

From: [Jeff Senigaglia]
To: [Suzy Phillips]; elist@wgbackfence.net
Sent: Fri, May 13, 2011 11:56 am
Subject: Re: [WGBackfence] WGNA May General Meeting

Larry, Suzy and e-list,

I have been waiting to respond to compose my thoughts on this subject. As you know, I am a current Board Member of WGNA and I refuse to stand by and let the two of you represent to our community just your version of the events. Unfortunately, the two of you have allowed your dislike of one and possibly a second board member to over-ride any reasonable or responsible response. You have chosen to present your version while omitting perhaps just a few pertinent facts which I have no choice but to bring to the table. It seems to be your mission to destroy this board and WGNA at the same time. I will answer your e-mail point by point:

1) To say that the WGNA board had been somewhat dysfunctional is like saying that Richard Nixon made a few minor mistakes in his presidency. By the time our board took over last year, the old board consisted of two members. While you mention one board member bullying, you seem to forget the fact that Larry resigned as President at the request of past presidents. I am not implying that Larry was the bullying factor. But it seems that when only two members are left standing, the president has to take some of the responsibility. Needless to say, it was a mess. Our board was recruited to come in, mend fences and try to rebuild the membership after it had dropped from a high of 1000 members down to around 250 last year. Please understand, most of our board did not put our names up - we were recruited. They wanted us to come in as new blood so the board could have an opportunity for a fresh start. In July, 2010, no other organization was even talking to us - we were the black sheep. We have been able to build those relationships again and are seen as a viable association once more.

2) The nominating committee that Suzy and Larry were on imploded this year with three resignations. Again, I am not saying that Suzy and Larry were responsible on their own for this implosion. It just seems to be a strange coincidence that the Board and then the Nominating committee imploded. I have been told that one of the reasons was the absolute hatred exhibited by some committee members toward some of the current board members. Their mission was to bring back the status quo. These are not my words. So, per the bylaws, three new people, including myself were added to the nominating committee to create a complete committee. Larry and Suzy decided to set up the meeting schedules themselves and were upset when the other members of the committee were not available for their meetings. I responded to their request and said I had family engagements and was not available until after April 17th. I had an engagement party at my house with 70 people coming. If that was unacceptable, that is just too bad. My son will hopefully get married only once. We set up a meeting for April 25th to go over all nominations. Suzy refused to come, saying it was a farce and Larry had other meetings to go to. Instead, they sent over their recommendations for a nominating committee slate for next year. They refused to even give us names of people they had interviewed for the board, instead advising us that they chose to put forward no slate for the board. I find this interesting because they did this without a quorum. Even so, we took their opinions into consideration and, with a quorum, came up with a slate for the board and a slate for the nominating committee, including some of their suggestions for the nominating committee. Suzy and Larry did not like that - so they instead went public with their version of the events.

3) In terms of community involvement, I have to laugh at the thought that there was no record of events sponsored or supported by this board in the past year. We have sent numerous postings on this e-list of events, ongoing and new. We sent at least two postings of every event that we were involved in. We also sent information out in the newsletters. Suzy - I do not know you and have no idea what you look like. But I do know that you did not seem to find the time to attend even one meeting in the year that I have been on the board to voice your concerns. Larry at least showed up to some of the meetings. I cannot believe that you have not received any of the postings on the e-list or our newsletters. We had some very large turnouts for some of the events and they were even reported in Willow Glen newspapers. They were also

posted by outside organizations, of which I know you receive. By the way, we have posted more newsletters this year than any board since 2004. If you do not believe me, go on to the website and look.

4) We responded on March 16th to the letter that Larry and Suzy sent that was signed by a number of past presidents. That letter is now posted on WGNA.net. I urge all readers to take a look at our response. It was well thought out and was not flippant. All financial records, minutes and membership records were made available to the nominating committee at that time. All they had to do was set up a time to meet and go over them. They never elected to take that route.

5) Your posting intimating malfeasance with the finances was not just in bad taste - it was, in the words of my attorney, "Slander and Defamation of Character." He also stated the, by posting it in a public forum, it wipes out your little waiver of responsibility statement you list on your terms on backfence. It was not your smartest move. As I stated in point #4, both Suzy and Larry were given the opportunity at any time to review the finances. All of the books are in order, as is our standing with the State of California - a problem that first came up in Larry's term as president which he did not handle. To blame this problem on us was pretty disingenuous. We did not create the problem - we fixed it.

6) We reached out and have received ongoing support and advice from a few past presidents who wanted to see this organization grow and thrive. I think that we have had some adult supervision.

Our board is anything but complacent or ego-driven. We have tried to open the association up to new ideas and to more members. We may not have everything perfectly, but we have at least tried to engage the public so that more people can be involved. We want more people to be involved. Unlike past boards, we have no intention to perpetuate our positions on the board and we don't care about our legacy. If the members of this organization elects to choose a vote of no confidence, so be it. Please realize that our vote that direction just keeps the current board in place for another year and continues on the political bickering that has been going on for years. We attempted to put this to rest only to have it rear its ugly head once more.

I, however, am completely disgusted by this blatant power-play attempt. Larry and Suzy - you keep saying that your only thoughts are for the good of this association. yet, your actions have been divisive and detrimental to this group. By violating your own rules for backfence concerning political talk and bad-mouthing people, you have negated all the good that you have done in the past and could have done in the future. You should be embarrassed. The whole thing saddens me.

Respectfully,

Jeff Senigaglia

WGNA VP