

VILLAGE in the Village

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Newsletter | January 2019

Message from the President

A new year is rolling in, and with it a new president, me! I'm excited to work with this year's Board of Directors - and am passionate about the work we do and the impact that ViV makes on our community. I've met so many wonderful people and am inspired every day by the stories you share and the work that you do.

The Village in the Village Board's new President-Elect is Susan Dahle. Having worked as Membership Co-Chair, Susan is very knowledgeable about our members and the work we do.

I'd like to thank Cindy Taylor for being a fabulous president in 2018, and for serving as a willing mentor and role model for me as the president-elect. Her willingness to share knowledge and be inclusive was much appreciated!

I'd also like to thank Chuck Elliott for extending his experience as past president (for several years!). He is continuing to coordinate our new initiative to provide members with valuable educational experiences.

We are so fortunate to have Vicki Dow, Treasurer, overseeing the coffers and providing prudent direction with ViV's money. She has experience working with other non-profit organizations and not only keeps us up-to-date on our finances but is quite knowledgeable about taxes and corresponding (and, for me, baffling!) paperwork.

Carol Levy is doing remarkable work as our Secretary again this year. Her expertise in making meaning of our meeting minutes is much admired; her ability to keep us on track with board member email decisions amazes me!

Laura Smith and Susan Dahle continue to work tirelessly in their roles on the Membership Committee. Lawrence Blank, as the Publicity and Outreach Chair, recently updated our ViV brochure



*Sandy Farley,
ViV President*

and provides deep insight to the working of our organization. Charlene Spiegel coordinates many social events and is always on hand to help with anything we need! Lastly, Judy Salas serves as our member at large and even more importantly coordinates the Music in Our Homes experiences and New Member Wine and Cheese affairs throughout the year.

When you see these lovely people at events, please acknowledge their tireless work at keeping ViV up and running!

2019 ushers in the 5th Anniversary of ViV! Be looking for more information about our extra special event in the fall to recognize this milestone year! I also plan to continue the outreach Cindy began with other Villages around New Mexico. By networking, sharing ideas, and encouraging each other, we will be a stronger Village! We are also exploring building our existing Donor and Sponsorship Program and developing a sustainable strategy that will result in increased funding and public awareness of ViV. We expect to be busy and would like to encourage anyone interested in working with us to reach out to me or any of our illustrious board members.

My husband, Arnold, and I wish you a great New Year full of peace, joy and health!

2019 ViV Board Members

*Sandy Farley, President
Susan Dahle, President-Elect
Vicki Dow, Treasurer
Carol Levy, Secretary
Lawrence Blank
Charles Elliott
Judy Salas
Laura Smith
Charlene Spiegel
Cindy Taylor*

Presentation by CFD Provided Important Safety Reminders

In October, we hosted a special volunteer training presentation from Corrales Fire Department's Chief Anthony Martinez and Commander Tanya Lattin. They covered topics such as what to do if someone seems ill, confused, or doesn't answer their door; emergency procedures; and they spent time answering many questions from our members and volunteers.

They gave everyone several important reminders:

- Be sure your medical information is easily accessible to first responders in both your home and in your vehicle. Critical information includes: current medications, emergency contacts, and medical history.
- Check your home for fall hazards like rugs and power cables. Make modifications to reduce the risk of falls, such as installing grab bars or toilet seat risers.
- Replace your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries semiannually.

We appreciate the efforts of CFD to not only help us during emergencies, but also for informing us of ways to prevent them. Our next volunteer training is being planned for this spring.

Our Communications Survey Results Are In!

In November, we sent out an email survey to gather more information about our members' communication preferences. With a 40% return rate, we gained valuable insight into what is working well and what we can improve upon. For example, we implemented our monthly events calendar because 91% of the respondents expressed interest! Some of the results are listed below.

- 96% find our emails easy to read
- 83% believe the frequency of our emails is just right
- 82% are satisfied with our current newsletter format

As events continue to increase in popularity, it may be necessary from time to time to limit the number of attendees due to space constraints—be sure to RSVP to our event emails as soon as possible to reserve your place!

Thank you for providing us with your feedback so we can make decisions that will best serve your needs! If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Sarah at corrales.viv@gmail.com.



Please Welcome Our New Members!

Julia & Curtis Broughton
Meg Chapman
MaryAnn Garcia
Paula & Joe Gurule
Jessica Hough
Leo Cafferty
Maureen Cafferty
Elizabeth & Marcos Madrid
Andy Paquet

In Memoriam

Dr. William Buss

Little-Known Benefits for Veterans and Their Spouses

As a Vet, have you heard of "Non-Service Connected Improved Pension Benefit (Aid and Attendance)?" Or "Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?" Or think you might be eligible for health care benefits but don't know the process or questions to ask? The American Patriot Service Corp (APSC) is a non-profit corporation established by Veterans to assist military Veterans and their families in applying for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. They are dedicated to providing guidance and assistance, and will assist with your forms and application for benefits. Their services are free, as APSC is funded exclusively by donations and membership fees. For more information, go to their website: www.apscnp.org or call 505-702-8027. It's never too late!

Scam Stories *An Ongoing Series by Bill Aki*

As we all know, scamming is a nationwide problem. Yet in the past couple years, there have been some unique scam attempts reported by ViV members. Whether it is a specific effort toward Corralenos and/or seniors is uncertain. We begin an ongoing project to share these stories, so you can clearly recognize them and not fall victim.

ViV Member Story:

At the time, DIRECTV had a promotional commercial on TV concerning a change in channels and connections. The person identified themselves as a representative of DIRECTV and informed the member that something had to be done with the connection. The member assumed it was legitimately something to do with the advertised notification, then asked if there was an expense associated with this change. The member was told "No," but there would be a deposit required, and if a credit card number was provided, there would be a reimbursement the next month. The member then provided the credit card number and associated information.

Subsequent to this, there was an unrelated conversation with that person's banker in which the incident was recounted. The banker said they deal with DIRECTV too, and that they were not doing anything like that now. That it sounded like a scam. A call to DIRECTV verified they were not conducting any such business. The member further investigated, finding a charge for the deposit amount, not listed as DIRECTV, but rather from someplace in India. The charge was negated by the credit card company and a new account number was issued.

Months later, the member received another call from someone claiming to represent DIRECTV. The person stated that a new satellite was going to be put up, and that the member would temporarily lose reception. This person then asked permission to come to the home to adjust the equipment. Again, there was the claim that the owner would not have to pay any money. Our member responded that they had been scammed before by someone supposedly representing DIRECTV, and that access would not be allowed unless the person showing up had clear identification and a phone number so as to call and verify. The caller said that would not be a problem, but the member eventually said "No" and hung up. A follow-up call to DIRECTV revealed there was no new satellite going up and that this report would be given to their consumer relations department.

Very recently, our member received a phone call stating, "I'm calling from Medicare." That reading from the member's record, "I see you have arthritis in the hip and knee." Our person cut it short by saying, "I don't trust any call I didn't initiate," and hung up the phone. Again, a follow-up call to Medicare revealed they would never conduct themselves in that manner. This member does not have Caller ID.

Stay tuned, as we will feature more of our members' Scam Stories in the next newsletter!

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