

Wages vs SS COLA

Many of you may now be aware that there will be no increase in the Social Security COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) in 2010 or 2011. In addition, it is also reported that the per person monthly Medicare insurance premium will be increased from the 2009 premium of \$96.40 to \$104.20 in 2010 and to \$120.20 for the year 2011. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that the net monthly income of Seniors will continue to DECREASE!

Nationwide employers are laying off workers and/or work hours are being cut right along with benefits. Projected projects are being erased from company plans in order to get expenses under control. And yet, that word doesn't seem to have reached Laguna Woods Village. Entry Gate projects costing \$550,000 each continue to push forward. Elaborate plans for a new Golf Building are under way. The words "repair" and "refurbish" do not seem to be part of this community. It makes no matter if these costs have already been budgeted. In times of economic hardship on many, do what is necessary at the moment for the safety and well-being of the community. SAVE THE REST as we do not know what the future holds! Isn't that what we all do in our daily lives? Do we spend our money in times like these *just because we have it?* If we are wise and prudent, *I think not!!*

Where does the blame lie?

First, it lies with the audacity of PCM to even ask for a **salary** increase in times like these! During the past, they have asked for and obediently received increases. **YOU AND I PAY FOR THESE EXPENSES!**

Second, and perhaps worse of all, it lies with the Directors of all of our Boards. With blind stupidity, they continue to grant these raises without question! Each year, PCM asks and our boards grant!

Does anyone dare to suggest that there might be another management company who could do the same or better job for us at a lower cost? Could there be a better way to manage this community? Will we continue to be bled dry? What does it take for the Directors to FINALLY stand up for the interests of the residents? Will they continue to be bullied and take the easy way out?

WE must stand up for our rights, folks! The power still lies *with the people!* WE must hold our Directors accountable! WE must write, call or email our Directors! WE must inform a neighbor or friend and ask for their help also! WE now know we are not *just a handful of residents!* WE can no longer wait for someone else to speak for us! WE can't continue to just sit by and do nothing, as our Directors do!

WILL YOU HELP? WILL YOU WRITE OR CALL YOUR DIRECTORS?

WE HAVE THE POWER and TOGETHER WE MUST USE IT!

KPMG

As you are, or should be, aware, KPMG is our annual auditor and has been for a number of years. Who is KPMG?

Let us introduce you to KPMG via:

Jennifer Hughes of the "Financial Times";
"KPMG is being sued for \$1bn by the liquidators of New Century, the collapsed subprime lender, in the first big case against an auditor arising from the current financial crisis.

In a court filing on Wednesday, lawyers for New Century's liquidators claimed that KPMG "assisted in the misstatements and certified the materially misleading financial