

"First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." Mahatma Gandhi

# OCCUPY



# LOS ANGELES NEWS

## OCCUPY LA MEDIA NEWS OCCUPY LOS ANGELES



[VENICE BEACH CALIFORNIA] The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour began in May of this year and has traveled through many western cities of the United States according to the tour's facebook page. The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour believes the truth is on the move and the tour is actively in pursuit of her. For those in search of the truth, the remaining stops of The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour will occur in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and finally in the state of Washington (see schedule below).

What is The Truth Party West Coast Tour 2013 about? What does the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) have to do with this article?

First, The Truth Party West Coast Tour 2013 is not a 501(c)(4) organization nor is it political and has nothing to do with the IRS. The Truth Party's only Los Angeles stop was at Venice Beach Skate Park, 123 Venice Beach, California 90291 on Monday May 20, 2013.

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Occupy Los Angeles News, Mitch, Reporter, Photographer for Occupy LA, Occupy LA Media

Occupy Los Angeles News was eager to gain more insight into the The Truth Party's "truth" tour. What would truth look like when The Truth Party found it? What would remain in LA after truth was uncovered and the tour moved on?

Second, Occupy Los Angeles News has been interested in discovering the "truths" surrounding the IRS and its Cincinnati, Ohio agents who are said to have over scrutinized some groups seeking 501(c)(4) IRC tax exemption.

What is a 501(c)(4)?

501(c)(4) refers to Internal Revenue Code 501 section (c) and paragraph (4) of the statute. Congress established it in the Tariff Act of 1913. 501(c)(4)s are established as non-profit entities. An example would be an education foundation which provide scholarships to students. The IRC's strict interpretation of the law indicate 501(c)(4) organizations must "operate exclusively for the promotion of social welfare."

Some 501(c)(4) organizations, however, have become politically controversial. According to Wikipedia "spending from these organizations on political TV ads has exceeded spending from Super Pacs."

So The Truth Party West Coast Tour 2013 was a perfect place to start looking for the truth as it pertains to the Cincinnati IRS agents perceived to have gone rogue trying to weed out abusers of the 501(c)(4) law. If there is truth here in Los Angeles then surely it must be somewhere at the tour's stop at Venice Beach amidst a myriad of skateboarders and beach goers.

The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour founders are Sander Hicks, MC Crazy and Kaleidoscope Group Yoga. The Truth Party's self-described journey is a "revolutionary celebration to change the world....We will get high together on love, not with drugs but truth. Envision a world full of non-violent economics and empowered communities."

Miguel Angel Iriarte posted on The Tour Party's Facebook a pic from the skate park on Monday while he was there. (photo below).



Miguel wrote "we are here waiting for the Truth to come to us."

We did all wait. Many of us were there and for various reasons. We gathered around the skate park watching fearless skate boarders inhabiting the inner and outer rings. There they were jumping and speeding so close by. Truth was near.

Now back to the current IRS. Many 501 (c) (4) applicants, both liberal and conservative groups, have been aggressively scrutinized by this IRS. The later group of applicants was comprised largely of entities affiliated with the Tea Party conservative political movement.

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Earlier media reports have shown that an overwhelming number of these entities began during the 2009-2010 election cycle and included some reference to the words “Tea Party” in their names. This group submitted 501 (c) (4) applications to the Internal Revenue Service in very large numbers.



Shortly after the United States Supreme Court ruled in a case known as Citizens United (Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 2010) the 501(c) (4) corporations picked up popularity amongst a lot of very far right leaning political groups. The Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United granted “corporate personhood” to organizations. This means corporations have the right to free speech and they can freely exercise that right by financially participating in elections.

With election cycles after Citizens United became a law of the land, the United States has seen many 501 (c) (4) organizations financially participating in elections – generously. And many believe these 501 (c) (4)s are performing political activities that are vastly outside the current federal tax laws which a tax exempt corporation must follow. Being contrary to those rules means breaking the law.

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Sources used: Internal Revenue Code 501 Section C Paragraph 4,  
Stanton A. Glantz Phd : <http://tobacco.ucsf.edu/quarterback-behind-scenes-third-party-efforts-tobacco-industry-and-tea-party>  
Wikipedia ,The Internet[s]  
All photos by Mitch Ward except one noted to be by Miguel Angel Iriarte

Many Tea Party political organizations filed for tax-exemption under the IRC 501 (c) (4) stature with the initial urging and financial support of Charles and David Koch dating as far back as 2002 according to an article entitled “‘To quarterback behind the scenes, third party efforts’: the tobacco industry and the Tea Party.” It was written by Professor Stanton Glantz at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine.

Professor Glantz wrote “The Tea Party, a loosely organised network of grassroots coalitions at local and state levels, is a complex social and political movement to the right of the traditional Republican Party that promotes less government regulation and lower taxes...It is often characterised as a grassroots movement that spontaneously arose in 2009. However, it has also been cited as an example of corporate ‘astroturfing,’ defined as a movement that ‘appears to be grassroots, but is either funded, created or conceived by a corporation or industry trade association, political interest group or public relations firm.”

A corporation called “FreedomWorks organized the nationwide Tea Party tax protests in April 2009,” wrote Professor Glantz. They staged “the town hall protests about the proposed healthcare reform in August 2009 and the Taxpayers’ March on Washington the following September 2009.” Likewise he indicated that “as of 2012, AFP and FreedomWorks were supporting the tobacco companies’ political agenda by mobilising local Tea Party opposition to tobacco taxes and smoke-free laws...The tobacco companies have created third-party allies, front groups and used public relations firms to foment the appearance of popular public opposition to tobacco control policies for decades. Tea Party strategy and leadership has important roots in these tobacco industry efforts.”

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Finally Professor Stanley Glantz linked the beginning of the Tea Party to David and Charles Koch. "CSE (Citizens for a Sound Economy), one of the third-party 'anti-tax' tobacco industry partners [which] was a think tank dedicated to free market economics. CSE (which split into AFP and FreedomWorks in 2004) was co-founded in 1984 by David Koch, of Koch Industries, and Richard Fink, former professor of economics at George Mason University, who has worked for Koch Industries since 1990."

This takes us back to the The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour and its very noble search for the truth.

Sander Hicks wrote on his Facebook blog that "The Truth Party is heading into the Mountains and onto the Ranch! We are about to get intergalactic... Spread the News! Truth is on the move to zero gravity..."

Maybe you can catch one of the remaining stops of The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour before May 30, 2013 and find your own truth.

- The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour
  - . Friday May,24th- T.B.A.- Sedona, Az
  - . Saturday May 25th, T.B.A.-Flagstaff,Az
  - . Sunday May 26th- T.B.A.- Yoga Studio Albuquerque N.M.
  - . Monday May 27th-Smokebrush Found, Colorado Springs,
  - . Tuesday May 28th T.B.A.- Denver, Co
  - . Wednesday May 29th T.B.A.-Jackson, WY
  - . Thursday May 30th T.B.A.- Spokane, Wa
- The Truth Party Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/506864932695122/>

By Mitch Ward for Occupy Los Angeles News  
<http://www.occupylosangelesnews.org>



The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour believes that truth is at the heart of "empowered communities." Imagine an empowered populace living with truth in LA. The Truth Party 2013 West Coast Tour has left the city.

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