



Building a caring community for residents who want to remain in their homes safely and affordably while maintaining a meaningful lifestyle.

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S POST

Hi Members and Volunteers,



As I sit and reflect on where I thought I would be by December 2021, I am amazed at how wonderful people come unexpectedly into our lives bringing not only joy but an added sense of purpose. I certainly had no idea that an engaging conversation with my dear, late friend and neighbor **Ken Dorland** would have led me to be sharing my thoughts with you today. Ken and his wife, **Mary**, were neighbors to be treasured and became our extended family. Our biological families live on the other side of the world. Ken and Mary were there for us whenever we needed a helping hand and even when we didn't. The true embodiment of 'neighbors helping neighbors.'

To honor Ken, I agreed to take on the role of AIP-TW president from **Peggy Reinhold** as she and her husband, **Herb**, planned the next phase of their life's adventure. As an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, we are all expected to contribute in any way we can. I have run divisions of large companies in the past and also our own business with my husband, Richard. I have volunteered with CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County for the past 13 years taking on roles from advocate, where the real work gets done, to chairing the board where the direction and strategies are set.

I had decided to take a break from volunteering and have the freedom to travel before we got too old! However, the global pandemic gave me the opportunity to spend time in my own neighborhood and enjoy the company of like-minded people who look forward to aging in their own homes.

As the saying goes 'old age is not for the faint-hearted' but if we support one another through this phase, it can be a very precious and fulfilling time of our lives.

The AIP-TW community is full of wonderful and generous people, a true grassroots organization. No one is here because they have to be, but rather because they want to be part of a vibrant and fulfilling community. How special is that?

Christmas is almost upon us, and we will soon be welcoming another new year. Such a perfect time to thank those who have made 'good things happen' for all our members, despite the challenges presented by a rather pesky virus.

Peggy and Herb will be moving to Florida at some stage in the new year. I am grateful to Peggy for agreeing to remain on the board as past president while we 'pivot' (word of the year) and add real value to our mission as we continue helping one another in the Aging in Place -The Woodlands community.

I am sure everyone of you joins me in thanking Peggy for her leadership of AIP-TW over the past three years. You are an amazing woman, Peggy, and our community is blessed to have had both you and Herb as board members and volunteers while you served as a caring member of the medical fraternity in The Woodlands.

Thanks, and recognition, must also go to Herb, who is handing over the responsibilities of treasurer to **Wendy Lyons** in January. Herb has been an active contributor to the membership not just as treasurer but also as a rideshare driver. Thank you, Herb.

Wendy's husband, Pat Lyons, has been a crucial member of the board and administrative team for several years. He is responsible for the technical part of running our virtual office. We could not function without his expertise.

Pat Goodpastor, another wonderful contributor, has transitioned from her role leading the membership team. That position is now filled by **Margo Pearson**. Pat will remain on the board. Thank you, Pat.

Erika Pratt has contributed to the success of AIP-TW in so many ways it is hard to know where to begin to thank her for her service. She took over the management of the rideshare program when Ken Dorland stepped down for health reasons. She has been a member of the board since its inception and was the first member to host a social event in her home. Erika has served as board secretary and on various committees and teams. We can't thank her enough.

We are fortunate to have **Bruce Cunningham**, our founder, former president, and current board member heading the social team. It was most unfortunate that the weather did not cooperate last Saturday for Bruce's first social event, a tour of The Woodlands Farmers Market, but I am sure he will reschedule a tour in the future.

I would like to thank all the board and committee members, past and present, and all those who volunteer their time so generously for the benefit of the membership. You are all truly special people. Thank you.

Christmas is a wonderful time to let others know we are thinking of them. Some of our members have been through big changes this year and may appreciate a call. As you know, social interaction is not just about getting out and about. Sometimes it is as simple as lending a kind ear to a member who may need a friend.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months as we work to continue to evolve into a robust organization carrying out a worthwhile mission. Enjoy Christmas with your family and friends, and on behalf of our board and committee leaders, we wish you a very Happy Christmas and New year.

Robyn West, AIP-TW President

MEET NEW AIP-TW PRESIDENT ROBYN WEST

Editor's Note: After five years, Aging in Place – The Woodlands is poised for growth in membership and volunteers as well as the programs and services we offer. As you will read in her self-introduction below, Robyn is extremely well-qualified to lead us forward.



I am 65 years old, married, and live in Woodlands with my husband, Richard Taylor. Born in South Africa, my parents moved to New Zealand when I was two years old. The accent is pure New Zealand, despite the fact we have lived in The Woodlands for the past 21 years. Those Southern accents sure do stick.

We are both now retired and, covid permitting, we enjoy traveling, gardening, spending time with our friends/family and being of some use in our community. Richard is a golfer and has a talent for watercolor painting.

Having enjoyed a successful career in the Information Technology industry, involving career moves from New Zealand to Singapore and the USA, I retired from the corporate world in 2006 to run a business with my husband, providing companies with business planning, sales and marketing, and general management services.

With the luxury of a little spare time, I decided to also use my skills and knowledge to advocate for abused and neglected children and in 2006, became a volunteer advocate with CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County. Over the next 13 years, I advocated for 25 children; jointly managed a fund raising initiative at the gala, co-chaired the gala, joined the board, chaired the Governance Committee and chaired the board. After reaching my term limit, I was retained by the board and the executive director to collaborate with community partners to better serve the youth aging out of foster care and to assist with strategic initiatives.

I am currently a board member for Mosaics of Mercy, a non-profit which helps families in our county to navigate the treatment and support options for mental health, eating disorders and addiction recovery. Issues which affect all age groups, from the young to the not so young.

As mentioned in my President's Post above, I was recruited to join Aging in Place – The Woodlands by our late dear friend and neighbor, Ken Dorland. He and Mary were our extended family support structure from the day we moved next door to them. Ken introduced me to the need for neighbors to help neighbors as we age, be that a ride, a helping hand, a trip to the theatre or a laugh over the fence.

I look forward to continuing the work started by Ken and the other founders of Aging in Place - The Woodlands.

ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING OPEN HOUSE SLATED FOR JANUARY 7

Among the advantages of living in The Woodlands is the proximity to Lone Star College-Montgomery. LSC's Academy of Lifelong Learning offers a full slate of both in-person and virtual classes. Several members of Aging in Place – The Woodlands are longtime members of ALL

and can attest to how much it has enriched their lives as they learned new things and made new friends.

LSC-Montgomery will be holding its spring open house in The Woodlands from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, January 7, in the LSC System Office, 5000 Research Forest Drive, at the corner of Gosling and Research Forest, in the STAR Ballroom. For more information, call 936-273-7446 or email Steve Gorman, program director for ALL Montgomery, Steve.Gorman@LoneStar.edu, or call him at 936-273-7259.

Among Spring Semester offerings are classes and seminars on the issues of aging, help with computers, health and fitness, finance, history, a variety of classes on hobbies and crafts and so much more.



"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time." Laura Ingalls Wilder

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