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From: "Marcel Gomperts" <rubberduck@e...>
Date: Sat Jan 17, 2004 11:13 am
Subject: CORE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD RESIGN

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MRA MEMBERS

In what has emerged as a sad day for the MRA, the senior executive of the Board, including the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have formally resigned from their Board positions.

Copies of each notice are posted for the information of members' and we advise that the original documents, along with the reference testimonials are with the Public Officer.

All citations are self-explanatory and thus require no further comment.

8 January, 2004

To Simon Rosenbaum
Secretary MRAA
22 Ross St
South Melbourne

Dear Simon

It is with great regret that I hereby relinquish my position on the board. After almost 3 years in the job of Vice-President including 6 months as President, has become far from satisfying. Before the 2003 Toy Run I had received death threats which are currently still under investigation by the Victoria Police, I was advised to give the job away by the investigating officer, however I felt an obligation to complete the 2003 MRA Toy Run and did so with fear for my safety and that of my family.

Only 2 weeks ago I received a text message which further showed that there are those in the MRA who will use any method to get rid of those who work to make the MRA a better place. This text message is also under investigation by the Police, and I have taken their advice this time, hence this letter. The message contained a direct threat to me and specifies that I should resign. I don't want to disclose the origin of the text message, fearing retribution, or interference with the police investigations.

I have given much to the MRA in the way of time, money and myself. It has been an uphill battle with certain quarters within this organization that will stand in the way of progress. I feel that it will be impossible for the MRA to ever become successful as a volunteer organisation. This however will be the legacy a new board will have to deal with. I can write many pages however I don't feel that there is any purpose to that. I wish the remaining board members good luck, and hope that my feelings about the future of this the MRA are to be proven wrong over the next few years.

The constant barrage of e-mails and other pressures from the MRA, combined with business challenges, make my decision to resign much easier. The AGM is only a couple of months away, I have taken the treats seriously and therefore my decision is resolute. Safety and happiness for my family, my fiancé and my self are paramount.

Marcel Gomperts

Alex Money
President MRAA

09 January 2004

To: The Secretary MRAA
22 Ross Street
South Melbourne.

Dear Simon,

As we are all aware, the time since the 2002 AGM, when we, as a board were installed to handle the affairs of the MRAA, has been plagued by massive, unrealistic unrest. It is a documented fact that the workload and focus of this Board has been constantly directed towards one purpose, namely the containment of Damien Codognotto and his personal attacks. This man has refused to work as one of a team, has been the sole cause of disruption at meetings and has vilified each member of, not only this board, but all previous boards, since his retirement. I believe that the treachery and subterfuge will no doubt lead to the chronic level of decay within the MRA continuing, until its final demise.

Damien's vituperative attacks and his constant harassment reached the point where it could be tolerated no more, culminating in a vicious and violent physical assault at an attempted MRA mediatory meeting in March 2003. As you are aware, he violated my privacy by contacting my workplace and my directors, an action that was completely unsolicited and unwarranted and one that continued even after a written request to discontinue was sent to him. Following the physical assault and threats in March, I was forced to seek an Intervention Order against Damien and the ruling in our favour in the Magistrates' Court and the subsequent quashing of his appeal in the County Court totally vindicates both myself and my fellow Board members. We all know the to's and fro's of the issue of payment of legal costs incurred because of the Appeal by Damien.

This matter of the legal action has consumed the proceedings of this board for some five long months and beyond, with the implications ongoing even to this day. However, this action was proven to be totally justified and is a course open to each and every one of us in certain circumstances, where the alternative criminal charges are seen as having more far-reaching consequences.

Now it seems we are to be condemned and ridiculed by those among us who do not have an understanding of the facts, people who have been too quick to believe the accusations and slander promulgated by the hate-mongering minority. The cancer has spread even to some of our fellow Board members. We are now faced with lies and treachery from within, particularly with the events surrounding the 2003 Toy Run farce. Cries of "standing down" and "lock outs," along with fictional threats of "legal action" against the MRA by The Smith Family have been bandied about, statements which are blatantly false and can be proven so.

2.

A copy of an email from Anton Lange to me is presented for the information of interested parties. This email is self-explanatory and totally exonerates the Board in relation to the false accusations of "lock out" or "standing down".

I also include a copy of an email from Heather Ellis, in which she gives the reason for the cessation of her magazine editorial duties as an increase in her "freelance writing and work commitments". Not, as some would have us believe in her prepared statement at the June 21 QGM, because of alleged "bullying tactics".

These incidents alone may be bearable, but to have these rumour mongers achieve a level of support and belief from MRA members is insufferable. We, the Board are obviously expected, by the rank and file, to be subjected to an unacceptable level of ridicule and accusation, with no provision for right of reply. This, to me is tantamount to an inquisition and I am not prepared to endure the character assassination, nor the accusations of impropriety any longer.

We have been witness to several unofficial meetings held recently, starting with one in an Elizabeth St. café, organized by Damien, another at Bells Hotel, South Melbourne, again organized by Damien. Dale Maggs then set up another of "friends of the MRA". This is to be followed by yet another meeting called by Glen Roberts and Shane Brightman and others, in North Melbourne. If one takes into account the furore that arose surrounding the Boards' reliance on electronic advice to members re. MRA meetings, then one can only assume that these meetings, all advised via melb-moto, are for a totally select vigilante group only and the sole aim is to destabilize the organization.

We are all aware of the tantrums displayed by the minority from Cranbourne which resulted in the organization of a renegade Toy Run in opposition to the traditional event organized by our events committee. Even though those who attempted to steal our thunder proclaimed that it was put on by Ulysses, their flyer which is included clearly refutes this obviously fraudulent claim.

As an indication of the veracity of Dale Maggs, I include for your interest, a copy of an advice from our Insurance Broker which refers to Dales' dishonoured cheque for payment of a premium relating to Phillip Island GP Public Liability. This is dishonest and is a punishable offence. Assured Financial Services now looks to the MRA for payment of \$203.00, being the original amount of \$193.00 plus \$10.00 dishonour fee.

In addition to the various issues raised, the Board has been falsely and maliciously accused by Michael Czajka of serious improprieties and we were forced to attend a hearing at Consumer Affairs, where his accusations were tabled and satisfactorily defended. This hearing was, of course convened during normal working hours and those attending for the Board were required to absent themselves from their employment for the day. Perhaps we should submit a claim against the MRA for loss of salary and inconvenience due to a vexatious claim. Where was the constitution in all of this?

3.

It was my wish and indeed my pledge to lend my expertise and network of business and corporate contacts to advance the image and operations of the MRA, but my time and my professionalism are far too important to me to allow such destabilizing forces to intrude into my private and/or professional life. The energy and statesmanship required to cope with the destructive and subversive elements among us are inequitable when one considers that the work that we do is entirely voluntary, also we need to compare the workload with the inordinately small membership of the MRA (a maximum of 900 members only).

It is obvious that the same old chest beating inefficiencies have infiltrated the restructured Board and I, for one am not willing to sacrifice another moment of my time in this, an unworkable environment. My commitment and loyalty cannot be professionally, morally or ethically questioned, but I will not serve an association which can so easily be deceived by such an apparent campaign of dishonesty, deception and out and out fabrication. To do so would be akin to "feeding strawberries to pigs."

I and my fellow Board members have been subjected to an unbelievable harangue of contemptible and fraudulent statements, abuse and slander, threats of violence, physical assault and derision; we have had to suffer telephone death threats, and veiled threats of vengeance via the communications media. The final act of vandalism on my property by a spineless cur under cover of darkness last night has compelled me to resign from the role of MRA President and indeed from the organization, effective immediately. I cannot and will not permit these offensive and repugnant incursions to continue to affect my day-to-day career milieu and private life any longer. Any organization which would condone such culpable treatment of elected officials is not only morally unsound, but is I believe as guilty as those who have committed the acts of vilification and is therefore possibly open to legal action as a means of recourse.

I have the utmost respect for the majority of the board who have served so unselfishly during the past 18 months. I also thank those among the membership who have had the acuity to see beyond the campaign of hate, mendacity and fraudulent behaviour and have supported us throughout this ordeal. I wish that we could have continued for their sakes. To them I say...sorry. To those who would seek the role of MRA Board member, I say reflect well, for you may soon come to regret your decision.

I am currently considering the ramifications of forwarding a copy of this document to my personal contacts and those interested parties in the Local, State and Federal Governments, as well as the various Regulatory Authorities, Corporate Bodies and the Media. I am of the opinion that these people, because of my long and close association with them, deserve to be made aware of the erroneous undertone within the organization which for all practical purposes has attempted to publicly destroy the reputation of an elected executive board. My decision will be based on legal advice. The police are currently investigating the acts of vandalism and threat.

4.

The narrow-minded, bigoted element within the MRA must be made to realize that nobody has the right to take away from another, the fundamental civil liberties and privileges of our society. The fact that it was necessary for me to take legal action to defend myself against terrorization and intimidation and to arrange for personal security as a means of individual protection is a blight on the Associations' integrity and repute and questions the constitutional credence of the total membership. The good we have done during our term in office pales when we consider the dubious motivation of the membership which allowed such abominable behavior to manifest and persist for so long. It must be remembered that this despicable treatment has been meted out to a group who have given of their time voluntarily. I chose to volunteer my time and expertise; I now withdraw it in the same manner.

Some of the achievements we have seen during our time in office:

- * Footpath Parking regulations reinforced
- * Speeding Fines on GP Run withdrawn
- * The biggest and best Toy Run (25th 2002)
- * Successful Front Number Plate Rally through the Tunnels
- * Rider Awareness in support of accident victims
- * Closer working relationship with Police
- * TAC support in Rider Training and advertising campaigns
- * Higher Media profile
- * Open door policy with politicians

Obviously there are many, many more, but then, to continue would achieve nothing constructive. Copies of correspondence of significance are submitted for perusal by concerned parties.

Alex Money.
14 January 2004

John Karmouche
Treasurer MRAA

14 January 2004

To: The Secretary MRAA
22 Ross Street
South Melbourne.

Dear Simon,

Having read the letter of resignation submitted to you by Alex Money, I wish to advise that I have also decided to submit my resignation as MRAA Treasurer forthwith.

My reasons for deciding to resign are very similar to those stated by Alex.

I can no longer serve an organization which allows its members to treat those, who volunteer to perform executive functions, in the manner described by Alex to which I and the remainder of the MRAA Board have been treated since taking office. Nor can I see any future in serving the motorcycle community as a member of the MRAA.

John Karmouche

To: MRAA Board
22 Ross Street
South Melbourne.

Dear Sirs,

The MRA is faced with a situation which in itself appears to be irrecoverable particularly following the events surrounding the 2003 Toy Run. We have been inundated with diatribe and threats of legal action and mooted plans to overthrow the elected Board.

We have seen a multitude of emails from various individuals regarding supposed inefficiencies within the MRA, citing many baseless allegations involving the Board. All these emails are false in content and in thrust.

I am not prepared to endure the continuation of the recent episodes of character assassination, nor the false accusations. To this end, I advise that, effective from this date, I submit my resignation from the role of Secretary of the MRA.

I wish to voice my appreciation for the unstinting work displayed by the majority of the Board. These people have given unselfishly of themselves for the past 18 long months, and have many achievements to be proud of. I would also like to publicly thank the 80% plus of the membership who stood behind the Board and gave us the support which has carried the organization through until now. It is with a feeling of great despair that I realize that the ultimate loss will be theirs, but for me to continue in office under the same torment and stress is unthinkable. I hope that some of the infrastructure that I provided, such as live telephone answering, respectable meeting venues, and office support can be provided by some-one else.

The future of the MRA is in my opinion in great danger. The actions of the small number of individuals who have shown no respect for the elected Board, lack ethics and the behaviour of gentlemen, and excel in gutter sniping and rumor mongering is deplorable, and have brought matters to this stage.

I join with Alex, Marcel and John in announcing our combined withdrawal from the Board of the MRA and again express my extreme disappointment in the unprincipled and immoral manner in which we, the elected executive have been treated.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Simon Rosenbaum
Secretary MRAA