

President's CornerMay 2019

During the May 20, 2019 meeting of the Village Board of Trustees, three new trustees were sworn into office: Nicole Chen, Al Fink, and James John. They will join three current trustees who have completed two of their four-year terms: Heidi Rudolph, Bill Siffermann, and Jim Tyrrell. For more information on the incoming trustees, please see the most recent issue of Tower Topics at: <https://wsprings.com/98/Newsletter>. Today's column is written with gratitude to outgoing trustees Ed Tymick, Sheila Hansen, and Berry Allen. Berry, Sheila, and Ed served on the board for a collective 20 years.

Sheila Hansen was first elected to the board in 2011, and again to a second term in 2015. Over the course of the past eight years, Sheila has served on four of the six board committees: General Government Committee, Properties and Recreation Committee, Public Health and Safety Committee, and the Public Works and Water Committee. Sheila juggled her teaching career with her board duties. Sheila has since retired from teaching second graders, but she hasn't slowed down! She remains involved in many volunteer activities, and is an active grandma of eight! Sheila's calm and pleasant demeanor has served the board well over the years, and we will miss her detailed reports and delightful sense of humor.

Ed Tymick was also first elected to the board in 2011, and re-elected to a second term in 2015. Ed has lived in Western Springs his entire life and brought a wealth of knowledge to the board that only a life-long resident can have. During his term in office, Ed served on the Finance Committee, General Government Committee, and Planning and Zoning Committee. Ed's deep knowledge of local governance, and especially municipal finance, has been invaluable to the board. Throughout the years, Ed has balanced a demanding work-travel schedule with his trustee obligations. Ed's common-sense approach to complex issues has been refreshing, and we will miss his astute judgment on the board.

Berry Allen was elected to the board in 2015. Except for a brief period in his youth, Berry has also lived in Western Springs his entire life. Prior to joining the village board, Berry was a valued member of the Police Pension Board. While on the board, Berry served on the Public Health and Safety Committee and the Public Works and Water Committee. Despite a challenging banking career, Berry always took the time to make sure he thoroughly understood every issue under consideration. His input on infrastructure matters, including long-term projects and strategic planning initiatives, has proved invaluable to the board. Berry's keen intelligence and focused attention to detail will be missed.

Changing of the guard is always bittersweet. Newly elected trustees bring a breath of fresh air to the board and we are looking forward to working with Nicole, Al, and James. However, the void felt by the departure of these three experienced and knowledgeable trustees will be felt for a long time. Please join me in thanking Berry, Sheila, and Ed for their dedicated service while in office. On behalf of the board, we wish them well in their future endeavors.

For your information, Village board meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at Village Hall. The meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 6, AT&T U-verse 99, and replayed daily at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Videos of the board meetings are also posted to the Village Facebook page, and on the Village website at: <https://wsprings.com/AgendaCenter>.

Alice Gallagher,
President