

Letters to the Editor (Conc.)

Mutual Board Elections

Since the 1970's PCM has been overseeing our community and has guided their journey well. Property Management Companies have real estate and financial backgrounds that make them very good at directing property owners down the path to the prosperity of the management company. PCM is for-profit and prosperous. Laguna Woods Village is non-profit and struggling.

PCM is astute in knowing more about home owners associations than do the home owners; we residents are easy prey. This isn't too difficult in that home owners are volunteer members of the association solely by completing escrow and moving into the community. Boards must be elected from these association members to oversee endless meetings and to deal with the financial and personal issues brought about by many acres of land occupied by often confused and disgruntled home owners. Many residents refuse to be considered for duty.

While board members have volunteered their time to the task, many have little background for the duties they are forced to address. This situation is rime for a strong management company to step forward and guide the less learned. While this is a convenient solution for the board members (they don't have to memorize Robert's Rules, fiduciary protocol, or the intricacies of real estate law, let alone the variables of no-profit versus for-profit corporations), they do their best and look to the management company to fill in the blank spots. Have you ever wondered why Milt Johns is

present and sitting up front with the board members at each and every meeting?

There is folly in imagining that any management company has the issues of the residents at heart above those of their own for-profit interests. The added insult is that often when the boards are addressed by the residents, they are rudely dismissed and turned away as transgressors.

We soon will have elections - an opportunity to amend policies that have not worked well for the residents in many years. Listen to those seeking re-election as well as those vying for a first term. It is not wise to rotate long standing board members from one board, to City Hall, and then back again to recast their limited vision. Neither is it wise to elect members with little leadership experience who may take years to get up to speed.

Use your best judgment and discuss the upcoming elections with your family, friends, and neighbors. Otherwise, we will continue stumbling in the dark and paying ever-increasing fees.

Dlaura Loughrey
Third Mutual

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