

Response by CFO Carlos, to the Motion of No Confidence against the current Board filed at the November Business Meeting.

I don't think anyone can deny that this has been a rough year for our organization. For the first time in our history, we have had several existential problems that have proven to be more challenging than anything we have ever encountered. The sudden closure last January was a shock to the system. More shocking, perhaps, was the inexplicable decision by the previous Board to evacuate the premises without waiting until February 5th for the scheduled inspection by the city. Work parties were scheduled to tear everything down, move all the dungeon furniture into the main room, and start packing for an immediate evacuation. During that process, several pieces of dungeon furniture were auctioned off without consulting the membership.

Several Threshold members stepped in and put a halt to the evacuation process, which turned out to be fortunate since the city inspector found no violations. With the assistance of our landlord—who had not been consulted previously—we were able to straighten out our tenancy. This is when I came in. I came out of retirement because rash and unwise decisions were being made, many under a deep and impenetrable shroud of secrecy.

My goal since February has been to normalize and restore our operations. I indicated to the previous Board in early March that, if they would allow me to organize two painting and cleaning parties, we could open for parties starting on March 30th. I was told, "What? Do you have a secret magic wand?" I did not have a secret magic wand, but with the help of Facilities Chair Tom, then-Volunteer Coordinator Cutter, and the cooperation of then-Board member Miguel, we held the cleaning and painting parties, and we actually opened for "business" for Nerdgasm on March 20th. By April, we did a soft open, and then a limited open in May—limited, because we held the erroneous impression that we were restricted to an attendance capacity of 40 people. Lately, the parking situation caused by the adjacent Pot Shop has been a new and difficult problem, as all of you well know.

I ran for CFO in the May election with the purpose of continuing to normalize operations. As a side note, I have served our club as Treasurer in the past, from 2004 to 2006, so the position of CFO was not entirely unfamiliar to me. As those of you who come to our events have seen, we are back in operation as fully as we were a year ago; more so, really, as we have more events now than we did then. Aside from operations, I have been busy taking the oral reports we get from our treasurer at Business Meetings into a written and printable format and filing them in our office, where they are required to be kept. I discovered that hard copies of our financials had not been kept in our office going back more than a year, so I have made it my job to go backwards in time to find and file previous financials. In addition, I took it upon myself to prepare Quarterly Reports going back to January of this year (note that I did not come into my current position until June), these reports being for the purpose of giving context to our monthly financial reports and making it easier to see where we are financially.

The First and Second Quarter reports were devastating, showing losses of about \$9,000. The Second Quarter report was better than the First, since we were fully open in June and revenue was starting to pick up, but revenues didn't really show anything near "normal" until July. As we stand now, we have recuperated the early loss and are now showing a profit for the year.

That profit, and the fact that we are now fully operational, is due to our ability to work together and make good things happen. I do not take away even one bit from our members' amazing contributions in time and effort. But I also give a lot of credit to the current Board. Yes, we bicker. We bicker with passion because we are passionate people who care deeply about our club; and because,

frankly, we disagree on many questions that have to do with Board policies and decisions. This is actually not new in Threshold history. There was a point in time, for example, when the then-Board wanted to make us a PAC (political action organization), around 1992 I believe, and then resigned en masse when the membership said "no". Another time, in the mid-90s, TWO business meetings took place on the same night, each claiming to be the one and only legitimate Business Meeting. So it goes.

Even before June, which is when the current Board's term began, the individuals who form this Board have been immersed in club business. Cutter, in particular, has been busier than any Threshold Board member I have ever known. He has been tireless in recruiting for new events and in researching solutions to many of our problems, including the aforesaid parking situation, the projected bathroom remodel (which is delayed), the proposed switch from Maticide to a different, less toxic disinfectant, our contract with the soda machine suppliers, our contract with the building exterminator service, and many more similar problems.

We have a self-imposed rule: a Board member has to be present at every event held in our club. A Board member has to be there to open, to fill in as Gatekeeper or Dungeon Monitor if someone fails to show, to fill out financial reports on how the Gate did, and then to clean and close out the building. When you show up to a party, the member at the Gate and the Dungeon Monitor have been there since half an hour before the party opened. But the Board member in charge has been there longer than that, in some cases more than an hour before party time, to make sure that:

- The bathroom is clean and stocked
- The rooms have Maticide and paper towels
- The three AC units are on
- The kitchen is clean and supplied with munchies
- The soda machine is working and supplied
- The north emergency exits are unlocked
- The lights and music are on.

The reverse is true at 2 a.m. The Board member in charge has to help clean, and then shut everything down and lock up the building. You get to go home, DMs and Gatekeepers get to go home, but the Board member in charge stays behind. This applies to every party, including those run by our affiliate groups. This is our self-imposed rule. I, personally, am responsible for 5 events (7 this month, because we have some special events).

Since June, we have named a new Dungeon Monitor co-chair, a new Gatekeeper chair, a new Volunteer chair, a new Webmaster, a new Publicity chair, a new Hospitality chair, and a new Submission Editor in Chief. In every case, we have made sure that each of our current chairs have the proper resources to do their job, even to the tiniest detail. We make sure we have paper towels and TP in the house, spare lightbulbs, the correct amount of change (in \$5 dollar bills) in the Gate money boxes, the right forms for Gatekeeper and Membership, ink and toner for the printer, paper for the printer, maps for parking, syrup for the soda machine, etc. I could go on for quite a bit listing the minutia of detail it takes to keep our club running smoothly.

Cutter started the Upkeep parties, in which we, the members, take responsibility for cleaning

our club, thus saving us \$1000 a month that we previously paid for cleaning services. Two of the current Board members have been to every Upkeep party.

Since June, we have added a number of new co-sponsored affiliate parties, which we, of course, staff. We have invited SOAP, Moonburn and MAsT to come back, and—largely from Cutter's outreach to the community—we now have a Men's bondage party, a PRIDE party, a Women's play party and a Women's bondage party, a bondage focused pan-sexual party, a 12-step recovery meeting, and a diversity support group. That is 7 entirely new money-making events that this Board has brought to Threshold.

We are currently in negotiation with a Queer POC organization and a Pet play organization to see about hosting their parties at our clubhouse. This is actually an incredibly interesting and exciting time for Threshold; we are growing in membership and in the number of events—and event types—that we offer.

The current Board may bicker, but we have never let operations slip by the wayside. Nor have we ever failed to support Gatekeepers and DMs at parties. You have seen this—you have seen us. When you come to a party, we are there, and we are working.

I feel that this Board as a whole has done a good job, especially considering the deficits and disorganization we were facing when we first came in. That said, I personally could do very little indeed without the help and support of the membership. Please support us further, by voting against the Motion of No Confidence.

Many thanks.

Carlos, CFO,
The Threshold Society Inc.
cfo@threshold.org

**If you wish to vote on this issue in SUPPORT of the current Board and cannot attend the Business Meeting in January, please email me with a request for a Proxy. I will send you a form that you will then mail back to me (by US Mail) and I will then place your vote on your behalf.

