



May 2011 Annual Meeting

Let's Meet at GiGi's!



Election & Installation of 2011-2012 Officers

- **DATE:** SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011
- **SOCIAL AND REFRESHMENTS:**..... 4:00 – 5:00 PM
- **ELECTION & INSTALLATION** APPROXIMATELY 4:15 - 4:30 PM
- **PLACE:** GIGI'S RESTAURANT (PRIVATE ROOM IN BACK)
PASADENA SHOPPING CENTER

Out with the old – In with the new – Annual Meeting at GiGi's

What better way to celebrate the service of our hardworking volunteer officers and to welcome their re-placements than to have a party at GiGi's! We are trying something new this year for our annual meeting, and we hope you will join us at GiGi's on Saturday, June 4, at 4 PM for the election and installation of new officers, and to have some fun along with it. GiGi's will have a pizza assortment in the private room in the back of the restaurant, and a cash bar will be available for those who wish to imbibe. We invite you to meet, mix and mingle and enjoy yourselves. This will be a delicious and fun way to finish our 2010-2011 year. Those who wish to continue the celebration are welcome to stay over and keep the party going.

The election will be our only business – the rest is social and schmoozing. Show your support for the volunteers who work for you and serve in office by honoring them with your attendance and your vote. They will appreciate seeing you and knowing that they have your support. This meeting is the last chance for everyone to get together before the beginning of summer travel. Will you join us there?

NOMINATIONS FOR PGCECG OFFICES

By Karen Dunbar, Chair, Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to offer the following partial slate of officers to serve in 2011-2012. Hopefully the slate will be completed in time for the election on June 4, 2011 (see above article).

- Co-Presidents Olivier Cerf & Bill Israel
- President-Elect TBD
- Vice President TBD
- Corresponding Secretary Susan Cerf
- Recording Secretary Sheila Eveland
- Treasurer Toni Sturm

Call Karen Dunbar at 345-6716 if you wish to serve in office or know of someone you can recommend. As we go to press, there are still some openings for top offices, and we are anxious to find motivated volunteers for important leadership positions.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORIES

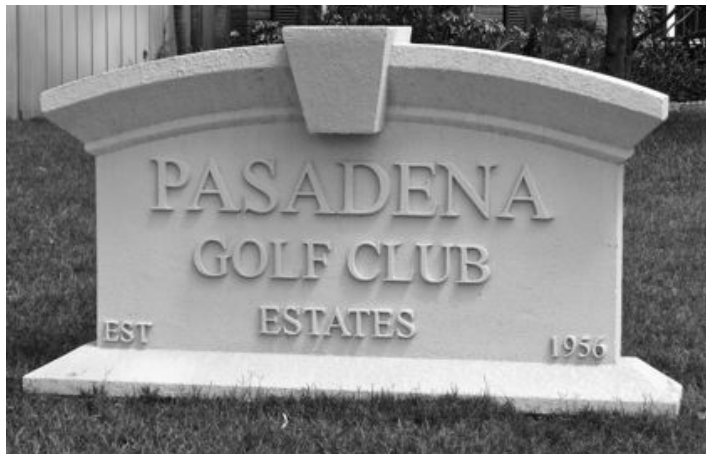
By Bill and Sally Israel

We were later than usual this year, but the new 2011 Neighborhood Directory was mailed on May 6, 2011 to all members in good standing, and it should have reached you by the time you read this.

The directory contains both an alphabetical listing and a listing by street address of every home in Pasadena Golf Club Estates. All residents are listed – both members and non-members – but the directory is sent only to paid members, an advantage of membership. Members are noted with an asterisk in the directory.

We remind you to be respectful of the privacy of everyone in the directory. This directory is for your personal use only. It is copyrighted, and the information in it is not to be used for commercial or business purposes or for any type of solicitation.

Call Sally Israel at 343-1652 if you are a member and did not receive a 2011 directory.

NEW PGCE ENTRANCEWAY SIGNS

Old timers in the neighborhood will recall that entranceway signs once identified this neighborhood as Pasadena Golf Club Estates. Those signs were in the right-of-way of Gulfport Blvd., and they were torn down when that street was widened.

Your Board took the initiative last year to once again identify our neighborhood with entranceway signs at the intersections of Robin Road and Gulfport Blvd., and at Royal Palm and Gulfport Blvd. At the time of this writing, the signs are installed, but have yet to be painted with contrasting earth tone colors and to have a protective border installed, but they should be completed by the time you read this.

Good neighbor Jack Fox volunteered to oversee this sign project, and after more than a year of planning and coordinating with sign vendors and with Pinellas County officials, his efforts are there for you to see and enjoy. Pasadena Golf Club Estates is on the map again. Thanks, Jack!

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY**Tell us what you want us to hear. We are listening!**

The centerfold of this issue is a survey to learn about you and what you want and expect from your neighborhood civic group. Your answers will help us to better serve you in making this community what you want it to be. We will take your answers seriously and use what you tell us in an effort to make PGCE an even better neighborhood in which to live. The results of this survey will be published in a future issue of THE WORD, and will very likely be presented and discussed at a future "Town Hall" meeting.

The Pasadena Golf Club Estates Civic Group has been your neighborhood civic group since 1956. It is a civic association that was formed by the original residents of Pasadena Golf Club Estates for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of this neighborhood and to serve the mutual interests of its residents. It is a civic group, not a homeowners' association, and membership, which is open to all residents, is voluntary. Because most of PGCE is in an unincorporated area with its seat of government located 16 miles away in the Pinellas County Courthouse in Clearwater, the civic group often serves as the intermediary between the residents of PGCE and our "local" government in Clearwater, as well as with the nearby municipal governments of Gulfport and South Pasadena whose actions sometimes have an impact upon PGCE. The civic group has no actual governing authority, but county and city officials have come to respect its representation of the interests of the residents of this unincorporated area, more so when we have a large membership. The civic group is eternally vigilant and responsive to county and city government actions that can affect us. The civic group has served us well over the years as our "first responder" when threats to the neighborhood have developed, and when any important issues arise that are of interest or concern to the residents. An email alert system was established this year to issue timely alerts.

The effectiveness of the PGCECG depends upon wide support of the residents of PGCE. There is strength in numbers, and a large membership provides both the financial resources and the power of representation for addressing and influencing county commission and city hall plans and actions that affect this neighborhood. Your answers to these survey questions will give us the guidance we need to serve you more effectively. Your membership in the PGCECG will ensure that we have a strong voice.

Your responses to this survey will be collected and analyzed without knowing your identity unless you choose to identify yourself. Please be open and honest with your answers. We will take what you have to say seriously. Please talk to us. We are listening!

If you have any questions about this survey, contact Bill Israel at 727-343-1652, or by email at pgcecg@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

You can take the survey online and avoid postage and the trouble of returning a paper copy. Go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PGCECG>

There you can quickly and easily complete the survey and automatically submit it. An email version of this survey was recently sent to all PGCECG residents for whom we have an email address. If you already received and submitted this survey online, do not return this paper survey too. This is not Chicago – you only get to vote once!

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

If you did not receive an email version of this survey, that means we do not have your current email address. Please let us know how to contact you by email so you will be able to receive future neighborhood alerts and other important and timely information. We respect your privacy and will not spam you nor share your email address with anyone – ever! Just send your email address to pgcecg@gmail.com to be added to the PGCE neighborhood alert list.

Pasadena Golf Club Estates Neighborhood Survey - page 1

ABOUT YOU:

How long have you lived in Pasadena Golf Club Estates? (check one)

	less than 5 years	6-15 years	16 or more years
Number of Years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In what section of Pasadena Golf Club Estates do you live? (check one)

- ☐ Royal Palm area (Marion, Renaldo, Dixie, Augusta, Gulfport Blvd.)
- ☐ "Bird" Streets (Robin, Sea Gull, Cardinal, Blue Heron, Mockingbird, Debbie)
- ☐ "Fish" Streets (Dolphin, Sailfish, Pompano & Fairway View)
- ☐ Pelican Creek Village or Royal Palm Condos
- ☐ Premiere Drive area
- ☐ Other (Where?)

OWNERSHIP (check one)

- ☐ I own my home
- ☐ I rent or lease my home

RESIDENCY (check one)

- ☐ I live in PGCE year around
- ☐ I am a part time resident

Are you a member of the Pasadena Golf Club Estates Civic Group? (check one)

- ☐ I am a current member
- ☐ I was a member in the past, but not now.
- ☐ I have never been a member

If you are not a member of the PGCECG, why not? (check only one)

- ☐ I did not know there was a neighborhood civic group
- ☐ I see no value in being a member
- ☐ Neighborhood and homeowner issues do not interest me
- ☐ No one asked me to join
- ☐ Other reasons (please specify)

About the Neighborhood:

This section asks some questions to let us know how you feel about the neighborhood. We will try to address your concerns if you let us know what they are.

How would you describe the overall "atmosphere" of Pasadena Golf Club Estates?

- ☐ Most homes and grounds are well maintained, and this is a beautiful neighborhood
- ☐ A few homes and/or grounds are not well maintained, but overall, this is still a desirable neighborhood
- ☐ Too many homes and/or grounds are poorly maintained - they detract from this being a beautiful neighborhood
- ☐ Other (please comment):

Do you feel like you are part of a neighborhood?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please explain)

Pasadena Golf Club Estates Neighborhood Survey - page 2

Rate the concerns you have about our neighborhood

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned	No Opinion
Speeding, traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime/Vandalism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unkempt yards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Car and boats in yards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads, sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Properties not maintained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoning code not stringent enough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoning code too stringent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoning code not enforced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify any other concerns)				

How are public services in our neighborhood?

	Good	Fair	Poor
Police protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street repair/maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash collection/recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)			

What are the most important areas of interest or concern to the neighborhood that should be addressed by the civic group? (Please check one item in each row)

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not very important	Of no interest to me
Grounds and green space (in public areas)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Garbage collection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zoning Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social activities or events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational and business meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City, county and state actions that affect PGCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there any other issues not listed that are important to you? (please specify)

Pasadena Golf Club Estates Neighborhood Survey - page 3

Is there a county service that is needed but not being provided?

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Civic Group Membership Meetings

MEETING TOPICS:

Which types of meeting programs are of the most interest to you? Please indicate your level of interest for each category. (Please check one item in each row)

	Very Interested	Some Interest	No Interest
Neighborhood issues, concerns, threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational topics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socials & block parties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Government issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Crime Prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seasonal topics (gardening, hurricanes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Political topics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's interests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior's interests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participative - "Town Hall" meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topics of interest not mentioned (please specify)			

MEETING FREQUENCY:

How frequently do you think the PGCECG should schedule general membership meetings?

<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Bimonthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> Only ad hoc when an important issue is at hand
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Some other frequency (please specify)

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MEETING DAY PREFERENCE:

PGCECG General Membership Meetings are normally held on a weeknight. Which night would be most convenient for you to attend?

	Preferred evening	Second Choice	I have a conflict on this night
Monday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pasadena Golf Club Estates Neighborhood Survey - page 4

MEETING LOCATION:

Most of our meetings are held at the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club. We have occasionally met at the Holy Name Catholic Church in Gulfport when we expect a large attendance. We have met in the past at the South Pasadena City Hall. Which of these venues do you prefer. Please rank your choices in order.

	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice
Pasadena Yacht and Country Club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holy Name Catholic Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Pasadena City Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other suggestions for a meeting place? (Please specify)

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

Are there any other ideas you can offer to improve membership and meeting attendance?

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAKE THIS A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD?

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the civic group. Help us make this a great neighborhood.

- ☐ I am willing to serve as an elected officer
- ☐ I am willing to serve as a committee chair
- ☐ I am willing to work on a committee
- ☐ I am willing to help with an occasional project that does not require a continuing commitment
- ☐ I do not care to volunteer at this time

If you wish to volunteer, what is your name and telephone number? _____

Or you may prefer to contact Karen Dunbar at 727-345-6716 to inquire about opportunities to serve.

Separate survey insert from the rest of the newsletter - fold along this dotted line. ↑ Staple or tape to close opposite the fold - mail survey to:



P. O. Box 47593
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-7593

Please affix
44¢
Postage
Stamp

SURVEY

Pasadena Golf Club Estates Civic Group, Inc.
2015 Dolphin Blvd. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33707

POINTS TO PONDER

- “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”
— Aristotle
- “An intellectual snob is someone who can listen to the William Tell Overture and not think of the Lone Ranger.”
— Dan Rather
- “The ability to delude yourself may be an important survival tool.”
— Jane Wagner
- “Where facts are few, experts are many.”
— Donald L. Gannon

ABOUT ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT

By Bill Israel, Guest Editor

Zoning code enforcement is often a hot button issue between the civic group and some of the residents of PGCE. Zoning issues frequently spark emotions and anger from those resisting enforcement and from those demanding it. Some residents believe the zoning laws are too restrictive, and others think they are not restrictive enough. Some residents believe that enforcement of the zoning laws is done too zealously; while others think we are not zealous enough in seeking compliance. The civic group catches flack from someone no matter what it does or does not do about zoning code enforcement. Let me lay out a few facts – **emphasis on facts** – not opinions.

1. Pinellas County has a permitting process and zoning laws that apply to real properties in this county. PGCE is primarily zoned R2 Residential Urban, and certain requirements, restrictions and limitations apply to what you can and cannot do with your property. This code is enforceable by law.
2. The Charter and Bylaws of the PGCECG require the civic group to assist in the enforcement of zoning and building laws in this community. Like it or not, the civic group is duty bound to do this, and it would violate our bylaws not to.
3. Pasadena Golf Club Estates was originally platted with deed restrictions on all building lots. Those court enforceable restrictions were time limited, and they expired in the 1970s. Those deed restrictions were more restrictive than the current county zoning code. There were no scraggly lawns then.
4. Residents may, and sometimes do, apply for variances to deviate from the code, and oftentimes a variance is granted.

Those are the **facts**. Now, let me give you my **opinions** – the way I see it. What follows is an editorial. You may disagree:

1. Most criticism of zoning laws comes from those who see them as a violation of property rights, and that is exactly what they are, and that is what they are designed to do. In a civilized society, especially in an urban area, some restrictions and limitations of property rights may be justified for the common good to prevent incompatible use of property in a particular setting – uses that would change the character of the neighborhood. Most residents would not want to have a garbage dump or an all-night drive-in business next door to their house. Pinellas County zoning laws are intended to provide a

balance between unfettered individual property rights and reasonable restrictions of those rights to have minimum standards that keep a few rotten apples from spoiling the neighborhood.

2. It is in the best interests of the neighborhood for the civic group to seek compliance with the zoning laws. Those laws were purposely designed to maintain reasonable standards. Without them, we could become a “Tobacco Road.”
3. The civic group has repeatedly tried to enforce some of the most flagrant violators without success. I personally witnessed a court hearing where a PGCE homeowner was sentenced to a jail term for failure to comply with a court order to correct code violations. That person spent time in jail for the offense, but that property is still an eyesore to the neighborhood even though it is now technically in compliance with the code. Some people just do not care. This is a tough one!
4. There is a belief among some residents that certain major code violations are deliberately overlooked, and minor ones are pursued too aggressively or not at all. This is not true. It is not the civic group’s policy to discriminate like this.
5. The PGCECG does not make judgments on which violations should be enforced and which ones should be ignored. A violation is a violation, and the PGCECG should not be giving a wink and a nod to some while aggressively enforcing others. Where do you draw the line? We should not be trying to draw those lines. Everyone should be treated equally. Otherwise you get into situations where someone will say, “You let them get away with it. Why pick on me?” There is no defense against that. Still, people with minor violations resent being called on them. They should try to get a variance.
6. Some very attractive structures in PGCE violate the code because of a failure to get a building permit or because they are located within the public right-of-way or within setback limits or in an otherwise prohibited location. Although some of these structures may be beautiful, their beauty should not be the reason for exempting them from compliance. If a good case can be made for a variance, the homeowner should seek that variance and get that building permit before building the structure. It can be costly to comply after-the-fact.
7. Right-of-way non-compliance is the most common zoning violation in PGCE. Many structures or other obstructions are outside the setback limits and too close to the roadway. In a neighborhood without sidewalks, this also presents a safety hazard when a structure at the road’s edge prevents pedestrians from being able to step out of the way of a motor vehicle.
8. The civic group is sometimes inconsistent in tactfully and diplomatically informing property owners of a code violation, of which they may not even be aware, and giving them the opportunity to correct it on their own. Violations should be reported to code enforcement only if residents will not make the correction themselves. But telling people they are doing something wrong, even in a nice way, does not win any popularity contests. Code enforcement is usually a thankless task. Some residents, when politely informed about a violation and are asked to correct it, have reacted in anger and have accused the civic group or the individual who informed them of “meddling.” Sometimes, you just can’t win!



Billy Chamberlain
President

Farewell From Your President

I hope you noticed the new monuments at each entrance to our neighborhood. We used to have entry signs, but they were removed when Gulfport Blvd was widened in 1979. Your board decided it was time to replace them. I hope you are as proud of our neighborhood as I am, and that you like the new entry signs. I want to thank Jack Fox for his many hours and miles to organize and coordinate this entire sign project.

My term is nearly over according to our bylaws. Before I leave this office I would like to say that it has been an honor to serve as your president for the last four years. I look forward to serving on the board of Pasadena Golf Club Estates Civic Group as past president.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at Gigi's on June 4th for the election of my replacement. I invite all of you who have not done so yet to join our Civic Group and get involved.

I would like to thank Erich, Karen, Kathy, Richard, Bill & Sally, Jim, Heidi, Gary, Kay, Rita, and if I left any board or committee member off this list I want to thank you too. I have enjoyed working with this team and look forward to next year under adult leadership.

Remember to be vigilant, be safe, and be a good neighbor.

Billy Chamberlain



Bill Israel,
Guest Editor

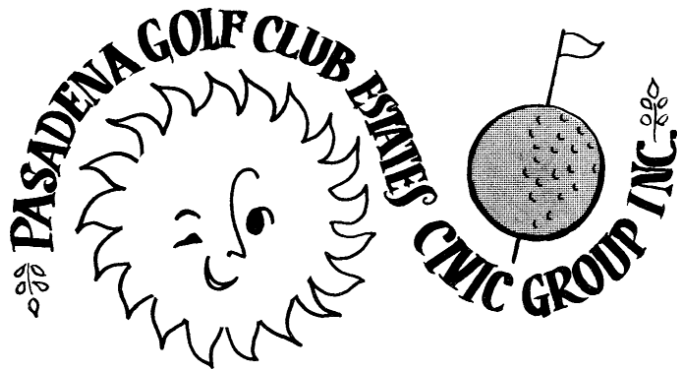
From the Guest Editor's Desk

That photo is from the May 1998 issue when I last retired as your editor, and 42 years after I published the very first issue of The Word in 1969. I returned from the old editors' pasture to graze on this one issue, after which I will happily return the job to Heidi Goldstein.

My temporary return is to publish a neighborhood survey that does not easily lend itself to Heidi's publication software. I urge you to complete this very important survey and return it, so your board will understand what you want and expect from your neighborhood civic group. You will soon elect new officers, and they will want to make the PGCECG better serve your interests and needs. They are listening to you. Speak to them with this survey.

For the new officers, here are the principles I tried to follow when I served as your president in the 1970s and 1980s: 1) Leave your personal agenda at home - you are entrusted to look after the interests of the group, not your own interests. 2) When you speak or write, confirm your facts; tell it like it really is, not the way you want it to be. 3) Keep opinions separated from facts - editorials can be your soapbox. 3) Learn what members want - don't assume you know what is best for them. 4) Present all sides of controversial issues, not just the side you favor - you are responsible to all members, not just those who agree with you. 5) Try to have some fun. Be serious when you need to be, but lighten up when you can.

Good luck to all of you, and thanks for the memories.



P. O. Box 47593 St. Petersburg, Florida 33743-7593

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Officers:

President Bill Chamberlain
President-Elect (vacant)
Vice President Eric Heintzen
Recording Secretary Karen Dunar (Acting)
Corresponding Secretary Karen Dunbar
Treasurer Kathy Woodward
Past President Jim Frische

Committees:

Programs (vacant)
Membership (vacant)
Beautification Karen Dunbar
Community Liaison Sally Israel
Zoning Richard Cooks
Social Coordinator Heidi Bockover-Goldstein
Newsletter Heidi Bockover-Goldstein
Communications (vacant)

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