

The following email was received from one of our members earlier this week. We sincerely appreciate the individual's articulation in providing feedback and recognize this as an opportunity to address questions, concerns, and possible misinformation through an **open reply to all members**.

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**RE: 2023 PPPA Membership Renewal**

**June 12, 2023**

Dear Members of the Board for PPPA:

I have been a member of PPPA since 2015 and have decided not to renew my membership for this year and future years until changes are made. Many other pickleball players that I have spoken to feel exactly as I do and have said that they also do not plan to renew their memberships.

My, and their, primary reason for not renewing our membership is the fact that we no longer have a say on who is on the Board of Directors and how are [sic] dues are being spent. The arbitrary change by the Board to eliminate voting for officers was very upsetting. You claim that the last election had possible voting errors and instead of running a new election, you changed the charter to appoint (not elect) Board members. You did this even though Bill Stevens ran unopposed for Board President and, regardless of questions on votes, should have be [sic] named President since he was unopposed. It certainly appeared to members that you didn't like the results of the vote and took over control of the Association to keep yourselves in charge by changing the charter. *(See A1 below)*

There are several other factors that are upsetting as a member: *(See A2 below)*

1. Why don't we see an annual Financial Report on the financial status of the Association?
2. Why don't we see an Annual Budget that shows specifically what projects our dues will be spent on in the next year?
3. Why don't we see a 3 year and 5 year spending plan that would show what major projects we are saving funds to support?
4. What is the process to get a new Board of Directors "appointed" if we cannot elect a new Board?
5. How do members that disagree with the charter change to an appointed Board "vote" to see if there is a majority that wants to go back to an elected Board.

I would appreciate your getting back to me on these questions and issues so that I can reconsider renewing my membership and pass your responses to others in my circle of Pickleball friends. *(See A3 below)*

Sincerely,  
(Name withheld for privacy)

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We appreciate the opportunity to openly respond to the questions posed by this member.

**A1**

Response: The Board **never saw the results of the first voting process**. Once it was discovered that unauthorized access and possible corruption of data had occurred, **votes were left untallied and thrown out**.

A **second election was planned and scheduled**, but **all FOUR ballot candidates, including the one mentioned above, withdrew their applications**, each for personal reasons, before it could take place. This left the Board of Directors, per

PPPA Bylaws Article III and IV and the Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act, with no option but to directly fill vacancies without an election cycle. (For more information, please see May 22, 2022 PPPA e-Blast incident update.)

**The change to direct appointments was NOT arbitrary.** Given the difficulties faced in the 2022 election and the historically low voter turnout (~10%) the Board acted on legal counsel's advice to adopt a direct appointment process in accordance with the Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act, which is **more commonly used for non-profit organizations** of our size.

At that time, **members interested in being considered for any position were asked to submit a resume, complete a questionnaire describing their qualifications, and submit to a brief interview.** The process for vetting and filling the open positions was arduous but completely necessary to ensure that the candidates selected were **fit on all levels**, from skills and qualifications, to professional conduct and personal interactions, to the ability to handle confidential information, to alignment with the organization's culture, values, and goals.

## **A2.**

Item 1 Response: **Annual Financial Reports are and have been readily available through our website.** The 2022 PPPA End of Year Report, which was published on January 29, 2023, clearly outlines income and expense targets, including dues, tournaments, grants, and funds received from sponsors and donors. See the **Weeklyblast** link under the [Members] tab.

Item 2 and 3 Response: **Major project funding is included in end-of-year reports as indicated above.** Additional financial information pertaining to projects is also provided under the **PPPA HISTORY and AGREEMENTS WITH PARKS** links under the [About Us] tab. We encourage all members to take the time to read these sections, to better understand and appreciate the dedication and hard work that has and is continuing to be done by the Board and all of our volunteers to promote the sport of pickleball in El Paso County.

Item 4 Response: We continue to encourage members to submit their resumes to [info@pikespeakpickleball.com](mailto:info@pikespeakpickleball.com). **(To ensure delivery, please do not send messages to individual board members' personal email addresses.)** The Board will review and make their determination for or against placement based on the criteria mentioned in the A1 Response above. Depending on the volunteer resources available, the vetting and interview process could take several weeks to complete.

Item 5 Response: Neither federal nor state laws establish specific rules around board elections for charitable organizations. Organizations themselves determine which structure (including those related to board members) is appropriate and works in the **best interest of the organization's mission** – through its bylaws.

The Board of Directors, acting within the PPPA Bylaws Article III and IV and the Colorado Revised Nonprofit Corporation Act will continue to fill board vacancies with direct appointment. We encourage all members to familiarize themselves with the PPPA Bylaws found under the [About Us] section of our website.

## **A3.**

A sincere thank you to this member for giving respectful constructive feedback and seeking facts.

We encourage all of our members not to be misled by misinformation. Inaccurate information spreads quickly and makes it more difficult for the organization to attract and retain members, sponsors, and donors. Please do your part as

a member **and** an ambassador for our organization by **verifying facts, dispelling rumors, and volunteering wherever possible.**

*PPPA Board of Directors*