

Timothy Harris

From: Bill Quehrn [billq@biawc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 1:00 PM
To: Tom Kwieciak
Subject: ROII Question

Importance: High

Hey Tom:



I just survived our Board meeting replete with issues surrounding construction of our new building, a battle royal over local political issues, and the BIAW ROII withholding.

The vote was to allow BIAW to withhold \$10,000 from our current check. Given everything else on their plate today, I was only a little surprised that they were willing to cough up that much right now. The enthusiasm over another shot at the governor's office by Dino was unanimously welcomed. However, they feel the local political situations this year, our new building, our construction academy, and other things made it prudent to hold at 10K for 2007. By 2008, things may be a little more focused.

As I told you, I've got some bean counters on my board and they do make valuable contributions. However, they are concerned that an unsuccessful "*anatomy to the wall*" effort by BIAW, with common knowledge that ROII funds are being heaped on Rossi, could be a millstone around Rossi's neck in the race, and the final blow for ROII if Gregoire is eventually re-elected --- regardless of how many ballots that takes! I shudder to think how many members, not to mention money, we will lose if ROII goes away. Thank God for health care!!

There is also a worry that audit questions of how much member money is spent for political purposes may develop. ROII proceeds are not directly dues proceeds and this not directly subject to the lobby deductions that member dues invoice statements reflect. I'm having research done by our CPA that should be available this week that I hope will address this further as it applies to our own local. However, my understanding is that current IRS law does not make a distinction between dues income and things like ROII that require a member to pay dues to participate. This is all way over my head! I'll send you a copy of the memo when it arrives for you folks to look at if you care to do so.

Meanwhile, please send us our check minus \$10,000!

Thanks

Bill Quehrn, Executive Officer
3323 Northwest Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
v: 360.671.4247 f: 360.647.8756

