ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS Organizing Manual

INTRODUCTION

HOW we will BUILD A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION dedicated to the Constitution;

HOW we will EDUCATE THE PEOPLE about the Articles of Freedom;

HOW we will MONITOR THE LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE of our elected officials with the Remedial Instructions;

HOW we will MOBILIZE FOR CIVIC ACTION, peacefully and lawfully, to restore constitutional governance.

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS INTRODUCTION:

The *We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education* has been echoing the essence of Mahatma Gandhi's formula for reform when people are up against unjust and uncivil government and laws: If the People are to succeed in restoring the Constitution, they must create and sustain a small, but critical mass of Citizens, each wholly dedicated to the vision of Liberty and personally committed to the organized use of the proactive, non-violent means of Civic Action.

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." (Gandhi)

The Foundation hereby offers the next step in a plan and process that can (and must) be implemented in communities across our land if we are to restore the Constitution and shift the ultimate power in our society from the Government back to the People where it was meant to reside in the first place.

The Plan is Beyond Tea Parties, beyond elections and beyond politics.

In truth, much of the "heavy lifting" in the process is already behind us. A solid record has been established, demonstrating that the Government has been ignoring the Constitution and the People who have been petitioning to cure and correct the violations. In truth, for fifteen years the People have been claiming and exercising their First Amendment guaranteed Right to Petition the Government – all three branches – for Redress of the Grievances triggered by scores of violations. In truth, while the People have acted intelligently, rationally, professionally, respectfully and humbly, the Government has uncivilly and insolently ignored the People's pleas for Redress.

Elected officials in the two political branches have refused to respond, and the Courts have dismissed the People's Petitions for "lack of standing," saying the individual Petitioners have not shown their injury to be any different from everyone else in America (as if this was a Democracy and our Rights were collective Rights, not unalienable, natural and individual). One Court went so far as to say the Government does not have to listen or respond to the People's First Amendment Petitions for Redress.

Through it all a cadre of like-minded souls with a passion for the Constitution and committed to the enjoyment of Liberty has been growing, in numbers and commitment. Last year, as the appropriate next step in the arduous but peaceful process of reform, elected citizen-delegates assembled as a Continental Congress to discuss the Government's refusal to be held accountable and to recommend a course of action for the Free to right the wrongs. They authored the Articles of Freedom, with its Remedial Instructions to our federal and state governments and its call for standby civic action.

Now, the appropriate next steps are to bring the Articles of Freedom to the attention of America's entire body politic, to monitor the federal and state governments' compliance with the Remedial Instructions and to organize the mass-movement needed to prevail – a nationwide, We The People Congress.

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS PURPOSE:

TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTION:

To provide an appropriate structure for many people to come together to **learn** about their federal and state Constitutions, to **learn** about the violations which have injured America, and to **learn** about the Articles of Freedom - a Plan to stop the violations and restore constitutional governance.

To institutionalize citizen vigilance for constitutional **compliance** by building a nationwide network of inter-connected neighborhood groups capable of: 1) scrutinizing and measuring the level of **compliance** by their actions of their local, county, state and federal officials with the Remedial Instructions of the Articles of Freedom and the requirements of their state and federal Constitutions; and 2) maintaining professional contact with the media and other community based organizations; and 3), intelligently, rationally and professionally deciding upon and implementing appropriate, lawful and effective civic actions to encourage cooperation and compliance by elected officials with the Remedial Instructions in the Articles of Freedom and the prohibitions, restrictions and mandates of their state and federal Constitutions.

To establish the foundation and financial support for the construction of fully manned Citizen Vigilance Centers for each state and in the District of Columbia.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

STRATEGY:

Millions of people, in their cities and towns across America, each doing a little bit of work, guided and supported by a national, constitution-oriented organization.

ENTITIES:

WE THE PEOPLE CONGRESS, INC. – A national, membership-based and membership-supported organization, fully dedicated to the restoration and maintenance of constitutional governance carried out in decency and good order, and capable of guiding and supporting the work of the nationwide network of inter-related and inter-connected Articles of Freedom Meetup groups, as:

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP ORGANIZATIONS – Tens of Thousands of bands of Brothers and Sisters, American citizens all, totaling 3-5% of the national population (between 9 and 15 million people) working together, from neighborhoods up, to successfully bring about a drastic change in government: no more unconstitutional acts by their local, state and federal governments.

Each neighborhood Articles of Freedom Meetup group elects a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to fulfill the administrative and leadership requirements of that group. Each group elects one person to represent their group in an Articles of Freedom County Council. **For the time being, each neighborhood group will meet weekly on Tuesday evening from 7-8:30 PM.**

At the end of each meeting, the recommended civic actions will be prioritized on a template form. The County Council representative will upload this data to the County Council for discussion at their Wednesday night meeting.

3,141 ARTICLES OF FREEDOM COUNTY COUNCILS, formed of one person from each neighborhood Articles of Freedom MeetUp Group within that County, serving to coordinate the progress, activities and plans for the neighborhood Articles of Freedom Meetup Organizations and to advise the Articles of Freedom State Councils. For the time being, each County Council will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7-8:30PM (in person or virtual), provided there are two or more neighborhood Articles of Freedom MeetUp Organizations in that County.

This is not a civic education forum. It is a management forum to identify and discuss issues that can be settled at that level or need to be passed up.

At the end of each meeting, the recommended civic actions will be prioritized on a template form. The State Council representative will upload this data to the State Council for discussion at their Thursday night meeting.

50 ARTICLES OF FREEDOM STATE COUNCILS, formed of one person from each *Article of Freedom County Council* within that state, serving to coordinate the progress, activities and plans of the Articles of Freedom County Councils and to advise the Articles of Freedom Regional Councils.

For the time being, each State Council will meet weekly, virtually, using GoToMeeting.com or some other agreeable virtual outlet, each Thursday evening from 7-8:30PM, provided there are two or more Articles of Freedom County Councils.

This group has the potential to be a constitutional authority and powerhouse within the state and should be visible and respected by the citizenry of the state; along with those in positions of trust, leadership and authority in that state.

Each State Council shall elect one person to serve on an *Articles of Freedom Regional Council.*

At the end of each meeting, the recommended civic actions will be prioritized on a template form. The Regional Council representative will upload this data to the Regional Council for discussion at their Friday night meeting.

7 ARTICLES OF FREEDOM REGIONAL COUNCILS, formed of one person from each Articles of Freedom State Council within that Region, serving to coordinate the progress, activities and plans of the Articles of Freedom State Councils and to advise the Articles of Freedom National Council. For the time being, each Regional Council will meet weekly, virtually, using GoToMeeting.com, each Friday evening at 7-8:30PM, provided there are two or more Articles of Freedom State Councils.

The members shall elect one person to represent the region on an Articles of Freedom National Council.

At the end of each meeting, the recommended civic actions will be prioritized on a template form. The National Council representative from each Region will upload this data to the National Council and WTPC National for discussion.

1 ARTICLES OF FREEDOM NATIONAL COUNCIL, formed of one person from each Articles of Freedom Regional Council, serving to coordinate the progress, activities and plans of the Articles of Freedom Regional Councils and to advise the Board of Directors of the *We The People Congress, Inc.* regarding overall policy, plans, strategy and tactics.

At the end of each meeting, the final recommended nationwide civic actions will be summarized and disseminated as 'WTPC Announcements' on the Agenda of the next week's Meetup for action.

Please note: There may be (other and continuing) unconstitutional acts taking place which have not been Petitioned for Redress and are therefore not included in the *Articles of Freedom*. The National Council can recommend to WTPC, topics for consideration as potential Petitions for Redress. If approved, the Petition would be written and then Served on elected officials by WTPC members, followed by monitoring for compliance and appropriate civic action.

GUIDELINES: MEMBERSHIP AND GROUP EXPECTATIONS

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM meetup groups shall be established at the neighborhood level as an open forum for any citizen who wishes to study and learn about their Constitution, the Articles of Freedom and the Right of the People to hold government accountable to the Constitution. Those who establish these groups are to welcome all and encourage participation by every member in whatever way each individual feels to contribute.

All are welcome who sincerely and earnestly wish to study and apply the information with the end-goal of restoring and maintaining constitutional governance in the United States of America.

All attendees are required to follow a simple set of guidelines in a manner which will provide for the ongoing expansion of the group and fulfill its goals as a respected and highly visible member of the community:

1) All members shall participate in the group with harmony, unity and collaboration in mind. Members of the group will support each other in a way that honors the individual and the group. Each member shall conduct him or herself, at all times, in a manner that honors their Creator and our Country and Constitution, as well as their fellow man, in the Spirit of Brotherhood and Cooperation.

2) All members of the group shall be positive members of **We the People Congress**, **Inc.**

3) All members of the group are equal. All activities and efforts of the group are voluntary. Members may participate at whatever level their heart dictates. All members are to support each other and appreciate/encourage the unique strengths in each person. Members will support their elected officers. Members will pay the dues required by the group to sustain its needs.

4) The Articles of Freedom Meetup Groups are **non-political**, **non-partisan** in nature. They **shall provide complete relief** from any focus on elections, political candidates, politics, personalities, parties and legislation. The focus is solely on learning about the Constitution to the degree that citizens can be effective in demanding it be restored to save America, by holding their elected officials accountable, regardless of their political stripes and whether they voted for them or not. While members of the group may meet with and/or interact with candidates for office or those in office, the discussion is never about the political nature of that position, but only as concerns obeying and implementing the Constitution.

5) Members will come to learn and honor the difference between political questions and Constitutional questions. There is to be no discussion of legislation or political candidates/issues except as relates to interest in the Constitution or AOF.

6) Media and/or candidates may be invited, even encouraged, to come to the meetings to learn and listen.

7) All members of an Articles of Freedom Meetup Group will be asked to read, sign and date the following acknowledgement at the time of their registry. The group leader will keep a copy of this acknowledgement on file, but it will only be accessible to the member and the chairman:

I, ______, regard the Articles of Freedom meetup group as a positive opportunity for me to educate myself about my Constitution; to learn about the Articles of Freedom as a plan to restore and maintain constitutional governance in America; and to take action, at whatever level I feel is appropriate for me, to help restore and maintain the Constitution. I am grateful for this opportunity and grateful for those who, like me, feel to come together at this time in America.

I recognize the People have the ultimate power in our society, are the final arbiters of the Constitution and are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our Liberty. I recognize that it is the People who have allowed these conditions in America and we are the only ones who can fix it. By my efforts in this group, I join with others all across America who are doing the same, and know that it is only a matter of time before we can be part of a great awakening and change in the consciousness of our people.

I am not entering this group to try to change its purpose, activity or agenda. I will respect the agenda, the purpose and the plan, knowing that my input and contributions will always be respected and appreciated. If I have other things I wish to focus on, I will find other channels for those areas that call me. I will respect and honor that WTPC has a specific mission in mind.

I will support and respect the members of every AOF group in an impersonal, loving manner and expect that they will do the same for me. I will not criticize, condemn, judge or blame any person in the group. I will conduct myself peacefully and harmoniously in a way that honors God, America, the Constitution and my fellow man. I will dress, act and speak in a manner that reflects a high standard for our citizens, desiring that our country return to the Founding Principles which have made this country exceptional. I now can see that there has been a plan in place for many years with the sole intent of lowering the standards of our people, through their words, appearance, actions and deeds. I will not be part of this any longer. It is the spirit of the people who make a country great and I step into my Best Self. I will not allow divisiveness or gossip to enter into this group. If someone speaks to me about someone else in a manner that is not positive or undermining, I will change the subject back to the Constitution or the Articles of Freedom. I will watch out for others as I watch out for myself. I will forgive others shortcomings as I forgive my own shortcomings.

If I have a disagreement with someone in the group, I will remember that all have come because they care about America as I do and are trying, as I am, to do something that will bring about a positive change. I will not let personalities get in the way of our individual "greatness" and what we each have to contribute. If I complain, become malcontent or negative about what is taking place in a way that disrupts the group's sincere efforts, I will remove myself from the group or will comply with the leader if asked to do so. If something I choose to do seriously undermines the harmony or unity of my group, I will depart the group permanently. I will never do anything to undermine this group's success. If I disagree with something that is taking place to the point where I feel to leave, I will go on my way, without malice to the organization or anyone within it.

My ability to contribute to the success of this group and those within it, will have a positive lifting effect on my life, everyone in the group, their loved ones, their homes, our community and ultimately our country.

I will hold myself accountable to these words, seeking to fulfill their meaning every week in our meetings, as we move forward to restore the Constitution for the United States of America.

GUIDELINES: START AN ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUP

Thank you for stepping up to be a Articles of Freedom Meetup Group "Organizer."

1. Check out <u>www.meetup.com</u> to find out if an "Articles of Freedom Meetup Group" exists in your local area. If there is a group, join it and go! (If it is before May 16, there shouldn't be yet...)

2. Secure two other people who are willing to be "founding" members.

3. Secure a location to meet.

4. On Sunday, May 16th, we will have the template for the six-step process Meetup asks all new groups to follow. This will be sent out in advance of our National Call on Sunday evening.

GUIDELINES: AGENDA FOR ORIENTATION MEETING

Suggested viewing before Orientation Meeting: Bob Schulz – National Press Club – CC2009 Announcement – link Opening and/or Closing Ceremonies from Continental Congress at <u>www.cc2009.us</u>

Welcome, Orientation and Planning Meeting – Articles of Freedom

Welcome Patriots Prayer from CC2009 Song to America Pledge Opening Announcements Make introductions, explain two-fold purpose of group, explain dues process; hand out schedule for meetings; Ask all to bring notebook with inner pocket plus copy of AOF and Summary; Watch **Michael Badnarik's Opening "Charters of Freedom" Speech of CC2009** Optional Actions and Next Steps Questions – Discussion Adjourn

Calendar for Articles of Freedom Meetup Group Rollout

June 8 - First Official Articles of Freedom Meet-up Declaration and Resolves of the Continental Congress Article 1: Sovereignty and the Declaration of Independence

June 15 - Meet-Up #2

Article 2: Constitutional Laws and the Declaration of Independence

June 22 - Meet-up #3

Article 3: Petition for Redress and The First Amendment

June 29 - Meet-up #4

Article 4: Militias, Firearms and the Second Amendment

July 6 - **Meet-up #5** Article 5: Privacy and the Fourth Amendment

July 13 - Meet-up #6 Article 6: Private Property and the 4th, 5th, 9th, 10th and 11th Amendments

July 20 - Meet-up #7 Article 7: Juries and the 7th Amendment

July 27 - Meet-up #8 Article 8: Income Tax and the Sixteenth Amendment

August 3 - Meet-up #9 Article 9: Foreign Policy and the General Welfare Clause of the Preamble to the Constitution

August 10 -Meet-up #10 Article 10: Money and Article 1 of the Constitution

August 17 - Meet-up #11 Article 11: Public Debt and Article 1 of the Constitution

August 24 -Meet-up #12 Article 12: War Powers and Articles 1 and 2 of the Constitution

August 31 - Meet-up #13 Article 13: Eligibility and the Natural Born Citizen Clause of Article 2, Section 1 of the Constitution

September 7 - Meet-up #14 Article 14: Illegal Immigration and the Oath of Office Clause of Article 2, Section 1, and the Faithfully Execute Clause of Article 2, Section 3 of the Constitution Article 15: Ancillary Report on the Welfare State

September 14 - Meet-up #15 Articles of Freedom – Summary The Constitution is not a Menu from which to pick and choose.

September 21 - Week Off

October 28 - Rotation Repeats

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

GUIDELINES: ORGANIZE YOUR ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUP

Each group shall elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer at the first official meeting. The term of the position is for four months. The same individuals can be re-elected into the same positions, provided they are on good terms with all the members of the group and have fulfilled their duties and responsibilities in a positive manner.

The duties of the Chairman are as follows:

*To organize the meetups, with the assistance of WTPC national, and those who offer assistance, within the group;

*To appoint special committees or persons to oversee special projects, activities or needs of the group, in relation to itself or its outreach to federal and state government; other organizations; the media; or the community;

*To see that group members are elected to fulfill the posts on the WTPC County advisory council;

*To see that all members fulfill their obligations to the group;

*To handle and resolve any situations which confront the group or individuals;

*To ensure the group fulfills its mandate;

*To keep the group positive, humble, motivated and focused.

The duties of the Secretary are as follows:

*To publicize the agenda for the next meeting to its members via the meetup post using the <u>template found here</u>;

*To keep Minutes of each meeting using the template found here:

*To circulate the Minutes to the officers for approval;

*To allow their corrections and to finalize Minutes and file these accordingly.

*To purchase a sufficient number of 2" by 3.5" cards using the template found here.

The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

Each treasurer keeps a record of all income and expenses, including receipts for every transaction. Click for the t<u>emplate.</u>

Each treasurer collects the \$3 membership dues for the group each month; and enforces the WTPC \$7 month membership rule (this is done by the individual online directly with WTPC), using the template found here.

Each treasurer shall provide repeated notice: Donations to the AOF Meetup group are NOT tax-deductible. Congress Memberships are NOT tax deductible.

GUIDELINES: RUNNING YOUR AOF MEETUP GROUP:

1. All groups meet on the same evening: initially, 90 minutes, every Tuesday from 7-8:30 PM.

2. Between meetings each week, all members of the group hand out 2" x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " cards to people in the community announcing time and location of the next meeting, inviting them to attend.

3. Using lap top and LCD Projector (if possible), groups focus on the Articles of Freedom, one at a time, beginning with Article I, repeating the process for a second 14 weeks. See the **Articles of Freedom** – **Course Calendar**.

4. WTPC National will provide a **suggested agenda and study guide outline** for each meeting and the Article to be studied. Groups may include guest speakers or other information, only as will assist the group to learn more about the Constitution and/or the Articles of Freedom in this specific area.

5. Every meeting begins with a Welcome; Honor to God, Country and the Constitution; review of old business; new business; then focus on the Article to be studied that evening; Actions to take at the local, state, regional or national level based on the Remedial Instructions; adjournment.

6. In studying the Article in question, groups will watch the Continental Congress 2009 video presentations and then read the Petition for Redress and the related Article.

7. Groups then openly discuss that Article All groups always deal only with facts, no opinions.

8. All groups avoid political questions: do not endorse candidates.

9. After reviewing that evening's Article and video, the regular Agenda should provide time to discuss local execution of the Civic Actions and other matters of new/old business.

10. Except for brief presentations by other like-minded organizations interested in forming and alliance, meetings are devoted singularly to the objectives and scope of the AOF initiative.

11. Unrelated solicitations, presentations, sales, of private businesses or unrelated organizations, etc. are prohibited.

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

GUIDELINES: EXECUTING THE ARTICLES OF FREEDOM PLAN:

1. All group members reach out to increase the membership of the group, week after week. The good efforts and right actions of the group will result in positive word-of-mouth: The goal is to have people coming to the group, wanting to join!

2. All groups reach out to other groups in the country or surrounding counties, to stay apprised of opportunities to increase awareness of the Articles of Freedom and to take action.

3. Local groups agree to work in alignment with task initiatives established by the national AOF sponsor, We The People Congress in addition to personalizing their local efforts according to the needs of their area and state opportunities.

4. All group members are always polite and respectful and well-dressed(!) when addressing public officials

5. All groups communicate with public officials in writing: "if it is not in writing it does not exist."

GUIDELINES: FUNDRAISING & RECORD KEEPING

Local fund raising and support of the national operation is critical to the success of the AOF initiative. As such, some basic fundraising and record keeping practices are necessary.

The individual members of each Articles of Freedom Meet-Up group will donate \$10 per month. Of the \$10 per month, \$7 will go to, and support that individual's monthly membership in the We The People Congress, Inc., and \$3 per month will be retained by the Meet-up group. \$7 donations to We The People Congress, Inc. will be made at www.wethepeoplecongress.org. \$3 donations will be received by the Group's Treasurer and deposited in a local (community, non-national) joint bank account in the name of the Chairman and the Treasurer.

Cash handling guidance – transparent, supported by minimal accountability procedures is important for three main reasons: 1) to protect the group against fraud, theft or embezzlement; 2) to protect all volunteers from accusations of dishonesty or the temptation to commit fraud; and 3) to assure donors that their donations and gifts are used for the purpose for which they were given.

Each Treasurer collects \$3 (once) each month from each member for local expenses.

Each Treasurer enforces \$7 (once) each month membership in We The People Congress (national).

Treasurer to provide repeated notice: Donations to the AOF Meetup group are NOT taxdeductible. Congress Memberships are NOT tax deductible.

Until further Notice, ALL WTP Congress funds will be strictly limited to expenses directly related to facilitating and supporting the activist activities of the Articles of Freedom Meet-Up groups nationwide, and to institutionalizing citizen vigilance of government nationwide, including the construction of a Citizen Vigilance Center in each state Capital.

Use of local funds is strictly limited to reimbursements for expenses directly related to the citizen vigilance activities of the local Articles of Freedom group. NO such funds are permitted for the payment of time or labor of volunteers or group members. Both deposits (collections) and withdrawals (expenditures) require dual signatures of both the Chairman and the Treasurer, with such records copied and held by the Treasurer and Secretary. All withdrawal transactions for reimbursement MUST have an original receipt and signed statement documenting the nature of the expense. Copies of all transaction records are to be retained by both Treasurer and Secretary until turned over to persons succeeding in those capacities. Following each meeting, dated records as to

locally generated WTPC membership applications should also be kept and dual signed, particularly noting total local dues collections vs. credit card applications. Membership app, paid by check/M.O. MUST be made out WTP Congress, Inc. Prefer that members join online OR mail/submit their own app/\$ to HQ.

GUIDELINES: PRIVACY POLICY

Each Meet Up group organizer, County Council member, State Council member, Regional Council Member and National Council Member will be able to communicate with those members in their "jurisdiction."

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

FORM 100: COLLECTIONS / DEPOSIT

Meeting/Event Date: _____ **AOF Meetup Group/Location** Today we collected: \$_____ CASH \$_____ CHECKS/M.O.s \$_____ (Other) TOTAL \$ _____ The monies collected will be (circle one) DEPOSITED or HELD IN TRUST by _____ Signed: _____ Treasurer Date _____ Name (print) ______ _____ Chairman Date _____ Name (print) Notes:

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

FORM 101: EXPENSE / DISBURSEMENT

Date:			

AOF Meetup Group/Location

Nature of Expense: (briefly explain/justify/attach receipt)

Reimbursement PAID to: (briefly explain/ justify/ attach receipt)

Signed:	Turner	Dete
Name (print)		Date
	 _ Chairman	Date
Name (print)		

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

FORM 102: FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEET

Beginning balance on (date) _	was \$			
	(circle one)			
Date:	Deposit/Collection			
	or Expense/Withdrawl			
Date:	Deposit/Collection			
	or Expense/Withdrawl			
Date:	Deposit/Collection			
	or Expense/Withdrawl			
Date:	Deposit/Collection			
	or Expense/Withdrawl			
Date:	Deposit/Collection			
	or Expense/Withdrawl			
AS of (date)	TOTAL BALANCE OF FUNDS = \$			
Signed:				
	Treasurer Date			
Name (print)				
	Chairman Date			
Name (print)				

ARTICLES OF FREEDOM MEETUP GROUPS

GUIDELINES: STANDARD MEETING AGENDA

Welcome

Patriots Prayer or Other Prayer

Song to America

Pledge of Allegiance

Important Messages

HQ Information

WTPC Memberships

Collection of Local Dues

Old Business

AOF Article Education

Civic Actions

New Business

Q & A

Preview Next Week's Meeting

Adjourn