

# GROUND SWELL

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## PREC HAD BOOTH AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO

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"Howdy Partner" was how the invitation started for Public Revenue Education Council (PREC) to return as an exhibitor at the National Conference of State Legislatures in San Antonio, Texas, August 8-11. This was PREC's second time exhibiting in San Antonio.

I drove home from the Council of Georgist Organizations Conference in Bloomington, Minnesota to pick up the boxes of exhibit literature and then drove to San Antonio to meet up with PREC Vice President Don Killoren who flew down early enough to help unload the materials and set up the exhibit booth. Don's wife, Mary, was a great help. She has experience traveling and arranged Don's travel and our hotel at a reasonable price and within walking distance of the convention center.

The arrangement of the exhibit booths was somewhat different this year. This time there were only six long rows instead of the usual nine to ten shorter rows. Standing at the front of the rows made the exhibit hall look huge. There were twenty less exhibitors than last year.

PREC's booth was 307, very near the front doors to the exhibit hall. Our booth had one big problem, We were directly across from the Feld Entertainment booth. Feld is Ringlings Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, the greatest show on earth, who was celebrating three centuries of circus in America. They had clowns, a beautiful band leader and a sequined cowboy. Passersby wanted pictures of themselves next to the entertainers. It was a circus at times across the aisle as they handed out hundreds of tote bags and T-shirts. Feld was a distraction and attraction to our aisle.

Don Killoren created a colorful banner for PREC's booth saying:

VOTES - REVENUE - JOBS  
Are  
UNDER OUR FEET

He also wrote and produced 350 pamphlets using the same title. We passed out all of them. Nadine Stoner, Common Ground-USA, produced a card titled "Raise Revenues And Promote Growth" that included a list of 14 online resources and mention of Walter Rybeck's book Re-Solving the Economic Puzzle. We did not have enough of them...only about 150. We had a sign reading "VOLANTE" that's Spanish for "leaflet." The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation was kind enough to provide PREC with 50 copies each of three Georgist pamphlets published in Spanish. We received complements for providing our information written in Spanish.

The NCSL has expanded to include more than the 50 states, our Territories, the Organization of American States and Canada. Many other nations were present. When visitors from other countries come to the booth we look up their country in

the pamphlet "An Introduction to the Georgist Philosophy and Movement." They are excited if we locate their nation in the pamphlet and it helps hold their attention to our message. It would be helpful if the booklet could be reproduced stating "An International Introduction to the Georgist Philosophy and Movement." We tell them to look up the listings for their nation when they get back home. The synopsis of "Progress and Poverty" is always popular. There were few takers of "Henry George and the Reconstruction of Capitalism" by Robert Andelson. We gave out a few Common Ground - USA membership pamphlets. We always give out Common Ground - USA booklet when anyone ask where is Land-Value Taxation in use. We point out the two-rate cities of Pennsylvania. We are running low on the booklet "42 Objections & Responses." Many visitors to the booth think this booklet is very ingenious. We tell them that when they get away from us a lot of their questions will be answered by the booklet. The booklet needs to be updated with current contact information on the cover.

PREC is a small organization and we depend on the generosity of other Georgist groups to provide us with literature to distribute at the NCSL. We are learning that it is best not to put dates on literature, Our Georgist message is timeless...without dates add to our message. We distributed more material this year than last year. We had better reception to LVT than we have had in the past. Dr. William Pound, the Director of NCSL again stopped by our booth and asked us to contact him about putting on a workshop at the NCSL. We have been trying to get this done for years. Don Killoren and I are not workshop presenters. We do not have Power Point skills nor do we have skills at implementing LVT.

NCSL will next year be in Chicago, August 6 to 9, 2012. There were 252 exhibitors this year and we were number 41 in the booth selection meeting. We will have Booth 707 and will not be near the circus. Furnishing the booth is costing a little more each year. We had a 6' long draped counter instead of a table. It worked out well causing people to left up their eyes from the tables we used in the past. We are required to have a 10' X 10' carpet. I ordered an upholstered bar stool because I am having difficulty standing for hours at the booth. Don said a side chair would be okay, but that was a mistake because when he sat down, people were looking down at him while he was talking with them.

We did not have much time to see a lot of San Antonio. Don and I did get over to the River Walk area. While there we met Amigo Blas. He was an Ambassador for San Antonio and he informed us in such an enjoyable way with short stories and interesting facts. The San Antonio River starts from a spring on the grounds (continued on page 15)