

To All Members,

I first wish to say how sorry I am for any part I had in creating the mess we now have with our club funds.

Notice I said mess and not missing. At this time I truly do not know what is missing and as I write I hope to explain why I feel this way.

A bit of history;

At the first board meeting in November previous treasurer Sandy Elterich resigned. A few days later the Commodore Bill Holbrook, Director at Large Jan St. Pierre and myself, at that time Secretary, went to the home of the Treasurer where we counted the money on hand, collected the files, monies and a thumb drive. Upon leaving all funds were then given to the Commodore to be placed in the safe, only person with the combination was the Commodore as I felt there was a need for greater accountability. I kept the thumb drive and files.

It was the decision of the board for me to take over as Treasurer, Jan St. Pierre became Secretary and we looked for a new director at large.

I soon found that I was unable to access the files on the thumb drive as it was not compatible with my programs. I asked several times for help with this matter and finally months later it was Patsy who was able to open the file and retrieve information for me. I asked several times for the funds to purchase a program with which I could do the accounting but each time I was told no. Apparently at a previous Boards meeting a decision was made to not spend the clubs monies to purchased a program to help the Treasurer with the accounting of the clubs funds... call me stupid but it makes no sense to me to spend \$200. US each month to maintain the clubs Website but to refuse funds for an accounting program?

Anyway I did the best I could with the free programs I could find. Each of which I found frequent errors. So each month I had to go back to the first month (November) and did my best to make sure the accounting did not change. I can't tell you know many times I found that the program had dropped numbers or changed a negative to a positive.

To add to this I developed extreme back and hip pain. I bring this up because I do believe chronic pain can effect ones ability to function and think clearly. As well the means to control the pain can and has effected my clarity.

Now we are in May and time for the annual audit. I have said for years that what we have done (at lease the audits that I have helped with) are not true audits... what I mean is we have never looked through the files or reviewed any reports; we were handed a box of money, told how much was the total; counted it to confirm the totals and that was our audit. This year we had a very extensive audit. While I am sorry that any problems were found I am glad for the audit. I believe it will make who ever comes after much more accurate in their work. As well I think very highly of the recommendations made by this this committee as a result of this audit. (you can find these recommendations in Patsy's report.)

The audit started at 1pm; I came along for any questions they may have. I sat most of the time in the library to allow for privacy as they reviewed the files. At 6pm I had to go as I have a three year old that

I needed to feed and see to bed; as well, I was hurting and needed to take care of myself. I received a call around 10:30 stating that they we're done and everything looked good.

I think it was two days latter that I got a call from Patsy stating that they had spoken with Sandy and do to this they felt they needed to continue the audit. A few days latter I received a call requesting a meeting with Bill and myself.

From here I am somewhat unclear as I was to upset to focus on more then the fact that they felt money was missing. I truly felt blind sided.

I was told that each and every month my accounts were wrong. That they felt I had mislead the membership as to my qualification.

I assured them that I had not, I have been retired for more then 10 years and it has been longer then that since I did more the my house hold and monthly accounting, but I didn't mislead anyone as to my work history. And I honesty believed that I was capable of performing the required duties. Especially had I been given the proper tools to do so.

I asked to see the mistakes they were speaking of. I was told no. I asked to see the files. Again I was told no. so I am unable to speak directly to any specific mistakes.

It was at this time that I resigned my position as Treasure and agreed to not work for the club in any position dealing with monies. While this hurts I feel it is a fair decision.

I put in place a few new things that I had hoped would create more security and accountability.

- 1) I had no access to the safe, therefore creating a way that one person alone is not having full access to the clubs funds.
- 2) Bill had a stamp made at my request so the coffee host had a form with which they could count what was taken in each day. This created away to track and account for monies that we were not doing previously.

I received some coffee envelope with amounts, but mostly I received blank or unreadable papers. Bayfest was extremely hard. I was handed often bags of money with no accounting, papers that were close to impossible to read. Bottom line I did the best I could do.

So, here's why I say mess and not missing.....

- 1) If I was unable to make correct accounting of the monies spent; if I was wrong each and every month. Then I must conclude that I was also wrong in my additions.
- 2) On most years at this time we have decreased our clubs funds as its the end of the season and we have dispersed or spent much of our monies, we are after all a nonprofit there is in my mind no way we could have what we do now plus 7,000. US dollars more. Is makes no sense!
- 3) Bayfest; our largest money maker during this time is the sales of Bayfest shirts. This year we ordered the shirts three weeks before the event, usually this is done three months ahead. We usually have to make a second order prior to the event, This year we did not made a second order, we barely sold from our first order.

I made the above statements to the Audit Committee at the time of the audits findings and again at the last board meeting; along with my suggestion that we look at the last two, if not three to get an average

and therefore a better idea of the amount we should have in our account now. It's clear to me that this number of 7,000 is greatly exaggerated. I was told no that's not going to happen.

In closing I want to state that while I feel responsible for a numbers mess, I did not take any of the club's monies.

I know that many are understandably angry, I would like to open myself to any questions you may have but to be clear I am not open to anyone's rage or hostility.

I as many of you am very angry but know that I have lost so much more than monies and the position on the board. I have lost my credibility, friendships and to some extent my community.

Quana Charlton