

May 1, 2020

Tabatha Blacksmith
Compliance Coordinator
Public Discloser Commission
Olympia, WA

Dear Tabatha,

I apologize for the delay in responding to your email of 4-23-2020. I wanted to contact two previous secretary-treasurers of the Retired Firefighters of Washington (RFFOW) who held that position during 1998 to 2010 to see if they could remember any details or had any records.

I was elected President in 2000. It's been confirmed that a former elected secretary-treasurer who vacated the office in 1998 and is now deceased who had administrated a political committee that was closed. I reestablished a political committee around 2002 using the name RFFOW Political Action Committee or PAC. I believe I filed some PDC forms with a C designation, C-1, C-2 or something similar. At that time or maybe sometime later I was told that I had to list the names of the donors. I said that I would have to list 2000 plus names as part of our annual dues is designated for the PAC account. After explaining that we are a retiree association with a membership dues structure, a 501 C-3 non-profit organization, and receive no public donations I was instructed that we didn't have to file as a political committee. This would have been maybe eighteen years ago and you can imagine how the personnel has changed in the PDC office in Olympia. I felt that perhaps the legislator, candidate or organization to whom we made a donation would have to report the name of the individual or organization who made the donation thereby making full public disclosure.

It's quite obvious that we are not trying to conceal the names of our members who make additional donations as we list the names in our Newsletters each month as indicted in the Newsletter you returned with the notice of the complaint.

I have been representing firefighters in Olympia since 1962 as a young firefighter, as an executive board member of the Seattle Firefighters Union Local 27, as President of Local 27, and now as President of the Retired Firefighters of Washington since the year 2000.

I visited the PDC office quite often when I could hand deliver the L-1, L-2, and L-3 lobbying forms before the now required electronic filing. In early

January of this year I was in the office to see if I had to register as a lobbyist for the 2020 legislative session. I was told that I was within the two year period and didn't have to register. Then later I was told that I had to re-register and listen and view a webinar regarding harassment before I can register for the 2020 session which I did.

In any regards, when I was in the office in early January a lady representative went in the first office to use the computer to check on my registration. As we were talking quite loudly due to the distance between us a gentleman came out of another office and said something about registering as a committee. I told him that I was told we didn't have to. He told me that I should look into it. I politely told him that maybe he should look into it. Maybe that's what generated this complaint.

I can't imagine that we would have been out of compliance since 2002. I would like to know if the Washington State Council of Firefighters (WSCFF) or any other retiree organization have a political committee under the PDC regulations.

I have a document dated 1998 that verifies we had a political committee at that time. I can't email this document but I can fax it to you if you email me your fax number.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

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