

Filing Board Members Shared Practices

As you may know, I was the Phoenix Valley of the Sun Chapter president for the last 8 years until taking the Intermountain Area VP job. That left the Phoenix chapter presidency open.

About 6 years ago, for the annual board planning meeting and chapter paid luncheon in January, I invited 3 or 4 couples who had been faithful to the luncheons and seemed to be of leadership blood. Inviting newer, younger retirees (as our membership ages) was also a goal. Single were not ruled out, but if you have both spouses on board, even if only one actually participates, you have a stronger bond to the chapter. My invite to them was that - although they were not official elected board members - we as a board needed to broaden our “idea pool” for planning. I promised to not underhandedly twist their arms

into filling a board position. It was not a trick. 😊 We called them “Associate Board Members”. They were included in all the board planning meeting minutes, and chapter management communications, etc. throughout the year. From that, it was my hope we could cultivate interest so a raised hand or two would be a source of leadership for years to come. Some stayed on-some didn’t; each year we added replacements. In my estimation, some will be excellent officers in the future (when they quit taking 6 cruises a year – ha). We have filled at least two positions this way. Currently, we think Phoenix has an excellent candidate for president who has indicated he has an interest. The only issue is that he, too, is a newer retiree and has a VERY full year in 2025 “acting” retired. But says he may take the job come January 2026. In the meantime, the existing board has a good foundation to keep it strong – sans president.

Thanks,

Sel Larsen