



A Message from the President

I would like to thank everyone for their attendance and participation in our last Board meeting. While the meeting was not anything approaching the closing scene of most Frankenstein movies with angry villagers wielding torches and pitchforks, it was, to say the least, robust, and that's a good thing.

As you are well aware, we're currently in an election cycle for two of the Board positions and I encourage you to take an active part in that election and vote for your choice. My only admonition is to vote your choice based on fact and not some of the misinformation I am currently hearing.

Specifically, and I say this only hearing things secondhand, something to the effect that this current Board is spending too much of your money or is too loose with your money. First, and foremost, any spending decision affects all of us. If there's an increase in HOA fees it affects every owner. The Board is not exempt from those increases.

In the last two years we've had to repair several of these buildings to ensure their continued viability. These repairs did not spring up overnight but were the result of several years of the repair issues being unknown or deferred to a future time, trying to keep HOA fees as low as possible. As a result of this, during our inspections, defects were discovered that went well beyond what was planned and had to be corrected immediately.

The last big HOA increase had virtually nothing to do with choices made by the Board but were in fact driven by exorbitant increases in insurance rates. After the damage inflicted on SWFL by hurricane Ian, I will not be surprised to see another one. We have no control over that and are required by Florida law (and common sense) to insure these structures.

As a former Board member said at a recent meeting, if there's one issue and three people have a different opinion for that issue's resolution, once a course of action is decided upon, two of those three people are going to be dissatisfied. The same thing happens with Board decisions. With 230 units here, and despite best efforts to do so, there is simply no way to please everyone.

In closing I wish all the candidates well, and, by all means, vote for your choice, but vote based on fact and not misinformation, and definitely not on slogans no matter how "catchy" they may sound.