



Christina George, Incumbent

I have enjoyed home ownership in Nepenthe since 1982. In 2017 I was elected to the Board and served as Treasurer and liaison to the Finance Committee. In May 2019, I became Board President and liaison to the Grounds Committee, positions I still occupy.

As an Association member, you elect a Board to protect your interests. You purchased here because you like the lifestyle and you feel good about the value Nepenthe holds in the real estate market. Every decision the Board has made during my tenure has been with this simple awareness.

Upon my election to Board President, my leadership skills were immediately tested when our long-term General Manager resigned. I spent much of the next seven months in the dual position of Board President and General Manager. Juggling “big picture awareness” with the day-to-day needs of our homeowners is no easy task. As I look back, I feel pride that I was able to navigate through those months successfully and I feel gratitude to the other directors, Linda Cook, Greg Beale, Will Vizzard and our superb office staff, Nirmal Dhesi and Christina Romero, who all went above and beyond the call of duty in their care for Nepenthe.

A month after Bettsi’s return, COVID-19 struck. To say it has been a tumultuous year would be an understatement. In coping with the challenges, we made decisions around the use of the amenities that some members of the Association found fault with, especially the closing of the swimming pools. When making these decisions, there was no playbook for dealing with a pandemic. We relied on the advice of counsel and chose to limit the Association’s exposure to liability. Making decisions that may be unpopular is part of what is required in Board service and, looking back, I would vote the same way. Responsible leadership adds to Nepenthe’s overall value.

As Board President, my priority has always been to act in the best interests of the whole community. It is important to understand that Board decisions cannot be made by responding to various community pressures but must instead be made in light of the fiscal and legal needs of the whole community.

Financial responsibility is the most crucial issue in Board decisions. We need close scrutiny and financial focus to reach targeted goals such as sound buildings, safe amenities and a beautiful landscape. It is all very well to want to keep dues down but this desire means nothing without grappling with the details of financial management.

Bringing Carson Landscape aboard has been a real value-add to Nepenthe and is the accomplishment I am most proud of as your President. Carson came to us with some very specific recommendations to enhance our beautiful grounds and help control maintenance costs moving forward. This is the first contractor we've worked with that has provided concrete ways for us to achieve the community goals adopted in the Grounds Vision Plan. The Grounds Committee and the Board are currently in the process of deciding how to move forward on these recommendations. This is important work that will require continued, consistent leadership to see it through to completion.

A word about my work experience: for several years, I oversaw opening large UK-managed hotels in the Middle East, a job which honed my organizational skills, my ability to assess contracts and work within a budget. Later I worked for Lockheed Martin in International Sales and Business Development. One of the most exciting but also demanding parts of my work was organizing sales/technological support for international airshows. In this capacity, I worked with various divisions and personnel ranging from salespersons to engineers to military. Fielding these competing interests and areas of expertise helped me understand how to bring disparate parties together for a common purpose.

I feel very fortunate to have lived for over 30 years in this unique community. I hope to continue exploring ways to preserve the value and beauty of the area while monitoring financial expenditures with an eye to meeting our future financial challenges as efficiently as possible.

My top three priorities for Nepenthe during the next two years are informed by my overarching desire to protect and enhance the value of this unique and beautiful community:

1. Achieve operational excellence by controlling expenses as much as is reasonable and possible.
2. Modernize and simplify grounds maintenance by fully implementing the adopted Grounds Vision Document.
3. Continue to uphold the governing documents as they provide the basis for all of us to understand our roles within the Association.