

Joy M. Barron



Areas of expertise:

I am an organizer/coordinator at heart - and enjoy working with groups to achieve common goals.

I was a teacher by occupation and experience - and spent numerous years supervising other teachers and working with them to make the educational process more effective.

Why am I interested in serving on the board?

I have watched the desert cities bridge clubs over the last few years go through some strenuous growing pains as a wide variety of directors attempt to get their place in the sun.

We have an abundance of players at all levels of skill - and I would like to see the clubs be competitive, but cooperative, in the mutual effort of growing the game in our valley. Instead of scheduling competing programs of instruction - work together to provide the full spectrum needed for every level of skill.

If we can work together in a cooperative effort, we can see our players develop basic skills to more advanced skills and at the same time get the social and intellectual rewards for which they are searching.

Zigi Braverman



Areas of expertise:

Ph.D. in Germanic Philology (Historical Linguistics)

Language skills: Fluent in English, German, Spanish and French

Why interested in serving on the Board:

I love to play Bridge, enjoy meeting other players and appreciate the work the Board and the Clubs are doing.

I can contribute and be of assistance.

Bonnie Sipkins



Areas of Expertise: I have a Master's Degree in Business Communications, and therefore am familiar with advertising, public relations, marketing and strategic planning.

My 30-year career consisted of development and fundraising for the largest public radio station in the country, Minnesota Public Radio. I raised funds from the business community for MPR's programs and spent two years working with Garrison Keillor on Prairie Home Companion. I managed all marketing promotions between the program and its national sponsors.

I also was the Membership and Development Director for a public affairs nonprofit, The Citizens League, which is a nonpartisan organization.

I was hired as a consultant to a funding recipient of the Northwest Area Foundation. My role was to assist the board of directors on a sensitive issue. I also was a consultant to PRI (formerly American Public Radio) and its national producers.

In addition, I spent many years giving back to the Minneapolis-St Paul community by serving on nonprofit boards of directors, committees and task forces.

After my years of paid employment I started a business, SIP-NET, community relations strategies and connections. My clients included a Fortune 500 computer company, nationally recognized accounting and law firms, and individual executives. In some cases, I worked in their branch offices, including New York City and Seattle, Washington. As a result of my unique business, I was featured in several local business magazines and the Star Tribune.

Interest in serving on the UNIT 533 Board of Directors:

My husband and I spend seven months in Palm Springs. In addition to playing bridge, golf and taking classes (Spanish and Literature), I am very active physically (spinning, biking and gym work).

I have decided to participate in the desert community by contributing my expertise and energy. While playing bridge is very enjoyable, I'm looking for an opportunity to participate on a leadership board. Providing time and energy to the community is a very meaningful part of my life. Since I have learned more about the Unit's Board of Directors and its activities, I hope to be considered as a candidate.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.