



Questions and a Response to the Caucus Email Regarding Campaign Finance **Susan Sailor Daily**

We are encouraged by the Caucus' swift action to investigate their activity described in the Prue for Mayor campaign's complaint to the State Board of Elections. As the Lake Forest Caucus, they represent all registered voters (the general Caucus membership) before the Election Board, so Lake Foresters will want them to have their paperwork in order and know how the Election Board rules.

The possible over-transfer of thirty thousand dollars in in-kind donations between the Caucus and the Tack for Mayor campaign is not a trifling sum. At the very least, it will be helpful to clarify and educate us on often murky campaign finance statutes and directives. Since Joe Oriti is treasurer of both the Lake Forest Caucus and the Tack for Mayor campaign, he should be able to answer questions for both of those entities. The hearing is scheduled for April 13, 2023. The Board will make a ruling on the complaint filed. Lake Forest for Transparency will post the ruling when it becomes available.

Speaking of questions...why hasn't the Caucus had a Spring Meeting? Just as surely as area schools schedule a Spring Break, Caucus bylaws declare that a general membership "...Spring Meeting shall be held on a date in March." [Section 3.02 (c)] An oversight, some would say, in a busy election season. But this year's Caucus leadership has rightly caused many of us to question them and their respect for their bylaws. Conducting a Spring Meeting would provide us assurance that they are following the duties we charge them with and, perhaps, restore some of the public's trust.

Except they didn't hold a Spring Meeting in March or send out an email announcing it has been pushed back to April. Just...silence. We know they have our email addresses. So when's the meeting?

Many questions remain as we head toward April 4th. Questions like where was Randy Tack's statement condemning the Rue the Prue emails? There was a bright moment for Caucus members when Dave Hunt condemned those texts. But where did Randy stand on all of it? The man who wants to lead Lake Forest? And why would Randy approve using a sound bite with Prue's kind, farewell words to him as he stepped off of City Council as an endorsement? They also used Melanie Rummel's farewell to Tack as an endorsement. Council, Board and Commission members say nice things to departing members with whom they've served. It's a wonderful tradition. Misrepresenting someone's comments for personal gain is manipulative and wrong. Will farewell comments now become a simple, "thank you for your service" to avoid being taken

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out of context? That would be really unfortunate and inadequate from people you've worked with closely, especially when volunteering is often thankless work.

Which leads to the main question before us: Who will we choose to lead us? Because it will determine who we become.