

4488 SE JERRY DRIVE, PRINEVILLE, OR 97754

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**MAY 2016** 

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

--We are beginning the process of preparing for the annual meeting. (Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm, Meadow Lakes Golf Club). With two long tenured directors stepping aside this year we have those positions to fill. And thanks to our at-large program, this will be the first time we'll have candidates with substantial board work experience who could rather seamlessly, step into those spots. Those not familiar with day to day board responsibilities cannot imagine how beneficial that prospect is.

And because of the growing number of people attending our board meetings, we often find ourselves short on chairs so we are ordering more.

Major topics being discussed now include:

- --In accordance with a long standing board commitment, we are giving thought to beginning our replacement of standard water meters with backflow versions
- --With our treasurer, Larry Willis' conversion of our financial system to a "cloud based" Quick Books Pro software program, changing our fiscal year from May to May, to Jan to Jan is being discussed. At this moment, Larry does not want to pursue that idea, but a motion to do so may be offered at the annual meeting. There is nothing difficult about the concept, but we will have to make changes to the by-laws.
- --Changing financial institutions: In spite of a sincere and passionate plea from one of our HDE residents to move our checking and savings accounts from Chase Bank to a local Credit Union, the board sees no advantage, and much work for the HOA to make such a change. There is more than meets the eye to changing financial institutions. We have automatic withdrawals, online bill paying, and a few other complications. Therefore, the board has voted unanimously to leave the accounts at Chase Bank.

We are not limiting our thoughts similarly however to our search for investment opportunities. We are comparing options and CD rates from several banks and local credit unions. --Article XII of our CC&Rs states "No firearms are to be discharged within High Desert Estates Subdivision". Since there is no penalty specified, the board, along with our attorney, has drafted a resolution describing penalties for any violation of this rule. That resolution will be distributed via our water bill mailing, but the document will not be ready for distribution until our next newsletter.

--FYI...Much concern has been expressed about the large blue storage containers recently put on a lot here in HDE. **The board considers all such containers to be in violation of our CC&Rs** and we are looking for the most effective and expedient way to deal with this particular issue.

-It's probably inappropriate for me to "support" any particular person(s) for a director position. But it's not inappropriate to share my assessment of how atlarge members have participated with board work this past year. Al Roth in particular comes to mind. Attentive, obviously interested in the best for the HOA, willing to work and do research, highly detailed, much computer knowledge and skill are attributes I and other board members as well, observed. I hope he will allow himself to be nominated. Larry Willis, although not officially an atlarge member, spoke up immediately when he became aware that Dorothy Wills' home situation required that she be relieved of her Treasurer duties. The work fits Larry perfectly: his accounting background, computer and analytical skills and knowledge, high attention to detail are some of his many attributes. I also hope he will allow himself to be nominated.

Board meetings all year long have benefited from our water testing manager Diane Dendy, with spouse Allen, as well as Karlene Richmond and Jerri Muir in regular attendance. I hope all will accept positions on our at-large team.

Al Phillips, president