

11/23/2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I am Ross E. Sestak, Director for District 7 of Western Fraternal Life. I am serving my second term as director, and will be retiring effective upon the completion of the Western Fraternal Life and National Mutual Benefit Proposed Merger. As a member of the Board of Directors, I have observed and witnessed improprieties of ethics, immoral standards, and unbecoming quality leadership, presented by both President Van Dyke and CEO Dan Shinnick. As Director, I would not be completing my due diligence and fiduciary responsibilities if these atrocities were not presented for public record.

The following matters will be observations of record as viewed from the eyes of a Director. They will be numerically referenced in no specific order.

1. The approval of merger was not a unanimous decision by the Board of Directors. Furthermore, with Craig Van Dyke moving into the new company with a given job position, his participation in the voting proceedings created a direct conflict of interest and should not have been allowed, regardless of his ability to vote in such matters.
2. The record supplied to the Wisconsin Insurance Commission stated that three of the seven delegate meetings were held in person. This is not true. Six of the seven meetings were held virtually by Zoom. In these meetings, delegates were led to believe that this was the only option by both Mr. Van Dyke and Mr. Shinnick, with the later blatantly calling out members on the District 7 call, saying that if you did not merge with this company, it would be the death of Western Fraternal Life. This is neither morally nor ethically correct.
3. Based on Article 56 of the Western Fraternal Life Bylaws, the Chairman of the Board is expected to oversee all voting practices between national conventions. Allegedly, the Chairman of the Board transferred this power to Craig Van Dyke in a personal meeting, and the Board was not notified of this occurrence, verbally or written, until a much later date. In addition, the Chairman of the Board would not complete the President's evaluation due to the poor performance and scores that the President received from Board members. This evaluation has still not been completed to this day. Such actions raise questions of inappropriate behavior between the Chairman of the Board and the President of Western Fraternal Life, whom has self-titled himself CEO. Nowhere within the Western Fraternal Life's Bylaws do the Delegates to the National Convention elect a CEO, they elect a President.
4. Even though Director Amy Malm presented through the meeting the merger had not been not been approved by the Wisconsin Insurance Commission, the Fraternal Herald produced by Western Fraternal Life blatantly states, "As of January 1, 2021, Western Fraternal Life will be Better Life." Based on the recording of the November 11th, 2020 Hearing, Director Malm asked if the merger had been advertised as completed to the membership (this occurred at 9 minutes and 13 seconds into the meeting). Western Fraternal Life's response was "No, there hasn't been any communication that the merger is complete." However, based on the November 15, 2020 published Fraternal Herald (Volume 124 - No. 11) it states on the front cover "As of January 1, 2021, Western Fraternal Life will be BetterLife." Upon referencing page 4 of the same Fraternal Herald issue, it is stated that "National Mutual Benefit and Western Fraternal Life, two fraternal insurance companies, each with 100+ years protecting members and serving communities, will

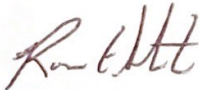
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combine to create one new company. This new company, named BetterLife, will bring the best of both National Mutual Benefit and Western Fraternal Life together to create an organization that will be bigger, stronger, and even more financially secure." If this merger has not been approved by the Wisconsin Insurance Commission, how can this allegation be stated in an ethical and moral mannerism to the members. This falsehood, as directly and unapologetically stated, is representative of how the leadership of Western Fraternal Life has stretched the truth and conveyed likewise falsehoods to members in order to influence their decisions for personal gain. If the leadership is so bold as to allow their company to publish written proof of this inaccuracy after the hearing (as the mentioned Fraternal Herald issue was published November 15, 2020), it shows the sheer disrespect and lack of consideration for the members of Western Fraternal Life and the Wisconsin Insurance Commission.

5. As a board member, it is quite obvious that both Mr. Van Dyke, who will become an officer in the new company (subject to approval), and Mr. Shinnick, who will receive a bonus based on the completion of the merger, as provided by NMB, have operated with all intent for personal gain. This is not an ethical or sound building block of which Western Fraternal Life, a 125-year-old company, was founded on. Our company was founded on our motto, "Truth, Love, and Loyalty."

These are my observations and accounts of the proceedings leading up to the current time. I am ashamed to say that I expect my statements in this letter will bring about retaliation from executives of both companies. Our country was founded upon honesty, integrity, and perseverance. These values have required me to write this statement. It is my hope and plea that the Wisconsin Insurance Commission would take these comments into consideration before allowing such a merger to be completed. I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Ross E. Sestak

District 7 Director

Western Fraternal Life