

Hi. I am Diane Ruggiero and I know that many of you do not know me – and I am asking you to consider me for a position on The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club Board of Directors anyway. Why?

I'm the type of person who becomes passionate about a hobby, sport, or interest I enjoy, and I have become passionate about Bridge over the past few years due in large part to the way that the VDBC is operated. I am impressed with the people, the caring & kindness, the competition and the respect that members show to each other – and quite frankly, I would like to be a bigger part of it.

The Club has a long, long history dating back to its founding in 1986 and has grown from a few individuals to over 3,000 members – the second largest bridge club in the nation. And it takes serious leadership and stewardship for that to have happened. I would like to be a part of the future growth of the Club.

With so many new people moving to The Villages, many of whom will want to learn (or continue) playing bridge, I am sure there is a huge potential for more growth, more members, more friendships and more bridge! While I might not have a long history with the Club, I am desirous of, and confident that I can, contribute to the future of the Club. There's much to be done to keep this wonderful Club going long into the future, such as: attracting new members from the ever expanding Villages; teaching new members about the game of bridge; finding adequate locations to accommodate the growth; find new Directors to oversee all of the new games and locations – just to mention a few new challenges (opportunities!). And let's not overlook, recognizing and celebrating the grand tradition of this Club.

I have a tremendous amount of experience with organizational development, growth, and boards. In fact, I spent my 35-year career managing associations and Boards of Directors. I have served on many types of Boards over the years, such as Bank boards, Red Cross boards, homeowner association boards, hospital boards, economic development boards and foundations boards. Over the past 5 years in my consulting work, I have trained committees and Boards of Directors and have conducted leadership training programs across the county. I understand how boards operate and the role of the Director, including; the need to work together to remain forward focused while always being open minded about change; the need to continue to develop new leaders all the time so that an organization lives on long into the future; and most important, the responsibility of meeting the needs of the members in an ethical, transparent and fiscally responsible manner.

I have been playing Bridge in The Villages since I arrived 4 years ago, and although I was still working, I made sure that there was time to play bridge. I have taken lessons from some of the Masters (thanks Janet!) and I have met so many friends in a short time. I recently joined the Mentor/Mentee program (thanks Bob!) and have received much from this great Club. I want to make sure The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club is still around for my grandchildren when they decided to settle here in 50 years and I'd like to be a part of the continuing growth that the many leaders before me have put in motion.

I very much appreciate having met many of you and would be honored to serve as a Director on the Board of The Villages Duplicate Bridge Club. Thank you for your consideration – and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the years ahead.