

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 19, 2010

Once again Tony DeMont and his RED, WHITE and BLUE TEAM will be out at dawn's early light lining Beardsley Road with American flags to remind us of those who lost their lives serving and defending this fine country. Please join us in honoring those who served and are now yet serving as you join in our Traditional Memorial Day Celebration at the YC on Monday, May 31st at 8 am. Take time to greet our Peoria council member Cathy Carlat, and the Luke Air Force Base Color Guard. Don't forget to call the office to be counted in for free coffee and doughnuts, and to THANK TONY and his volunteers for their patriotic leadership.

Returning volunteers to the Architectural Committee need to be given well-deserved appreciation as Laura Miller once again takes on the chairperson's responsibility and Lois Owen returns as the committee secretary. Thanks also to Dr. Matsuishi who stepped DOWN as the AC Chairperson only to step UP to the position of Board member replacing Vada Bowers.

Starting next month, I am requesting Committee Chairpersons or Liaisons to submit their reports in writing to the office 5 days prior to each monthly Board meeting. The reports will be made available at the YC entrance table along with the meeting agendas. Hopefully, we can shorten our meetings by 20 minutes or so by making these reports available in writing and/or on the website. Any chairperson or Board member wishing to orally discuss an issue or question will, of course, be able to do so.

Probably the most time-consuming discussions for the Board these past two months have been insurance issues. Our community manager, treasurer and president have examined and evaluated policies and found errors, discrepancies and inadequacies as well as double coverage and cost. It has been necessary to seek legal counsel regarding some of these issues in order to assure our residents have adequate but cost effective coverage.

May has been a busy month with Board members attending up to seven meetings. Yet in April I see I was involved in 12 meetings or board related conferences. I know I can speak for all Board members in saying we are dedicated to doing ALL we can to maintaining Ventana Lakes as an attractive, active, cost-effective retirement community. But with the current economic conditions, we are forced to make some really tough decisions regarding cost-reduction. Some of these decisions are bound to make homeowners unhappy.

Yet it is frustrating when we hold open meetings to brainstorm goals, plans, projects and cost-reducing measures, and only one resident attended. His input was readily accepted and has been included with our notes from that meeting. From time to time we hear criticisms that "nobody listens to us" - yet when given the opportunity to SPEAK OUT, it seems there's little interest.

I'd like to remind you that forms are available in the office and online for homeowners to communicate your thoughts, suggestions and concerns to the Board. Responses will be forthcoming by phone, email or Board agenda items.

Unfortunately, I also find it necessary to remind a very few people that there is a Code of Conduct in place which outlines common sense courtesy in how our staff and volunteers should be addressed. Enough said.

Ventana Lakes has received a proclamation from our Peoria Mayor, Bob Barrett, supporting the VL Resolution passed regarding the construction of an additional asphalt plant, and the effects on our air quality. The meeting held here, set up by Board member Joe McCord in his role as liaison, attracted at least 300 residents from nearby Surprise, Coyote Lakes, Sun City West and of course the hosts, Ventana Lakes.

To those of you moving to cooler climates for the summer, travel safely and return refreshed and eager to resume life in Ventana Lakes. Remember to notify the office where you can be reached and who should be contacted in case of an emergency to your home. And to those of you enjoying a "Staycation" stay cool and calm and enjoy summer events here in Ventana Lakes.

Judy Mabie,
Board President