



Indian Lake Newsletter

READ THIS ONLY IF YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR MONEY AND YOUR RIGHTS AS AN INDIAN LAKE PROPERTY OWNER



December 2007

See Town Hall Meeting Information on Back

Indian Lake Owners Action Committee

This newsletter is part of an effort by a group of concerned ILOA Members to inform all Owners of a serious situation with our Association. Whether you are a Resident or Non-Resident Owner, what you do not know may cost you money and affect how and in what way you can use your property.

First, please accept that your participation in the business of our Association is very important. That participation may be as easy as a Proxy Vote (for those who reside far away from Indian Lake). It may also be as involved as volunteering to serve as a Board Director. (Good ones are needed!)

Whatever you do, please do not throw this newsletter away thinking that what you do doesn't matter. It matters a great deal!

For several months now, this group of concerned ILOA Members has been investigating the actions of the ILOA Board. We're not overreacting alarmists. We are Property Owners, just like you!

What we've found is very disturbing. We've uncovered the secret installation of cameras at our subdivision pool, unauthorized expenditures of ILOA funds, By-laws violations, manipulation of Proxy Votes, Open Meetings Act violations, assessment violations, and repeated misuse of Board authority. All requests by ILOA Members to inspect the ILOA Financial and Membership records have been ignored or refused. Annual audits, required for 2006 and 2007, were never done.

Since July 2007, when we questioned the push by the ILOA Board to amend the current By-laws, we have seen the ILOA Board, led by Richard Goranflo, President, repeatedly alter the proposed By-laws amendments and attempt a Membership vote using slanted and unqualified Proxy votes at an unqualified special meeting of the ILOA. Current By-laws state the By-laws can only be amended at a Regular Annual ILOA meeting with a "Yes" vote of at least two-thirds of the Members present. Proxy votes are not allowed in this process. Yet, Goranflo and the Board tried to use this process after the motion was tabled in the July 2007 Annual Meeting.

Due to the courage of one Board Member, the unqualified ILOA meeting at which Goranflo planned to use the unqualified Proxy votes was

cancelled at the last moment. Even so, a meeting of over seventy Residents and Members took place at the prepaid location. Only the Board Member who refused to support the Amendment vote was present. A petition to ask for Goranflo's resignation was started that day and now holds more than 100 signatures. All are Owners or Residents of Indian Lake. Many reside in Indian Lake.

At 80 signatures, the petition was presented to Goranflo and the Board at the October 27th meeting. This request has been ignored and the December ILOA meeting was cancelled to avoid further confrontation. The next meeting is set for February 23, 2008. Meanwhile, secret and private meetings are called at the whim of Goranflo.

This is our message to the Membership:

1. Our Association is in Distress!
2. Our Board is out of Control!
3. Left unchecked, we'll see our Membership fees increase and new fees added for all to pay.
4. Unapproved fees are already being charged to Members under Goranflo's current direction.
5. Goranflo wants more power over each Member through changes in the Association By-laws.
6. We need your vote in July 2008 to keep Goranflo and his choice Directors from being re-elected and stop this campaign of intimidation.
7. ILOA can attach liens against your property for unpaid assessments and foreclosure later on. We want to make sure this never happens.

We've set up a Member-only Message-Board Website (by invitation only) where you can communicate online with other ILOA Members and stay informed. To receive your invitation, send your email address to: ILOAMember@yahoo.com

We'll set you up and we will not share your email address with anyone else. Get on Board NOW!

We need your help to take back our Association. We hope you want a fair Board. We do, too!

Important Meeting Announcement on Back!!



Indian Lake in Distress

(Submitted to Smithville Times Editor) (Newspaper)

Editor,

While our brave soldiers fight a half a world away to protect our freedoms and ensure our continued peace of mind, a small group of Smithville residents is in a serious struggle against a tyrannical and controlling force at work right here in our own community. Under the leadership and control of a President who uses questionable tactics to manipulate member votes and gain more power over property owners, the Board of the Indian Lake Owners Association (ILOA) has become a threat to this peaceful lakeside community.

For anyone who pays attention to the news, HOA (Home Owner Association) abuse is rapidly increasing in communities across our nation. From unreasonable maintenance fees and assessment initiatives, intended to inflate HOA bank accounts, to slanted and extreme interpretations of architectural controls that can become a homeowner's nightmare, the unchecked power of these governing Boards can quickly and quietly snowball into an overwhelming challenge for individuals to maintain their lifelong dream of home ownership. Hardest hit can be elderly and retired residents, many who live on fixed incomes. Unfortunately, the greedy and power-hungry persons who seek control over their neighbors through some HOAs have little sympathy for those whom they were supposed to serve.

As with many other HOAs around the nation, the problems for the property owners in Indian Lake did not occur overnight. Once thought to be an ideal and preferred Director for the Association, the current President has come under membership scrutiny for installation of secret cameras, unauthorized expenditures, by-laws violations, and proxy voting manipulation. With a long list of resigned and discharged Board Directors claiming conflict with the sitting President, the ILOA is quickly exhausting its resource of members to serve on the seven person board.

With the recent questionable termination of Director Wilson and the voluntary resignation of Director

Latham, the ILOA Board is now down to five Directors. Preceding that, it is believed that pressure brought by inquiries and criticism by concerned members resulted in the resignation of the paid Association bookkeeper. In spite of repeated requests by members, access to and inspection of ILOA's books, as required by our By-laws, has been denied to the Membership. And, the 2007 audit, also a By-laws requirement, has not occurred.

As the ILOA membership strives to regain control of its Association and check the manipulative efforts of the sitting Board and President, one question continues to surface. How did this happen? The answer is a simple one. Misplaced trust and complacency. In the busy lives that we lead today, the last thing we consider is that in the midst of our respective neighborhoods reside the personalities that would desire to gain absolute power over each of us. We check for sex offenders and organize in neighborhood watch programs. But, along with those efforts, we should have been paying more attention to the persons we placed in positions of neighborhood trust. We should have attended more Association Board meetings and participated in their decisions. We should have been more active in our Association. Now, we are paying the price for such inaction.

Although we will eventually replace the present Board and correct the wrongs that have occurred, it will be a challenge and require much effort. But, as we've made clear to the ILOA President and Board Members, we will no longer tolerate abuse and stand idle as they gain more power. At our July 2008 Annual Meeting, our votes will speak loudly to reclaim our Association. Until then, through our presence and attention to Board activity, we'll guard our Association as never before. We have learned our lesson. Don't let this happen to you. Don't take your government for granted, in whatever form it may be. Be alert. Be active. Participate. You are needed.

Bill Nance
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YOU ARE INVITED to attend an "Old Style" TOWN HALL MEETING & Social, sponsored by the Indian Lake Owners Action Committee for ILOA Members to learn what is happening to our Association. This will be held at the Smithville American Legion Post 180 on January 12, 2008 at 1:30 PM. We've learned the ILOA Board has planned an "Emergency" meeting on January 26th. We think they will try another action to reinforce their power at that time. They've already displayed great disregard for our By-laws. Come to the Town Hall Meeting and learn what the ILOA Board does not want you to know. Please try to attend. We need you!

Enclosed with this Newsletter, you will find a Proxy voting card that you may use to assign your vote to any ILOA Member you choose. Be sure to take notice that any Proxy voting card you receive from the ILOA will only allow you to assign your vote to a Board Member. That is like giving the Fox a key to the Hen House. Please use the enclosed Proxy voting card and do not mail the one back to the Board. You may give your card to a trusted Member to vote for you or send the card to the Members Action Committee if you want us to vote for you. Send Proxy cards to: Members Action Committee, PO Box 111, Smithville, TX 78957 We will vote in the interest of the Members. Not the Board!