

June 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

You may recall that in the Fall of 2009 an open memo to my friends was circulated before the November PMI – Dallas Chapter Board election(s).

Upon reflection, it appears that my memo might have been viewed by some as a personal attack. I regret that my memo was worded in a way that was seen by some as a personal judgment of anyone serving on the board of the Dallas Chapter of PMI. I assure you that policy concerns and not personal judgments of any kind prompted that memo and remain the driving force behind my actions.

I admit that I could have been more precise in my description of the Chapter's financial condition when I retired from the board. At the time I wrote the open memo to my friends, I was recalling the financial data from memory and confused "unallocated funds available for the year" with "cash in the bank" for serving members of the Dallas Chapter.

The fact of the matter is that the PMI Dallas Chapter had "only" \$20,000 in its checking account with no outstanding invoices to pay (as I recall). The rest of the "unallocated" (available) funds would have been in the form of scheduled dues receipts based on conservative membership attrition/retention projections and "commercial" meeting sponsorships limited to the Chapter's annual vendor showcase.

Many of my fellow Dallas Chapter members shared my disappointment that the Dallas Chapter board had adopted by-laws changes and/or policies eliminating remote/absentee voting in elections and significantly reduced the "transparency" in how Chapter funds were being used. In addition, they adopted the use of regular monthly "commercial" meeting sponsors without lowering regular meal prices for attendees.

I want to make it clear that my concern about Chapter policies and practices was not intended to be seen as a personal judgment of the moral character of the individuals involved. I was trying to let all my friends know that I considered others to be better qualified and that fresh ideas on the board would be helpful.

None of the individuals I endorsed for the 2009 election sought my endorsement, and I regret expressing my opinion in a way that gave the impression that I thought they were the only ones qualified to serve.

I am not opposed to all symposium travel by board members, and I understand that it would be very nice if every one of the many hundreds of Chapter members could travel to the Chapter's meeting location to vote in all elections. However, I think that use of internet voting, virtual meetings, and webinars in lieu of travel would be a prudent way to encourage efficiency and reduce the risk of appearing elitist or selfish.

For many years Dallas Chapter members were allowed to vote absentee by fax and/or mail. Affordable secure online voting options (like those used in our PMI National elections) are now readily available. I see Skype and free webinar software making travel almost unnecessary for most non-profit information sharing. Consequently, it might be time for those who are willing to embrace the use of technology to step up and volunteer to serve their fellow members – maybe even run for an elected office.

As I tried to say in my original memo, apathy can become contagious. I believe that those who choose to remain silent are at risk of being tainted by policies of organizations to which they belong. I am no longer a member of the PMI - Dallas Chapter, but my local professional reputation can still be affected to some extent by policies it promotes and practices it embraces.

I trust that such policies and practices do not include attacking anyone who chooses to exercise his/her First Amendment right under the Constitution of the United States to express an honest opinion.

Sincerely, David

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CFPIM, CIRM, CMQ/OE, CQA, CQE

Gratias ago ergo sum
"I thank therefore I am."

Reference:

PMI – Dallas Chapter 2009 Elections Process

The election will be conducted by a paper ballot during the chapter business portion of the Nov 12, 2009 dinner meeting. All nominations have been received and eligibility of all candidates has been verified; no further nominations will be accepted. Only current PMI Dallas Members are eligible to vote; other attendees at the meeting will be asked to refrain from participating in the vote. **All votes must be cast in person, with a valid member ID, and members are asked to RSVP for the dinner meeting by Friday, November 6th, due to limited seating availability.**