

John Chattin

My wife, Linda, and I moved here from Minnesota to escape the Minnesota winters and be close to friends. We are now in our eighth year of residency. We feel blessed to be part of this incredible community and 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 served me well when dealing with personnel, strategic planning, budgeting, human resources, council/board relations and leadership.

Shortly after moving here, my wife and I attended the TORCH training. It provided wonderful insights into Sun City West operations. It also made me think about how I could give back to my community. So, last year I ran for the board, only to come up 25 votes short. But when Director Alan Schlemmer resigned in September, I was appointed to serve as a director until the end of this fiscal year. I was also elected as the Governing Board Secretary and appointed as Chair of the Chartered Clubs Committee. My experience, thus far, has been humbling. Being a good Director and committee chair involves intensive study and deliberation. Doing the “right thing” isn’t always obvious. But I have kept an open mind while working with other directors and committee and community members to find the best possible solutions.

I also appreciate that our governing board has worked to provide accurate information online and in print to keep our residents informed. Good information leads to more participation and better outcomes. I will continue to promote those principles as a director on the board.

We enjoy a community that has maintained its facilities and provided new opportunities as we have adapted to new needs and wants. I will continue to ensure that our facilities are maintained while considering any new proposals that would enhance resident experiences. With an accounting and management 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.

The leadership of our community, over the years, has created one of the top retirement communities in our country. But we can’t just accept the status quo. We must strive to improve our community, both for ourselves and for future residents. That is what I hope to accomplish.