

## Susanne's President Farewell

"The purposes of the Chino Hills 55+ Club include promoting fellowship and companionship among and for its members; offering the opportunity to participate in community service and charitable projects; providing entertainment, recreational, and travel opportunities; and providing a mutually supportive atmosphere of social exchange within its membership."

When I joined 55+ Club, I was looking for a book club. Never in my wildest dreams did I think it would lead to being President let alone on the Board. When Brett first approached me, I declined, but not once but twice. Last October I informed the Board that I would be stepping down and making room for new leadership. That said, I have stated I believed in term limits. I have jokingly said, being on the Board isn't a life-time commitment, it just seems that way. In reality it is like that of a political Presidential position. If the public is pleased with the term first term performance, the public will give the candidate a chance at an additional term. For the most part, they may be happy. By year six, mid second term, they will still tolerate you as interest begins to wane while they look forward to new governance. By eight years, well, please move on and don't let the door hit you on the way out. So, here we are, ending year six and I'm bowing out before you escort me out with the shepherd hook.

What a ride we've had together. Many thanks to Bob Williams, Brett Benson, Jane DeFrank and Dona Mosely who mentored me during my transition. These Board members mentored me, accepted my ideas and determination to try to fulfill our Club mission statement and purpose.

I've spent the last few weeks reviewing files and some of our historical documents. As a demographic group we were 6% of the overall City population. Our Club was so young and desperately needed growth and stability. We've experience various ways to be self-sustaining. Some methods were embraced, some not so much. We used various fundraising methods: selling club shirts, face masks, fining members \$.25 for forgetting their badges, 50-50, lunches for \$4.00, Quarter-mania, Book sales through Book Club, various restaurant fundraisers and a Wine Tasting with silent auction for the Military Service Monument.

Many thanks to Sharon Stuewe, Gloria Grotefend and Shirley Kondek who assist in providing Club information through various types of media information, and to Marianne Napoles who has generously covered our Club events and interests and informational pieces.

We took on Special Events when the Community Center no longer offered excursions including heading to Santa Anita Racetrack, Bower's Museum for the mummy exhibit, Olivera Street, the Fashion District, the Grammy Museum, the Nixon Library for the First Lady dresses and later the Apollo exhibit, as well as Riley's Farm.

And we created tremendous opportunities for our members an establish avenues for the 55+ Club as an important part of the Chino Hills community. Initially through Brett Benson several members worked on L.A. County Fair. We cold called organizations to be a part of the Parade and celebrate Chino Hills Day at the Fair. The benefit for us was to be an active part of the parade showing that a "senior" organization can be active and fun. Our Club members have actively volunteered with for Chino Hills Foundation

during the Home Tours working as Docents, serving and being security staff at the Wine Walk. In 2016 we began to assist the Fire Department wrapping presents for their Make a Child Smile campaign. In 2017 we volunteered at Chino Hills first Jazz & Blues Festival, again in 2018 and the summer series in 2019. Club members shared their own craft interests offered to children at the Kids Art Appreciation Day. Some of us loved it, some of us needed a glass of wine after.

And most importantly, we have achieved our goal to make a difference in our community. Our Veteran group also participated in volunteering their time speaking at various schools about their experiences in the military.

In 2016 our Club voted to provide an annual charitable donation to Caring for the Hills. Many thanks to those who brought in canned donations. Special thanks to Donna and Ron Forbes who purchased many requested items and additional gift cards.

In 2019, Frances Downs brought Adopt-a-Family to the Club's attention. Many thanks to all of you who have made this a successful campaign especially during 2020 when we couldn't meet in person. Many thanks for Frances for her leadership.

Bingo was established in 2016 celebrates its anniversary in March. Thanks to Jane DeFrank who did the heavy lifting with the City and Dona Mosely for picking up the pieces when the previous president and her team left. Chino Hills 55+ Club Bingo was established to provide not only Seniors but adults of all ages a fun social venue and assist the Club as an avenue for us to provide charitable "goodworks" to other 501(c)(3) organizations.

Through Bingo we have made donations to several 501(c)(3) organizations within Chino Valley, and our Monument Fund. Many thanks to all our Club members who have faithfully volunteered weekly by setting up, selling games, working the canteen, playing Bingo and assisting with breaking down and storing equipment. We couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to George DeFrank for stepping up after Dona's departure and for your leadership skills that have made Bingo stable and a success. Special acknowledgment for Brett Benson's impromptu marketing skills which helped us push over the edge to profit on those early weeks with minimal players and getting the word out. We were delighted to be solvent and have the ability to make our 1<sup>st</sup> Charitable Contributions in December 2017.

Our Veteran Group is small, however, joining with the 55+ Club members, we preserved and succeeded to have the Monument placed in a visible serene area within the Community Center. It was Brett's foresight not to simply have a memorial, but a perpetual monument to honor those who served, are serving and will serve in the future. We raised over \$60,000, erected and dedicated a beautiful Military Service Monument in the space of 3 ½ years without assistance from any large corporations. It was an exceptional feat and brought attention and respect from the city and community.

Chino Hills 55+ Club has become a supportive and a relied upon ally to within the community. We are the Adult group that comes to mind when volunteerism and marketing is needed. Our Chino Hills 55+ Club has received multiple accolades. Unfortunately, we don't have a dedicated area display area within the Community Center. Because we are unable to see these beautiful proclamations, I have decided to list them. The Club has received Certificates of Recognition from Supervisor Curt Hagman, State of California Senate, California Legislature Assembly, City of Chino Hills, Chino Valley Fire District Board of Directors, Chino Valley Fire Foundation, San Bernardino Inland Empire Utility Agency, Chino Valley

Unified School District. The Champion Newspaper Reader' Choice has nominated Chino Hills 55+ Bingo, Best Bingo 2017-2019. Congratulations to all of us. Give yourself a hand.

We've come a long way and have so much to be proud of. Our goal is to continue to succeed and grow our Club. I'm proud in the areas in which we have succeeded.

I started this talk with demographics and want to spend a few minutes on the following statistics.

The 2019 statistics:

2019	Percentage	Projected 2024	Percentage	Change
55-64	13.9%	55-64	13.0%	-.9%
65-74	7.5%	65-74	9.1%	+1.6%
75-84	2.6%	75-84	3.6%	+1.0%
85+	0.3%	85+	0.9%	+.6%

As a Club we have some opportunities for continued growth. Our City population is over 40% Asian. We currently compete with 3 other Active Adult Asian Clubs. The City also has a huge market of Vietnam Veterans, much higher than the average city. As you look at these statistics, we have great opportunity to move forward and grow part of the senior market as members of our Club. The potential membership increase is within 65-84 age range. It's not for me to determine how we move forward. That will be the role of the new president and Board and all of us as Club members. That is why I began my talk with the Club's mission and social statement. We've made a great start and with continued focus we have ample opportunity to expand and grow as a Club.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your President of Chino Hills 55+ Club. There are so many of you that I need to thank, so many behind the scenes. Even if I didn't mention your name, know that I know who you are and what you do. I am truly thankful. Many thanks to those who have served on the Board during my tenure, Bob Williams, Brett Benson, Dona Mosely, Tessie Lightholder, Jane DeFrank, Renee Sylvia, Gail Smith, Maria Galvin-Gonzales, Judy Klecansky, Sharon Stuewe and Melba Aranda.

I came into office during a turbulent time within our Club and I am leaving under the COVID shut down with meeting challenges under which we have no control. And for that, I'm truly sorry. I know I am leaving the Club in excellent hands and look forward to my new consultant role and having a chance to just enjoy the monthly meetings. My sincere congratulations to our newly elected President and Treasurer.

Thank you.

Susanne Anderson  
Outgoing President, Chino Hills 55+ Club  
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