pound burger was very good. It was properly cooked. It had the lettuce and tomato on the bottom. The two slices of cheese were melted perfectly. The burger was flavorful. In case I didn't mention it was also \$11. The burgers at O'Connell's, Tuckers and Smitty's are also good and are well under 10 bucks.

"Betty's Potatoes" were another story. The string potatoes in a sauce with crumbs on top tasted more like Kraft Mac n' Cheese than potatoes.

The service was fine and they had chefs and managers in from headquarters in Chicago doing training of new employees.

The restaurant appears to be huge, but our server told us it is the smallest of all Cooper's Hawks. She also said while the other locations offer live music, this one will not due to its size. Frankly it looked huge, but maybe that was also because it was empty. There were two ladies dining when he walked in and when we paid the bill it was only us.

COOPER'S HAWKS APPARENTLY BELIEVE PEOPLE IN SNOBURBIA CANNOT

DO MATH: I was amused that our check showed how much 15%, 18% and 20% of the bill was. Apparently Cooper's Hawk management doesn't think rich people can do math.

NO RUSH: My wife thought Cooper's Hawk in the day would be a good place for groups of women to meet once in a while for lunch. The dinner meals ranged from \$22 to \$34. It is cheaper than Ruth Chris but 30% more than Tuckers. We all agreed for lunch we would probably go to Tucker's, Smitty's or Red Lobster before our next trip to Cooper's Hawk.

MUSIC: On Wednesday night The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra did a Christmas Show at the Kirkwood Station Brewery that drew a good crowd in the middle of the week. The show opened with a great arrangement of Strike Up the Band and closed with a modern version of Benny Goodman's fast paced Sing, Sing, Sing. In between regular vocalists Valerie Tichacek and Ron Wilkerson provided some Christmas songs.

Special guest Dean Christopher did four Sinatra big band songs. Christopher used to sell out the former Finale night club with his own band and an annual Christmas Show. Part of the show always included Dean doing a comedy routine of singing the 12 Days of Christmas in movie and TV stars voices.

We went around table to table and took a collection from the audience to be donated to a charity if Dean would do the routine. We raised \$100 and he agreed, with half of the money going to the Salvation Army and half to the Disabled American Veterans.

Dean did the usual great job starting with John Wayne then including the voices of Walter Brennan, Paul Lynne, Boris Karloff, Kurt Douglas, Jimmy Cagney, Edward G. Robinson, Jerry Lewis, Henry Fonda, Clark Gable and Jimmy Stewart.

Funny? Take a look at the band cracking up as Dean performs!



Dean Christopher has big band leader Bob Bodes doubled over and the saxophone section laughing out loud.

The following appeared in the last Chesterfield Newsletter posted on December 17. A direct link to the Christmas You Tube videos are on our website under the Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter 53. <http://johnhoffmann.net>

NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



OUTRAGE FORCES ESPN TO RUN CARDINAL GLENNON AD: ESPN, the all sports network, had refused to run an ad for the Cardinal Glennon Hospital because the ad mentioned Jesus and God in connection with Christmas messages of hope to sick

children. The national outrage forced ESPN to reconsider. Now the Cardinal Glennon ad has aired around the world thanks to the uproar. Excellent marketing on behalf of SSM Cardinal Glennon...worldwide coverage for the cost of one commercial!

I joined the crowd that posted on the ESPN facebook page with the following:

Perhaps ESPN will stop covering Boston College and Notre Dame sports plus BYU, Southern Methodist and other religious based universities. In fact stop showing baseball players who wear crosses and do not mention any players by their first name if it happens to be Jesus. I think it is important to be consistent in keeping Jesus off the air since that appears to be your policy. It is good to see that you are not concerned about your advertisers, who are trying to reach buyers in the US market place where 78% of the population is Christian.

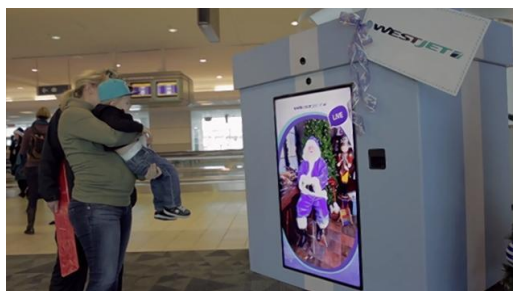
CANADIAN AIRLINE PULLS A GREAT CHRISTMAS PR STUNT FOR 116

PASSENGERS: This posting on You Tube is worth a look. It is from the Southwest Airlines of Canada, West Jet and it happened on December 10. The You Tube video has already had 31,000,000 views. That is 1,000,000 more views than the Julie Andrews Do-Re-Me flash mob at the Antwerp Railroad station that was posted in 2009.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIElvi2MuEk>

Here is the link to the 2009 Antwerp railroad station video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EYAUazLI9k>



Taking to Santa before taking off on a West Jet flight.



A passenger who just received a gift at baggage claim-eight, get misty eyed.

CHICAGO'S MAGICAL PIANO: Here is another You Tube video of Amtrak having some fun at Chicago's Union Station. It's more Christmas fun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9BOTXFCpQA>



CHESTERFIELD'S JOE MANCUSO FEATURED: On Sunday December 22 vocalist Joe Mancuso will join the Dave Dickey Big Band at Kirkwood Station Brewery on East Jefferson from 6-9 for a special Christmas show.

CARTOONS:



BREVITY

BY DAN THOMPSON





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www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers

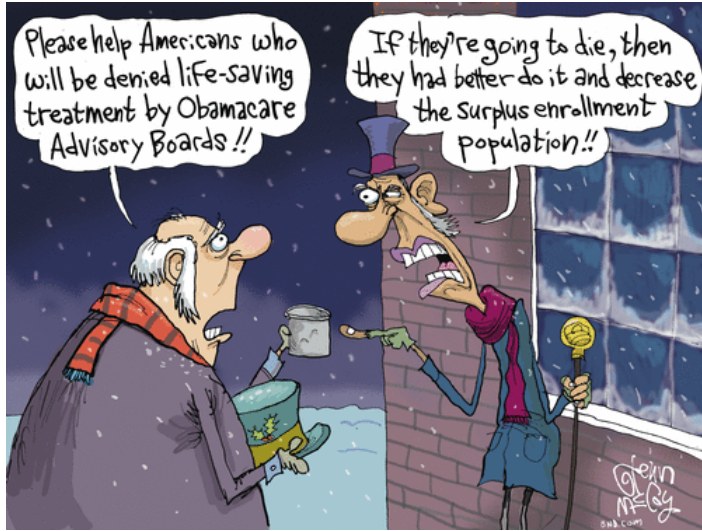
MPRE
12/11

"Too late! I clearly heard you say,
'Turn me into a seven-footer' ..."

From Pulitzer Prize Winning CBC Grad Mike Peters



gimmy.com
KANSAS FORENSIC SOCIETY
© 2013 DAYTON DAVIDSON
MIKE PETERS





"I think they're going to try a Hail Mary."



IN HIS RETIREMENT, DR. SCHOLL TOOK UP THE DELIGHTFUL HOBBY OF TOE-PIARY GARDENING.

