



journalnotes

When I read this quote, I thought this is so true about anything we do in life. In both personal decisions and business decisions what we ultimately do will affect future decisions. It would be easy to let this type of thinking so terrify us that we cannot make any decision—which would have its own set of consequences.

A much better solution, when in doubt about any decision, would be to research and listen to the experience of others. This is especially true for managers and board members of community associations, since the outcome of your decisions affect so many. Networking through trade organizations, reading trade journals (one in particular comes to mind), and using the great wealth of knowledge available via the Internet (such as www.flcaj.com), can provide the assurance that those tough decisions will have the best possible outcome.

Simply accepting the lowest bid for a concrete restoration project or believing the paint contractor you hired really has never had an unsatisfied customer would obviously not make sense. At the very least, you should talk to or read about other managers who have done similar projects successfully or even unsuccessfully, check all references,

learn about new and improved methods, and even check for complaints filed with the Better Business Bureau. When so many others are depending on your ability to make the right choice for their safety and for their investment, why would anyone not use the myriad of help available?

And speaking of hard decisions, on page 15, we are announcing the finalists from the many wonderful entries we received in our 2008 *FLCAJ/Becker & Poliakoff* Communities of Excellence Awards. These entries will now go to the appropriate judges to pick this year's winners. It looks as if there are still a few more tough decisions to be made!

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