

DCHA 2020 AGM Secretary's Report

Well it has been quite the year. Major issues seemed to keep cropping up for us Covians and especially for the Board during this past 12 months. We would no sooner deal with one issue than we were being challenged to deal with another. I want to thank and congratulate this Board and especially our President, Kathy Burwell, for handling every challenge with professionalism, empathy, and dedication to the best interests of the residents of our little piece of heaven.

When I took office in September last year, I explained to the members that my husband and I would be travelling a lot during the winter, practising to be snowbirds. This was a change for the Board as for years snowbirds were discouraged from holding an Executive position. A big thank you to June MacGregor and Kathy Bellamy for taking on my secretarial duties while we escaped the cold.

In this electronic age there are many programs and applications available for conducting virtual meetings. We tried using WhatsApp this year for a few of our Board Meetings as well as the GM in January and discovered it has many limitations as do a lot of the programs that are being used for virtual meetings. The expense and time limitations of programs like Zoom and Skype made them unacceptable for our needs. In future we will continue to explore other programs that may make our virtual meetings not only possible, but easy to manage.

Due to Covid restrictions, many changes had to be made as to how we would be able to conduct our AGM. Through hours of reading and researching as well as quizzing many associates and friends who have far more knowledge than I, I advised the Board of my findings and we determined what we felt was the fairest and most reasonable way to hold a meeting for 542 members when only 40 would be allowed to attend. I have learned a lot more about the Society Act, Constitutions and By Laws these past months. Much more than during my 30+ years of past positions I have held in other societies and associations such as Executive Assistant / Secretary / Treasurer / Event Coordinator and President. There is an old saying that a little knowledge is dangerous, hopefully I have passed the dangerous zone and now are just at "proceed with caution".

I am taking on the added responsibility of treasurer until a replacement can be found, BUT only until then. So please if you want to join a great group of hardworking, but incredibly nice and fun-loving volunteers, talk to one of us today. It is just an Excel spreadsheet with very few entries right now because of the Covid lockdown.

Uncle Sam may not need you, BUT the DCHA Board does.

Respectfully, Jacke Palmer

Secretary DCHA