

**Kent's Korner**  
**CEO Kent J. Blumenthal, Ph.D., CAE**  
**February 8, 2019**

## **VOTE**

**“Recreation is no longer simply having fun. Rather, it involves the kind of America we have, and want to have, and the kind of people we are and are likely to become.”**

**--Laurance Rockefeller**

I have witnessed first-hand extensive member engagement in many GVR and community events and activities, both as participants and as volunteers. Really impressive.

The Candidate Forum held on Thursday, February 7 at Las Campanas is but one of the many examples of this. Ten members standing for election to the GVR Board of Directors introduced themselves to the audience of about 80 people and answered questions presented by a moderator.

You can learn more about each GVR candidate in the February 2019 issue of *GVRNow!* available at GVR Centers or on the GVR website [HERE](#). I also heard that *Green Valley News* either has or will publish information on GVR candidates.

I presume that each of the GVR members standing for election to the Board are at the point in their lives where they can choose to do anything they darn please, any day of the week. What is fascinating is that they have chosen to want to serve their GVR community and help it navigate in a sea of change, much of it already upon us, while even more is “blowin’ in the wind,” to quote Bob Dylan. By change, I am referring to ever-increasing information technology; communications; politics (both local and national), finances, and Wall Street drama that has little to do directly with GVR. Then there is GVR-centric change that may make a difference in our day-to-day GVR experience, e.g., remodeling aging facilities, addressing evolving member interests and needs.

To my recollection, most candidates at the Forum spoke about wanting the Board to work closely together without rancor for the common good. A few candidates shared concerns about increasing Green Valley traffic and growth within GVR, while other candidates advocated to keep-up with member interests and maintain GVR as a sought-after active adult/retirement community which could have a net effect of keeping up home values.

Within a few days, members will receive the required Notice of Annual Meeting of the Corporation to be held on March 26, 2019 at GVR West Center along with information about how to vote in the 2019 election for four (4) new GVR Board members. Members “in good standing” (defined by GVR Bylaws as meaning that 2019 annual dues have been paid) will have a choice as to whether they vote electronically online or by paper ballot. Electronic ballots cost GVR less per completed ballot than paper ballots do, but not everyone is able to use this technology yet.

Time is our most valuable asset since it can only be spent and not saved. Since several of our members who are candidates have committed to spend their time assisting GVR if elected, then why is GVR apparently mired in voter apathy? Relatively few members have taken time to become informed and vote in recent annual elections. In 2018, just 30.4% of GVR members in good standing cast ballots in the election for Board positions. Give or take a percentage or two, this is the same amount that votes in the annual election each year. Click [HERE](#) to see election chart.

Here is an interesting comparison: when a vote has been held during the summer/fall when approximately one-third of GVR members are away from Green Valley and no candidate is on the ballot, the overall percentage of members voting has more or less doubled! The two examples that come to mind are the Member-approved 2015 Boundary Expansion referendum (61.3% voted) and the 1999 Member-approval to bring Santa Rita Springs into the GVR Corporate Boundary (65.9% voted). Results of the 2018 GVR Member Survey reported that 60% of members would consider altering the time of the annual election to a different time of year.

With admitted direct and indirect changes coming that will most assuredly affect the quality of our lives as GVR members and as individuals, it behooves us to exercise our responsibility to vote in the GVR election.

As Laurance Rockefeller so eloquently stated, *“Recreation...involves the kind of America we have, and want to have, and the kind of people we are and are likely to become.”*

**PLEASE VOTE!**

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