



2017 Director Election

Candidate Profile:

RICHARD C. NEREAU

Greetings from Richard C. Nereau,

I am seeking election for the ROC Association Director position for the East, Midwest and South Region. Ten years ago my wife Margaret and I moved to Lakeville Estates, an adult manufactured home community of 50 homes in Geneseo, N.Y. At the time of our move, the property was owned by a private for-profit corporation.

It was a matter of only a few months that I discovered morale was low in the community due to many broken promises by the owner. It took two years of my emails and contacting to finally have a meeting with two representatives of the company.

During this time we had formed an ad-hoc committee of which I was chair to deal with many of the problems ignored by the owner. Needless to say, the two meetings we had with the officials did nothing to solve our problems such as road repairs, annual rent increases, the promise of a clubhouse and devaluation of our homes.

Fast forward to 2013. We formed a board with the backing of the residents to take a united stand to make our community a place to be proud and call our own. I was elected President and was fortunate to have a nucleus of dedicated board members that worked tirelessly for three years to purchase the property and make it a co-op. The only problem: Have you ever tried to purchase something that is not for sale? That was our dilemma. This is where my experience in negotiating large financial contracts and having the ability to enlist local officials to start putting pressure on the owners proved useful. At first we were ignored, but through the perseverance of many, we were able to start a dialogue. This included ROC USA Capital, Pathstone (our Technical Assistance Provider) and New York State Housing Finance Agency. A long and tedious negotiation ensued and in August of 2016 the purchase was complete and Lakeville Village was established.

This was truly a team effort and proved that with hard work and perseverance, you can make a difference.

In 2016, I had the privilege to attend the Community Leadership Conference in Columbus, Ohio. I did not know what to expect. However, in talking with representatives from other ROCs around the country, I learned there were more serious obstacles other communities had to overcome than we at Lakeville Village. That is when I started to wonder if there was some way I could be involved in helping others within the ROC family. I have always been an idea person, and able to think outside the box. This, in part with my engineering background, enabled me to be self-employed for 30 years as a Manufacturers Representative in the aerospace and nuclear field, mainly in New England.

Dedicated volunteers have been the backbone of every successful community. I would like to share my energies and experience with other communities. I ask for your vote and your confidence that give me the opportunity to serve on the ROC USA Board.



Richard and Margaret Nereau

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard C. Nereau