



### *Going Forward.... Susan Sailor Daly*

With trust in current Caucus Committee leadership running low, how is trust restored? Where do we go from here?

First, the Caucus must not extract a commitment and pledge of fealty to their eventual nominees from candidates interviewed for elected positions. The Caucus is not the Politburo. We live in a democracy that allows people to run for office. This must remain an option for all, part of their democratic right, and not held against people for exercising it.

Among other changes, a committee of past Caucus members should train incoming members. It is all too easy for current Presidents and Vice-presidents to give the sense of what is customary and acceptable to new members. By design, most people term off of the Caucus after three years. Having a longer span of institutional memory to draw from will be helpful.

We, the general membership, cannot lose our right to vote at the Annual Meeting. If that occurs, as suggested on the Caucus November 9th FAQ page, it in effect dismantles the Caucus. It is no longer “All of Us” but only “All of the 43 members elected to the Caucus Committee”. That cannot happen. The United States government is built upon a system of checks and balances and we cannot give up that ideal lightly.

Re-committing to the non-partisan pledge the Caucus once held to is paramount. No more can candidates accept invitations from partisan-based clubs without a corresponding invitation extended to all other candidates running for the same elected office.

## Lake Forest for Transparency

Repairing trust does not come easily. Changes in leadership help. If the bylaws are followed and not nullified/disregarded, current President David Hunt will no longer be part of the Caucus. Vice-President Chris Benes will assume the presidency, but a committee of former Caucus members may need to be formed as an oversight committee for his term and possibly for the next few terms. Also, the incoming Caucus Vice President should be selected by a committee of outgoing and past Caucus members. This important position, which goes on to assume the presidency the following year, should not be left to the whims of popularity and/or friendship. The ability to course correct after deviating from Caucus ideals will not happen if like follows like.

There are other ideas out there. No one is interested in dismantling the Caucus system that has served us well for over eighty years, but, given the state of the current Caucus Committee leadership and their curious fixation on destroying themselves through their own deceit and flagrant disregard for their bylaws, changes are necessary to keep moving forward.