Monday, 29th June,2020

Dear Centre Committees, Members and LifeMembers,

I am writing this letter as a personal response to the recent email you have received from Young RDA Centre. The reason being that I feel responsible for doubt having been cast on my fellow Directors and their integrity.

As you are all aware I did notify Centres I would not be standing for re-election at the 2020 AGM but would continue my duties on the Board until then.

Following receipt of a notice from one of our current directors that she will not seek re-election and the withdrawal of a nomination from a very promising nominee, Centres were left with three nominees from Young Centre and one other nominee to choose from, in addition to those from the Board who needed to stand down under the terms of the Constitution. As ~~so~~ many of the nominees have had little, if any, experience at State administration level it was in my opinion, as I stated in my second letter to Centres, negligent of me to stand down given the problems resulting from the drought, fires, flood and now COVID-19 as RDA (NSW) resulting in Centres facing a difficult recovery period. Consequently I rescinded my decision which the majority of the Board accepted enthusiastically as did Members from emails I was humbled to receive addressed to me personally.

Under the new State Constitution there is provision for the Board not to be left without sufficient experienced Directors to administer our Association. This clause allows the Board to determine a method that will ensure sufficient of the outgoing directors may remain on the Board as the maximum number of Directors who could be elected in any one year is four. This would have left one continuing Director this year and a total of only five Directors in this difficult period. The majority decision by the Board of Directors was to conduct a secret ballot with two independent scrutineers. The ballot was to pick three of the existing Directors to remain on the Board for an extra year to ensure that with the continuing four Directors and the maximum four to be elected as allowed by the Constitution to give a full Board of eight.

The counting of the votes of this ballot was conducted via teleconference with a majority of Directors attending, obviously all were invited however on the day Susan Turner-Davis rang to say she was unavailable. The result of the ballot was announced by one of the scrutineers, confirmed by the other scrutineer and then the ballot papers were distributed to Centres with the nominations for election of the four Directors.

Obviously I am most upset but more disappointed with the insinuations and allegations of impropriety being bandied about by this Centre against the Board especially as one of their members is a serving Director.

The Board will send a formal response soon, however I felt I needed you to hear from me independently as the Director noted in Young RDA's letter.



Yours in RDA,

Jan Pike