

Here is something you need to know about before you vote in this year's election for USPA directors.

After the last election in 2018, someone snail mailed a letter anonymously to all the board members and some staff members on Jan 20, 2019 from Atlanta. As soon as the east coast board members received the letter they created traffic on the board email list.

I talked with Gary Peek and asked him to send me a copy of the letter that all these directors were talking about. It would be several more days before I got my letter.

The letter lambasted Mike Mullins. The statements in the letter were true and documented in articles from Skydiving Newsmagazine. The letter did not have citations. The only thing missing from the letter was that Mullins was accused of killing his wife.

At the time, Mullins and Akers had both notified most of the board that they wanted to be USPA president.

Akers had the advantage of having the people that said 'no way on earth I'm voting for Mullins' on his side – regardless if they thought Chuck would be a good president.

The board met on Friday Feb 1, 2019 and was called to order by me – the returning secretary of the executive committee because the president and vice-president were no longer on the board. This is another story that you can read about in my book. The officers were elected and we went on.

I was scheduled to give a short presentation on parliamentary procedures to the full board. I had given this presentation several times to the new board members on the Thursday night before the meeting. This year Ed Scott, the Executive Director, wanted me to present it to the full board.

I had made some hand-written notes about the presentation and left them beside my computer.

The board meeting concludes Sunday Feb 3 afternoon an hour or so before the superbowl starts.

As I was putting my stuff into my knapsack, Chuck Akers approaches me and says he wants me to come across the hallway for a meeting. I asked 'a meeting about what?' He does not really answer the question and just says to come across the hallway.

I go across the hallway to the room that was used for committee meetings. The room had a large oval shaped conference table. The chairs were lush and plush executive chairs that you could rock back in.

I walked into this room and saw the rest of the executive committee (Sherry Butcher, Ray Lallo, Randy Allison, Albert Berchtold), except for Luke who had already left, plus Mike Wadkins and Mike Mullins. I saw 3 people, Allison, Lallo and Wadkins, leaning back in their chairs, elbows on the armrests and fingers steepling. I said to myself – this can't be good what's going on?

Chuck invites me to sit down at the table. I do that. Then he goes on to say this is not USPA business. He said Mike Mullins had something to say to me and these people are here as witnesses for Mullins.

All these people were told and put in place before I was ever told about the meeting. This is NOT due process. At this time I still had no idea on what this was about.

I stood up and said I was going to go get some witnesses for me. By this time most people had left the meeting area and my cell phone did not connect from the basement area we were in. Chuck was tailgating me the entire time and eavesdropping on all the conversations I had. I managed to get Larry Hill to come back to this meeting with me.

I made Chuck restate everything that he had said before in front of Larry. This was not USPA business, Mike Mullins had something to say to me and these other people were here as witnesses for Mullins.

Then Mullins has the floor and accuses me of sending the anonymous letter and DEMANDS that I resign from the board immediately or else he would bring disciplinary actions against me. He also threatened legal action against me.

I was stunned by this accusation. I had absolutely, positively nothing to do with the anonymous letter. Whoever wrote the letter did not do anything wrong either. There was nothing libelous in the letter. Most of the claims had been documented in Skydiving Newsmagazine years earlier.

To answer the question of why Mullins thought I wrote the letter, Mullins pulls out a photograph of my hand written notes for my presentation to the board about parliamentary procedures, given earlier that session. Then he holds up, but does not share, some letter written by a handwriting specialist. The letter claimed that the writer of the notes and the writer of the address that Mullins received were the same person.

The photo of my notes was severely keystone'd. That is when a square gets mapped to a trapezoid. The supposed expert was comparing distorted handwriting to whatever Mullins had sent him for the envelope address.

After about 20 – 30 minutes of Mullins' repeated accusations, repeated threats to bring disciplinary action and repeated threats of legal action, I told Chuck that this is ridiculous. I left the meeting with Larry.

That night was the PIA superbowl party. I told everyone I ran into the story I just told you- after all Chuck said 'it was not USPA business'. There are no confidential issues involved with telling this story.

Some people recognized and said Mullins was toxic for the board.

Other people scoffed at the idea I had sent an anonymous letter - stating that I would sign my name clear, large and proud as John Hancock did. They know me well.

The funniest joke was when a PIA official came up to me and asked for a sample of my handwriting.

What upsets and disturbs me most about this is that several other board members set up and allowed Mullins to bully and threaten me repeatedly in an inquisition type setting. That is not how USPA is supposed to conduct business.

After the meeting only Larry sent me a written description of the meeting. All the other board members never replied to my request.

A few weeks later, I filed a whistleblower complaint to the USPA Administrator. A few weeks after that I got a letter from the USPA lawyer saying that the whistleblower section does not apply to board members, only employees and contractors.

Mullins has been harassing me for 6 years now. Do not vote for him.