

Nita Smith bio for POA Board

Graduating from UT Austin with a BA, I later went back and got a Master's Degree. I taught for over 25 years in public high schools. I co-founded an educational publishing company and wrote test prep materials for AP and state level tests. Then, I sold the company, retired, and moved to the Island to enjoy the beach. I have participated in Billy Sandifer Beach cleanups, rescued cold-stunned sea turtles, and served on the Island United Political Action Committee and on the POA Canals Committee.

I am honest and an independent thinker who believes in analyzing problems, getting input from people with expertise, and then coming up with practical solutions. My patience, a willingness to listen and learn from other people, and a sense of humor will all help me in working with other board members and all members of our community, as would my willingness to admit when I am wrong [a rare occurrence ☺], to apologize, and to learn from my mistakes.

With over 5,000 members, the POA is lucky to have people with knowledge in many areas, and many of these people are willing to donate their time and knowledge to help the POA. I learned this while being chair of the now defunct Canals Committee. When I asked for volunteers, engineers, licensed boat captains, and long-time residents with knowledge of our canals... all stepped forward to help.

Utilizing the skills and knowledge of our large membership through the establishment of multiple, permanent committees would be one of my main goals.

Teaching English and Social Studies in public high schools taught me the importance of having set rules and procedures that are clearly stated and enforced fairly. I would work with the other board members to go through the Board Policy and Procedure manual and make sure that it is up to date, and then follow it. This would also provide continuity from year to year, as board members come and go.

Similarly, I would work with the board and employees to come up with an employee handbook to clearly set forth the duties and expectations for each office employee position. This handbook would help smooth transitions as office personnel come and go. Finding, training, and keeping good office personnel would help an organization of our size run smoothly and efficiently.

I first bought a house here in 2005, and I was a part-timer/weekender until I moved here permanently in 2007, so I have experienced both types of "residency" that we have here...and the different outlooks each type of residency brings with it. I have also seen the periods of explosive growth and changes that have occurred over the last 15 years, which provides me with a different perspective than someone who has recently moved here [a perspective that is not better, not worse, just different].

Lastly, I would work to make sure that year-to-date financial statements are available and updated each month, so every member can see at a glance what their CAM fees are being spent on throughout the year.

Questions and comments are welcomed. Contact me at: nitahsmith@gmail.com