



# LAKE ADVENTURE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### NOMINATION APPLICATION

#### SECTION A-NOMINEE

Donna Grzybowski

#### SECTION B-QUALIFICATIONS

Nine years as a board member for LACA, 39 years of management experiences in the field of education and 10 years as a practicing therapist in a community mental health and substance abuse clinic.

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING: BA Elementary Education, MA Counseling Psychology, Educational Supervisor Certificate, Community Institute Training, LACA Board member, currently serving as Secretary, previously as Treasurer and Vice President. As an educator for 39 years, I served as principal for a Pre-K-8 Elementary and Middle School, responsible for supervising over 1000 students and close to 200 staff members, created and developed the concepts for school wide initiatives in accordance with state mandates, provided training for teachers and support staff, served as lead administrator for school turnaround, wrote grants, budgeted funds, created and oversaw educational extended programs based upon data analysis and school needs, and managed a multi-million dollar budget both in school as well as LACA.

OTHER My experiences in the densely populated Hudson County Schools district in which the overwhelming number of immigrant families were at or below the poverty level included solving problems associated with racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity, as well as structural and cultural challenges both in the classrooms and the community. As a result, I had to find academically and socially sound, creative ways in which to ensure an educational environment that would foster success for all students and assist the parents as well.

#### SECTION C-FORMAL STATEMENTS

1. What do you believe your responsibilities would be as a Board Member? The role of a board member is to responsibly oversee all of the community's operations in order to maintain and improve the quality of life for all members. It is not to micromanage, but rather to work in cooperation with community managers, other board members and property owners. A board member should work to assist community managers in complying with government documents, maintaining the common areas, managing the budget, following the fiduciary and business judgement rules in which a board member is charged with making rational informed decisions in good faith without partiality to personal interests or personal favors. Right decisions are not always the easy decisions and board members should strive to adopt and enforce rules and pursue claims and rights for the individual site owners with respect to the entire community.
2. What are your major strengths? The nature of my careers as an educator and therapist has enabled me to develop strengths that foster community leadership. These would include my commitment and passion to the community, my innate ability to inspire others, and an ability to be creative and innovative by thinking outside the box. An example in point-the pandemic forced the board to either develop a plan in which to open up the season safely and in accordance with CDC rules or be forced to shut down. I created a core plan for opening the pool safely and then worked in conjunction with the other board members and community managers to tweak and implement. Due to the ever changing nature of the virus, the board had the task of making changes to the original plan of action as circumstances dictated which oftentimes involved quick thinking so as to ensure a safe and smooth transition for property owners, staff and managers.
3. What are your suggestions for improving LACA? Since rejoining the board three years ago, there have been constant improvements, especially to the infrastructure. But no matter how well a community is running, there is always room for improvement. Persistent water, sewer, sanitation and electrical challenges are always present so continued review and planning must be an ongoing reality. With our population growing, efforts must be made to ensure that everyone works to be a good neighbor by following the rules and regulations established to provide for the safety and well being of *all* of our community members. As board members, it is our responsibility to provide a security team that will be vigilant and work in close tandem with our compliance officer to make sure that everyone has a pleasant stay. The pandemic has taught us that emergency plans must be written and on hand so I believe a strategic playbook needs to be created so that in the event of any emergency, there is at the very least, a baseline plan. Finally, the LACA community is, as was my school district, a very diverse one. To fully embody the idea of *community*, we must all work together to involve and include everyone, recognize those people who are true Campground Champions, inspire others to take an active role, even if it's just to vote, and encourage leadership and volunteerism.
4. Why are you running for the Board of Directors? My love of the community drives my desire to protect property value and make improvements that benefit members as a whole. This drive is what pushes me to give back to others and help in the success of our community. My experiences have taught me how to remain calm and deal with stressful situations without losing my temper. I know that I will be able to devise creative solutions to resolve problems while still maintaining compliance. I am willing to listen and be open to differing viewpoints as well as admit when my idea may not provide the best solution. I am willing to take ownership for my decisions. I recognize that as a board member, I am still just a property owner and what affects each member affects me also. I am ready to continue on the path I've taken these past three years by putting in the time and doing the work because it's the right thing to do-not for praise or recognition or for any personal agenda or favors for friends. I know that I can be a leader for ALL of Lake Adventure's members and I will get the job done.

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SECTION A – NOMINEE: George Astras

SECTION B – QUALIFICATIONS Many years as a supervisor , mentor and facilitator

EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING: Associated degree st.Johns university

OTHER:

SECTION C – FORMAL STATEMENTS

1. What do you believe your responsibilities would be as a Board Member?

As a board member my responsibility is to the community. It is to ensure that the everyone equally enjoys their time at Lake Adventure. I also believe that as a board member one needs to actively listen to the complaints and suggestions, always striving for better.

2. What are your major strengths?

My major strengthe are that I have been trained in conflict resolution and am determined to fix the problems and get the job done with out quitting.

3. What are your suggestions for improving LACA?

Some suggestions for improving Lake Adventure is to improve the main attraction, that being the lake. It would be wonderful for residents to be able to use a clean lake and beach. I would try to improve the lake without raising dues. I would try to find ways to raise money outside the dues. some suggestions I would bring would be paddleboat rentals, beach events, and more social activities.

4. Why are you running for the Board of Directors?

I am running for the board because I can see the potential for Lake Adventure to be the premier community in the poconos. I would like for everyone to be heard, not just the loudest but everyone. I also feel board members need to be more accessible to the community.