

# Letter from the Profiles Editor

It is with sadness and regret that I write this letter. The 2016 Profiles #3 will be my last issue.

My wife Nancy (some of you may know her as gonancy on the email forum) and I have decided to leave POCA. The decision was not an easy one and not made without a great deal of thought. I was elected by the membership to produce a publication until the end of this year and although I have tried to keep up my end of the bargain, the current situation with the Board of Directors in general and President Michael Shortt in particular, is untenable.

As many of you may know, the current President has used his election as a mandate for change. While there have been some positive changes, such as the new POCA website, there have been other changes, and many have been to do with the President's management of the members of the Board of Directors and extends to appointed Chairpersons.

During my first year, the various positions occupied by the Board members were mainly autonomous. We carried out our duties according to the bylaws and our own consciences, to maintain the Club for its membership. As far as my position was concerned, I felt that as Profiles Editor I had to maintain at least the level of quality that my predecessor, Mike Drew, had. I can only hope that the magazine which I produced was received favorably by most readers.

I can't attest to the difficulty of the job that Jack DeRyke (my Dad) has as Newsletter Editor, but I knew that as Profiles Editor I would not have an easy time. The first issue was the hardest, but they became somewhat easier to put together as time went on, and I even became less stressed out as my deadlines approached.

With the election of Michael Shortt as President, things didn't change immediately, although there

was the feeling among some Board members that the new President felt like he had just been given the keys to POCA and he was going to drive it down a very different path.

At the very first Board meeting, when one of his agenda items was defeated, the outburst from the President was very surprising. But that was only the first taste of Michael Shortt's micro-management.

The decision to kill the email forum was one which I voted against, and the President's insistence that it was incompatible with the new website was suspicious. A simple link to the forum would have sufficed to allow it to remain part of POCA's website. He even made a claim that the POCA forum could not survive as long as the email forum existed. Kurt Byrnes revived the forum; Michael Shortt's prediction doesn't appear to have come to pass.

The next hurdle was whether to maintain a paper newsletter or make it only downloadable from the POCA website. There are many members who don't do email and don't want to read a newsletter or magazine on their computer.

The final straw came when I received a message from the President telling me how Profiles magazine would be laid out, with ads placed within stories, even to the point that an ad would be on the page right before the featured car's centerfold. I felt that not only would this kill the flow of the various articles, most readers would object to paying \$75 for a magazine full of ads. The number of ads in the magazine historically have been kept to a minimum, and I made sure that they didn't intrude upon the articles.

Another thing that really bothered me about this "directive" from the President was that as per the bylaws, the Editor is the only one responsible for the content in Pro-

files. This means that I had to answer to the membership regarding everything in the magazine, regardless of who may have submitted a particular article or story. This President wants to be in charge of the content, as he appears to want to control every aspect of the club.

My issues of Profiles have been largely praised, but I was also taken to task for the featured car in my very second issue. Many of you may remember the response to Tony Ortiz' Pantera with the Ford GT nose and tail. I responded to the complaints; I had a limited number of submissions for feature cars, and for that issue, Tony's car was it. Yet even with that criticism, I still received submissions and felt that I was doing a good job with the magazine.

For the President to tell me that I had "no idea" how to put together a magazine justifiably angered me, and made me wonder how he felt about the readers who actually enjoyed reading my "boring page full of words".

The Board members who disagree with him are badgered and belittled. Josette D'Orazio, who managed the POCA club store, and enjoyed doing it, was treated like a dirty rag and ended up resigning.

Judy McCartney has been accused of not doing her job as Membership Chairperson. My Dad, Judy and I have been accused of trying to destroy the club.

I hope that the majority of the readers will appreciate my decision to resign; Nancy had been a member before she even met me, and felt strongly enough to quit the club over this.

I want to thank everyone who had supported me since I took the position of Profiles Editor; I'm very sorry that it didn't last longer.

