

DCHA 2021 AGM Secretary's Report

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

When I took office in September two years ago, 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. Well, beginning September 1st, we were back on our venture to become snowbirds and will be away from The Cove for most of this winter, providing we can get through the border. Due to our plans, I unfortunately must step down from my position as Secretary on the Board as I do not feel it would be fair to the organization for me to miss so many meetings in person. Electronic attendance has been useful in the past during the pandemic; however, I feel that Board should meet in person if at all possible. In this electronic age there are many programs and applications available for conducting virtual meetings. We used Google Meet for most of our Board Meetings this year, and discovered it too has many limitations as do a lot of the programs that are being used for virtual meetings. The expense and time limits of programs like Zoom and Skype made them unacceptable for our needs. In future I am sure the new Board will continue to explore other programs that may make the virtual meetings not only possible, but easier. I have been elected to take over the Data Management position on the Board when I return to The Cove and I know with Tracy's guidance it is going to be a wonderful new adventure for me and I am looking forward to exploring all the IT opportunities there are.

Due to Covid restrictions, many changes had to be made as to how we would be able to conduct our Board meetings, the GM and 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 50 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". It has been a pleasure working with this great group of hardworking, but incredibly nice and fun-loving volunteers, talk to one of us today. Uncle Sam may not need you, BUT the DCHA Board does.

Respectfully,

Jacke Palmer
Secretary DCHA