

John Chatten

Sun City West offers something for everyone, and we feel blessed to be part of this incredible community. My wife, Linda, and I moved here from Minnesota to escape the winters and be near friends. We have been residents for seven years. Our time here has confirmed that we made an excellent choice.

My experience has involved several career paths. I served seven years of active duty in the U.S. Air Force, followed by two years in the reserves. I have managed a petroleum transport business, owned an income tax practice, and was the owner/operator of a small Ford dealership. But most of my career was as a city or county administrator/manager. My degrees in accounting and organizational management and communication serve me well when dealing with personnel, strategic planning, budgeting, human resources, council/board relations and leadership. The opportunity to apply my experiences to make our community an even better place to live and play would be incredible. My desire to give back to my community keeps me focused and I would enjoy serving Sun City West as a Director.

Shortly after moving here, my wife and I attended the TORCH training. It was a positive experience and got us involved in creating the trail brochure currently used. I have also served on a hiring committee and am currently a member of the Sportsman's Club, Bridge Club and Deer Valley Men's Club.

Any successful organization needs to be transparent and accountable. In my past leadership roles, I have kept residents informed and ensured that staff were successful by providing support, while holding them accountable. I would apply those same principles as a Director on the SCW Board. Serving cities and counties as their administrator/manager has given me insight into how most boards and councils operate and what makes a good board member. I believe the most important asset is to keep an open mind. Board members need to consider relevant information as well as staff and resident input before making decisions. I would devote the time necessary to ensure that is accomplished.

We enjoy a community that has maintained its facilities and provided new opportunities as we have adapted to new needs and wants. I would continue to ensure that our facilities are maintained while considering any new proposal that would enhance resident experiences. With an accounting background, I am also keenly interested in ensuring that we spend our money wisely. Budgets need to provide for current needs and plan for our future. They must also consider the fiscal realities of our residents, so we don't increase dues and fees beyond what is needed. Budgets shouldn't increase automatically based on the previous year's budget but on what is justified by departmental needs. I would enjoy being part of that process.

The leadership of our community, over the years, has created one of the top retirement communities in our country. Ensuring that we maintain that status would be my goal.