

SOUTHERN OUTPOST

CORRESPONDENCE

November 14, 2012

Dear FFC/MVPA Members:

It is with deep disappointment we have observed the events of the past year. There are a few points we would like to make to the membership at large, as well as the board members about:

- 1. The violation of our by-laws**
- 2. The refusal to address the inconsistencies the Elected Treasurer found in the Club Records.**
- 3. Addressing the fact that the club's laptop has not been returned.**
- 4. The deplorable treatment of our Club Treasurer and Secretary.**

1. You cannot vote to violate the bylaws. Specifically, if the bylaws state that an audit will take place whenever a new treasurer takes office, it is not legal for the Board or a meeting of the Membership to vote not to do an audit. When it was decided not to do the audit, you chose to purposefully violate the by-laws.

2. After our Elected Treasurer for 2012, Carol Scoglio, carefully reviewed the records that she was finally able to obtain through great duress, she asked for a board meeting to discuss the concerns that arose in that review. In fact, both she and the Elected Secretary, Steve Summers, repeatedly requested a meeting, and were repeatedly denied. When she was finally able to present the information at a meeting, a motion was immediately made to ignore anything that had happened before 2012, and passed without allowing discussion.

The fact that monies were paid out without receipts or even proper notations as to what the money was for was frequent enough to indicate, at the very least, an ongoing disregard for basic business practices. Certainly organizations we have been members of in the past have not given out money without having receipts and a clear understanding of what the money was spent for.

3. When the club asked for their laptop back from Mike Roberts, we were told it was burned up in a fire. Carol Scoglio uncovered documentation proving the laptop was, in fact, purchased AFTER the fire. At numerous meetings the members had asked for action regarding the return of the Club's laptop, even voting to send a letter regarding this, and the Board purposefully did not follow the instructions of the membership.

4. Carol Scoglio received some very nasty emails regarding these issues. In addition, she was told to either resign quietly or be removed by a vote of the Board, and thus sent her letter of resignation stating her reasons for doing so. She was later told that since she didn't resign "quietly", that if she continues to discuss these matters, then the Membership would be asked to vote her out of the club. The Secretary, Steve Summers, resigned out of pure disgust with the way these matters were being handled.

Now the previous treasurer, Mike Roberts, has been made Treasurer again in spite of the inconsistencies in past documentation. In fact, Bill and Rita Lammers personally had to send him a receipt for a parade three times over several months before it was paid, as each time they inquired they were told the receipts had been lost. Fortunately it was a small amount, but this shows a disregard for the proper handling of club business.

We have also noticed that Carol's statement & her reports in the last Newsletter, and the minutes reflecting these issues, have been removed from the website, while leaving the President's comments and emails from Mike Roberts intact. This constitutes falsification of the Club's official records, and needs to be reversed.

Unfortunately, it appears the FFC/MVPA will continue on the same path. This is a grave error in judgment. Although Board members volunteer their time to the organization, that does not give them the right to ignore the votes of the membership, violate the by-laws, refuse to address problems with the accounting of the organization, and expend Club funds without the proper documentation. This type of behavior can never be construed as being in the best interest of the club! An apology for the way our Treasurer and Secretary were treated, openly resolving the issues that were uncovered, and a drastic change in the way this club is doing business are obviously needed.

Although we have been members for many, many years, considering the grave issues that are being ignored, all those listed below have asked to have their names added to this letter, and we have all decided not to renew our membership in the First Florida Chapter of the MVPA.

Bill Lammers, Rita Lammers, Mark Copeland, Michelle Copeland, Elmer Duckworth, Andy Harwood, Marie Hardy, Ken Fields, Tom Noto, Rachel Noto, Steve Summers, Dee Summers, Bill Wincapaw.

November 15, 2012

My apologies for an error in the letter sent out last night.

The laptop was in the possession of Frank Baltra, NOT Mike Roberts

Bill Lammers

Continued on page 15

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Response to the Letter sent by Bill Lammers.

Let us begin by talking about the disappointment that they have observed....In reference to the persons that had you add their name to the letter.

Out of the thirteen members that have signed the letter, how many have attended meetings and voted on issues or the officers? How many have voted from mail in ballots in the last election for President? How many have stepped forward to pursue the offices in the club?

I am not stating that everyone can be at all meetings but it helps to have a better understanding on what is actually happening in the club to hear it for yourself. We all have issues and things that come up that preclude us from being able to make them all but sometimes the true picture cannot be read in a statement made by one or two people or in a phone call.

Points Made:

1. Our By-laws state in Article VII Section I, that an audit will take place when a new treasurer takes over. After checking with several accountants on what an audit consist of and also the price of an audit that would be in compliance with the bylaws as stated, the finding was that two accountant offices called, stated that it was not something that was beneficial for this club. First they asked what the goal of this audit was, did we think we had large sums of money missing and what was our annual income. Their recommendation was that we do at most a Financial Review, price being the prohibitive cause. While still looking for the info a call was placed to Mary Foxx's office which is a CPA in Marion County and was referred to Crippen Trice Ford Torres LLP, Phone number 352-307-0167. Mike Torres was very helpful and stated that an audit would cost in the range of \$8,000.00 to \$15,000.00, depending on the length of time we wanted to go back. Also the factors of time spent reviewing records. He went into the reason for the cost, stating that an "Audit" is now referring to a Specific type of review and has to be done by someone certified and it has a definite protocol of how it is handled. He also stated that the amount of income as well as the assets of this club did not appear to be feasible to pay for an audit. He ended the conversation stating that he would recommend at best a financial review and he could for a fee also come and speak at a meeting as to what would make a healthy club financially. The FFC for example took in during the month of Jan 2011 until August 5, 2011 (7 complete months including rally month) 13,087.51 and paid out 10,450.89, leaving a net income of 2,636.62. The clubs assets are less than 10,000.00 at this time. As you can see it would take a very long time to pay for an Audit.

A discussion about this was done at the 4th Quarter Meeting and the vote by the Membership was that since the bank records and receipts agreed then no audit would take place at this time. This can be found as Item number 3 under the treasurer's report.

The idea to not do an audit was not to break any rules but to find an alternative, that would benefit the club and to also keep the integrity as well as the financial health of the club as the number one item. The term Audit when put into our by-laws, when they were formed, was a very loose term. Today it is not. It states that it has to be performed by a Non-Biased person and an auditor has to be certified and licensed to perform these. At best we are looking to address this in a change to the by-laws to state "Financial Review" then based on that outcome the executive committee would then make a judgment as to the avenues to pursue. Obviously the terminology has to be dealt with, not to avoid dealing with issues, but to be able to make all items in the bylaws a workable item.

2. Refusals to address the inconsistencies found

Prior to the Third Quarter Meeting several of these inconsistencies were explained and taken care of but was not noted as such where this was published in the Newsletter, our Treasurer had contacted people personally telling them of missing items. Some stated they did not have a copy of the items missing and some went to their banks/ credit card companies or through records to provide receipts again. People were working together to try to comply with the issues.

3. This was voted on by the Executive Committee at the Executive Board meeting conducted on August 25th, 2012 and was to be dropped from this point on. What is a vote for if it is going to be brought back to the members and repeated over and over? The Computer that was purchased for Frank was to replace his computer that burned up in the fire of his home and, nowhere does it state that it was purchased for the club and loaned to Frank. Refer to the minutes of the 2nd Quarter Meeting in 2008. Steve Summers made the motion and Charles Hildebrant seconded the motion, it was passed by the vote of the Members. In looking at the actual wording, it will be clear why it was voted to drop the issue.

Continued on page 17

SOUTHERN OUTPOST



FYI



Submission of Articles for Publication

Articles for the newsletter will be accepted by e-mail or U.S. mail. They may be type written or hand written. If written by hand, please take special care to make sure your writing can be understood. Please try to limit your article to no more than one written or typed page in length. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject, edit, lengthen or shorten any submission, as required, at his discretion.

Web Site

If you have an ad on our web site, it will remain there until you advise the Web Site Administrator to remove it. So, please, if you sell the item, tell Roger Francis as soon as possible in order that it can be removed in a timely manner.

Ethanol-free Gasoline

For the locations of gas stations that sell ethanol free gasoline, go to pure-gas.org or

<http://pure-gas.org/index.isp?stateprov=FL>

Info furnished by FFC Member Scott Campbell

Welcome New Members

Bill Jones, Largo, FL. 727-667-7162. M151A2

How What Where When ?

FFC Member Joe Lorentzson lets Florida Governor Rick Scott sit on the bumper of his Jeep while he explains about Pierre Izarie's "Our House" in Normandy. Where, when? Who knows. Submitted by Pierre Izarie



Toys For Tots, Western Region

Over the past several years, FFC Members in the Western Region have been helping out the Marine Corps League with their Toys For Tots Campaign. This year is no exception. With the campaign in full swing, FFC's primary function is toy pick up and delivery. On 1 December, Members assisted in the gathering of toys from the four post offices in southern Pasco County.

Helping Members of the Marine Corps League Detachment 567, FFC Members Peggy Keller with Swiss Army Pinzgaur, Walter Carlton with M35, Christian Isaly with M35 and Dick Deren and Roland Grady with CCKW received toys collected by Post Office mail trucks, packed them in bags and loaded up their vehicles. A five ton 6 by 6 was also furnished by one of the Marine Corps League Members (we have to recruit him in the Club). The toys were then dropped off at storage lockers located in the area. Unfortunately, the quantity of toys collected thus far has been down over the past years.



4. The treatment of the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Steve Summers, current Secretary at that time, issued a letter to Dave Thomas, Charles Craven, Carol Scoglio and Charles Hildebrant via email on Wed. July 25, 2012 @ 8:44 am , subject : position status. In this letter he asked for his immediate resignation from Secretary and Public Relations Chairman with the FFC MVPA be accepted and that he felt he needed this time to address issues within his private and professional life. Not once did he cite any unhappiness with the way things were being handled. Carol was sent an email because of the emails that came after the 3rd quarter meeting from executive members as well as some general members. A treasurer's place is to give a quarterly detailed report to the president before the quarterly meeting. This was not done. In the Third Quarter meeting August 25th 2012, Carol repeatedly made reference to the "Good of the Club", which is outlined in the bylaws Article VI Section 1 , which states that a special meeting is determined and called by the president when he feels it is appropriate and will be set forth in notice. Our bylaws specifically states that no SECRET MEETINGS shall take place due to the transparency of our operations. An email sent to Dave Thomas , Charles Craven, Steve Summers dated Wed. April 11, 2012 @ 12:56 asked that Steve, Dee, Dave, Judy, Charles, Connie, Joe and herself (Carol) get together for lunch or dinner. Asking that a discussion take place for the items that "we" think are important enough to have an executive meeting prior to the next club meeting, then after agreeing "we " should have an executive meeting at some date before the general meeting in Green Cove to settle the club's business. That way the club meeting will be more streamlined she said. Also she stated Steve was in agreement. Dave responded that we could not conduct SECRET MEETINGS per our by-laws, Article II Section 5 First Florida Chapter shall not hold a secretive meeting. A letter and / or electronic message of an impending special meeting will be sent to all members. Regular scheduled meetings will be listed in the Chapter Newsletter and shall be held quarterly. This was in direct violation of our bylaws. Apparently from what has been stated by people in attendance, meetings have occurred discussing club business, without the transparency or notice to all club membership. This was done after the discussion of the by-laws through email, from me to Carol. She responded to that email so I know that she knows the by-laws and how they read.

When Carol was issued the email to step down, based on the emails received, it was to give her opportunity to step-down without embarrassment or if she felt it was wrong to go to the meeting and have a vote cast. She chose to step down. Carol was never mistreated by the executive board. Some statements that she was replying to was an escalation of a personal problem she had with a member at the time. If protocol had been followed as to bring it to the board and work through the board I think this could have been avoided.

The Statement as well as the report was taken off of the online Newsletter due to the inconsistencies which was stated, as being a true and factual findings, as well as the use of names depicting there was a wrong doing on their part when the findings actually were that there was no deliberate wrong doing on anyone's part as far as could be proven. Missing receipts or documentation does not always constitute a wrong doing on the part of the person named. We want to protect all club members from attack and is just the opposite of what is being portrayed. Our members are volunteers and as you know they work very hard to set up and over see club business. Some have more time than others to devote to this and we have to work together for the clubs benefit. This club wants to maintain integrity as well as perform the duties which it takes to make it work. There is no place for mudslinging and accusations this club has bylaws and voting power of its members in which to take care of issues and to move ahead in a positive path. Anyone that wants any further clarification can feel free to contact me and I will work together on an individual basis to put their concerns to rest and to hear their ideas as to how to do that.

We would ask that members come to meetings and to vote with what they deem necessary to the running and smooth operations while working together to uphold the choices that are made as a result of those votes, even if they do not agree but respect the vote and work for the good of the club.

After bringing the issue up at the 4th Quarter Meeting and issuing the email as to the search for a Treasurer to complete the existing year left on the term, Mike Roberts graciously accepted the challenge to help with the treasurer position as well as to address issues that needed to be dealt with. We will be working together to move forward and to put to rest any issues that are against the good of this club.

Let me finishing by adding:

As per the letter being addressed, I want to personally state I do not want to lose any member of this club and it is not the intention of any officer or club member of the First Florida Chapter MVPA to lose members. I value each of you not only as a member but as a friend. I feel that together we can all make a difference and encourage you all to come to the meetings and to vote and remain with the club.

Let's together make it a positive place for all to foster an interest in Collecting, Acquiring, Restoring, Teaching and Educating the public about Military Vehicles. That is the mission of this club.

It is not the information that is delivered but the manner in which it is delivered as to how it is accepted. Sometimes finding fault and finger pointing is never accepted very well but information that is delivered with solutions attached are usually very well received.

Thanks, Dave Thomas, President, FFC, MVPA