

raucous

*Raucous Caucus*  
Susan Sailor Daly

I keep looking for them. Forest green signs with white lettering and Market Square's Clock Tower rising from the lower left corner, "Endorsed by the Lake Forest Caucus" written beside it. They have been replaced, ousted by signs colored dark blue and white with a row of red stars. I keep looking for former Caucus Committees, too. The ones concerned with integrity and serving the citizens of Lake Forest. The ones put in place so that partisan politics did not drive a wedge between residents. They, too, have seemingly been replaced. Do you recognize today's Caucus Committee? The vicious personal attacks leveled at not just a mayoral candidate, but a fellow resident and member of the Caucus? Leaders who took aim and fired off half-truths and rumors? Who name, blame, and try to shame someone for offering voters a choice? Make no mistake, voters clearly wanted a choice. They rejected Randy Tack by a significant majority last fall at the Caucus' Annual Meeting. [\*\\*Ex-Alderman Challenges Rejected Caucus Candidate For LF Mayor.\*](#) Is that it? Did the Caucus Committee make a mistake that they can't own up to? That a woman, who in many people's opinions, is more qualified than their candidate, better liked, more involved and who has essentially been doing the job of a mayor for decades now, heard the call of voters last fall and decided to give them a choice?

From the tenor of this Caucus-sponsored campaign, what does disagreeing with the Caucus or even City Council mean for the rest of us? Will we nervously wait for the same cruel remarks to come our way, shared and linked through emails and social media? Will we shoot quick glances over our shoulders, looking for shadows that might lunge and attack us? Will we all be next, those of us who step out, speak up, and challenge those who represent our government?

It does not bode well, this current campaign brought to us by this current Caucus leadership. Habits once formed are hard to break. The habit of derision and exclusion will continue past April 4th. The question of who the next Mayor of Lake Forest will be will be decided that day. By April 5th we'll know who the Mayor of Lake Forest will be, but the question of who we want to be, who we want our Caucus Committee to be, will linger far longer.