



Rotary Club of



Centennial Colorado

Centennial, Colorado

November 4, 2016



Kristina Cook, above, spoke on the Colorado state Convention of States. This is a program to use Article V of the Constitution to amend the Constitution through a petition of the states, a process that has never been used for amending the Constitution.

Kristina defined the problem as: (1) the spending and debt crisis, (2) the regulatory crisis, (3) Congressional attacks on state sovereignty, and (4) federal takeover of the decision process. Over the past 8 years, the national debt has risen 114%. During the previous 10 years it only rose 49%. The Federal bureaucracy has imposed a regulatory burden on business that is crushing, that is complex, conflicted, and crushing. For years Congress has been using federal grants to keep states under control. If you do not do what the federal government wants, then you don't get the grants. There was to be checks and balances between the branches of the federal government, power was to be shared between the states and federal government, with the latter only exercising those powers specifically granted in the Constitution. Collusion among decision-makers in Washington, D.C., has replaced these checks and balances.

Amendment X to the Constitution, the last amendment in the Bill of Rights was to reserved to the States, power not specifically delegated to the States. While this sounds good, the amendment has no enforcement mechanism.

The solution is to get the legislatures of 34 states to petition Congress for a constitutional convention. Three-quarters of the states would have to ratify any proposed amendments to the Constitution for adoption.

The strategy is to call a convention for specific topics, not for a specific amendment(s). The attendees of the convention would then work out the specific language for the amendments. The following are examples of amendment topics that could be discussed at a convention of states:

- A balanced budget amendment,
- A redefinition of the General Welfare Clause (the original view was the federal government could not spend money on any topic within the jurisdiction of the states),
- A redefinition of the Commerce Clause (the original view was that Congress was granted a narrow and exclusive power to regulate shipments across state lines—not all the economic activity of the nation),
- A prohibition of using international treaties and law to govern the domestic law of the United States,
- A limitation on using Executive Orders and federal regulations to enact laws (since Congress is supposed to be the exclusive agency to enact laws),
- Imposing term limits on Congress and the Supreme Court,
- Placing an upper limit on federal taxation, and
- Requiring the sunset of all existing federal taxes and a super-majority vote to replace them with new, fairer taxes.

Those that are interested in this idea can go to conventionof-states.com or COSAction.com.

2015-2016 Club Officers

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 1—PATRICK BROWN,
BOOTS TO SUITS
NOV 8—CLASSIFICATION
TALKS: SAMATHA JOHNSON
AND JESSICA SIDNER
NOV 15—PHILIP HSIAO—
TECHRIOT THE INNOVATION
PAVILLION
NOV 22—2016 RYLA AND
YOUNG RYLA ATTENDEES
NOV 29—PERMILLA JOHNSON,
FRIENDS COLORADO DEDICAT-
ED TO THE PREVENTION OF
BULLYING
DEC 6—TBD
DEC 13—LEARN ABOUT THE
CENTENNIAL RC WEBSITE -
ROXY HAHN, JOHN PETERSON,
AND ANDRES OSUNA
DEC 20—DARK
DEC 27—DARK



Kristina is calling out the number for Karen Berry of the Blue Marble. Blue Marble was worth \$993. Karen was not able to find the Blue Marble.

Karen Berry was looking to find the Blue Marble.

Club Business

- Diane Zing said volunteers are needed for the Integrated Faith effort to pass out Christmas baskets
- Santa Clothes is having an organizing committee meeting. Volunteers are needed.
- CASA dinner on Nov 16. Food is still needed.
- Polio + pigs were handed out. If people still need one, see Randy Earnest. They will be collected before the President's Dinner this January.

Guests

Lucio Trubbas, and his host mother, Ana Gratton, attended the meeting.