

**7/2/22**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - LAURIE**

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Well, it's time to say goodbye. I'm so sorry to not be here today, but I've contacted COVID and am terribly congested, amongst other symptoms, so someone else will read this for me. What an interesting three years and 21 days this has been! I was a Vice President in a community of over 1,300 homes that didn't present the challenges that this community of 306 homes did.

The electric upgrade has been the standing issue from the beginning and it'll be the main issue after I'm retired until the last pedestal is pulled. From the faulty wiring, to things being overloaded, and to the threat of the park being closed down until we upgraded ourselves. This Board was most concerned with safety and the possible closing of the park. It was a no brainer. We didn't want any death or destruction on our hands or in our memories. This had to be done. SDCEA made promises throughout this process they didn't always keep which reflected negatively upon the Board, but it got done. We argued for what we thought was right, not always achieving what we desired. But we could not have done this without the awesome support of ALTITUDE LAW. They guided us and made sure SDCEA did their fair share and kept us in line.

Every Board member, I pray, joins this Board with the intention of making this community a better place for all. Not joining it out of anger, but out of concern for their fellow man. You don't realize until you join, how much work is truly involved when becoming a Board member, that is, if you're a real working member. You're responsible not only for the basics of their lives like the basics of water, electric and sewer and the very important folks that maintain those services, as well as our office staff, and grounds people as well, and of course, the money of the people and the park. You'll be educated in areas you never thought you'd learn about in your life! But as far as spending goes, you must be so careful. This place is old, everything needs fixed, and there's only so much to go around. For awhile, there wasn't enough thought given to putting money away for fixing things that will age; and dues were not raised accordingly. This Board comes into play and things break all at once and we need money, not just from you, but from ourselves. Leaks, bats, the bridge, water tanks, wells, I could go on. It takes planning and budgeting and can't always be accomplished in one year. Yes, it hurts to ask, it hurts worse to pay.

So please understand, when a Board asks for a raise in your dues, it isn't fun and it isn't punishment. It's serious business. And yes, we're paying too. Some of us are also on a limited income. Let's not forget, you all have the right to be involved and rightly should be, but sadly, most aren't involved. If you want to see your Chateau maintained, we all must pay and plan accordingly. We must be involved and be aware. If we don't maintain this place, it'll crumble and go away.

In closing, I want to thank those who voted for me, and for those who voted for the awesome Board that I was so honored to work with, including Denise, Colee and Brady. And, I want to thank those who challenged me. This was not an easy job, especially the last 18 months or so. I could go on about other lessons we've learned, our accomplishments, or mistakes, but I will save that for another time, literally. I'm quite thankful to have had this position, to have been of service to all of you, to have learned and grown, about this community and myself. My departure is bittersweet, but it's time for a break. The friendships I've made, are for a lifetime. I wish the new Board all the luck in the world with their upcoming challenges and endeavors. To the membership, please, be kind and patient with the Board. Especially the new Board has a lot of new members and will be learning for quite awhile. For the new Board, always treat the membership with care, concern, and discretion, and most importantly, keep an open mind. Be willing to hear an opposing view, you might be surprised how you can be enlightened. With this advice in mind and you listening to the experienced Board members, and, of course, asking for advice or about their experiences, you'll do just fine! Heck, you'll do just fine anyway! Good luck!

Thank you! And I'm sure I'll see you around.... once I heal up.

Laurie Bechert  
President  
CCOA Board of Managers