

# Opinion

## *What is PCM's Role in LWV Elections?*

**T**he Towers have been quietly going their own direction with little or no visible outward signs of contention or problems. The times are-a-changing! The Towers Administrator, **Ms Judie Zorhof**, rules the Towers with an "iron fist" and little word gets out to the public on the inner happenings.

After over 30 years as our Managing Agent, it is not surprising that PCM would feel that they should have a part interest in our elections. Close ties with select Directors would certainly influence who PCM would like to see elected to a Mutual Board. As their control over our boards continues to increase it is not surprising that the following scenario could ensue.

A Towers Board candidate spoke before the Towers Nominating Committee interview in July at which time there was no reference to any objections that would not allow their endorsement of the candidate. On September 24, the candidate received a letter from the **PCM Administrator**, that his endorsement was being dropped by the Nominating Committee. **No reason was given.**

In contacting a Nominating Committee Member to get clarification on this decision, the candidate was told that the information was confidential and could not be discussed.

This brings up several questions; What is PCM's responsibility? Who should notify the candidate? What justification for non-endorsement should be made available to the candidate?

PCM has only one responsibility during an election and that is, "To verify that the candidate is 'In Good

Standing' with the Mutual (no outstanding debts to the mutual)."

The Nominating Committee has the responsibility to communicate with the candidates and it is up to them to inform a candidate of his/her status.

If there is any reason for not endorsing a candidate, the Nominating Committee must make that known to the candidate.

By definition, the Nominating Committee is neutral and is responsible to look only at **qualifications** and must ignore political differences between the Nominating Committee and the candidates. Not endorsing a candidate would imply that the Nominating Committee does not feel the candidate is qualified and it is imperative that the candidate is informed of the reason(s).

By having the PCM Towers Administrator notify the candidate of the failure to endorse the candidate, it could imply that PCM is in control of this Mutual Committee function and that PCM is involved in our elections when they should be completely neutral and divorced from any influence on LWV Committees and Boards.

Is the Towers Mutual Board being dictated to by PCM like some of our other Boards? An immediate call was made to PCM on becoming aware of this situation. Residents Voice is still waiting for a reply from the Towers Administrator.

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