



2025

Sun Lakes 2 HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VOTE! DENISE ORTHEN

Personal Background

- ★ Second Generation Palo Verde homeowner since 2010
- ★ Full time resident since 2019
- ★ Born in New Jersey, and relocated to Illinois, Georgia, California, and Arizona

Education

- ★ B.S.N. in Medical College of Georgia, 1974
- ★ M.S.N. from California State University, Long Beach, 1980
- ★ Graduate of Advisory Board Leadership Academy
- ★ Multiple clinical specialty and leadership credentials

Professional Background

- ★ Experience in various medical centers in California, including:
 - Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center
 - Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
 - Saint John's Health Center, etc.
 - Kindred Hospital
- ★ Roles include Manager, Director, and Executive Nursing
- ★ Received multiple awards for excellence and contributions in nursing leadership.

Key Accomplishments

- ★ Provided strong end-user leadership amongst design consultants, technology integrators, contractors, and end users during the planning, construction, licensing, and patient/department move into a new 180 bed Acute Care Hospital - Santa Monica, CA
- ★ Completed multiple health care initiatives involving new/revised clinical programs impacting Critical Care/Cath Lab departments
- ★ Experienced in system redesign, cost control, succession planning, and organizational restructuring.
- ★ Involved in integrating diverse departments and managing health care facilities.
- ★ Chaired multiple health care initiatives and implementation of new policy.

Consultant Experience

- ★ Expert in leadership and professional performance assessments.
- ★ Served as a speaker and facilitator.

PROACTIVE ★ CONSENSUS BUILDER ★ ACCOUNTABLE



Denise Orthen

Board of Directors - Candidate Questionnaire – 2025

1. What is your motivation for running for the Board of Directors?

As a proud second-generation resident for the past decade, I have been actively involved in the Sun Lakes 2 community, serving on both the Golf and Audit & Finance committees since 2021. My desire to serve as an HOA Board Member stems from my passion for maintaining and improving our community and being fiscally strong. I appreciate the fact that our community is over 40 years old, and it is important that we maintain and improve key infrastructure components, as well as lifestyle amenities.

I am committed to fostering open dialogue and collaborative leadership, as I believe the best decisions emerge when all perspectives are considered. Together, we can build a unified vision for our future.

2. What do you consider to be the primary functions of the Board of Directors?

- Stewarding the community's financial resources with transparency and wisdom
- Interfacing between the Board and Management
- Fostering an environment where every resident feels valued and heard
- Maintaining property values through thoughtful planning and maintenance
- Creating opportunities for community engagement and connection
- Ensuring policies and procedures serve the greater good
- Anticipating future needs with a shared vision while addressing present concerns

3. Have you ever served as a member of a Board of Directors? Where, when, and for what organizations?

- Country Village II Homeowners Association
 - President (2013)
 - Treasurer (2005-2012)

4. What personal characteristics / skills do you possess that you feel will enhance the performance of the Board?

- I am approachable, open to ideas, and follow through on commitments.

- I can foster a culture of open dialogue and cooperation among assorted stakeholders, actively listen to diverse perspectives and strive to build consensus around shared values.
- I maintain a proactive and organized approach to change design, implementation, and evaluation, and provide a stabilizing influence during transitions.
- I can leverage diverse project management experience across various fields, including construction and departmental initiatives, to drive successful outcomes.
- I have demonstrated the ability to efficiently manage complex budgets and resources while focusing on increasing engagement and satisfaction scores within teams and projects.
- I commit to continuous improvement and innovation through strong skills in strategic planning, crisis management, and problem-solving.

5. What is your professional and educational background?

Educational Foundation:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - Medical College of Georgia
- Master of Science in Nursing - Specialization: Clinical Specialist - Critical Care
- Advisory Board Leadership Academy Graduate
- Certified Nursing Administrator
- Certified Executive Nursing Practice

Professional Highlights:

- Director of Critical Care Services, Los Robles Hospital (404-bed Trauma HCA facility) Ventura County
- Chief Clinical Officer, Kindred Healthcare-Los Angeles
- Director of Cardiovascular Institute and Critical Care Services, Saint John's Health Center-Los Angeles
- Facility Transition Director, Saint John's Health Center-Los Angeles
- Sigma Theta Tau inductee for excellence in nursing leadership
- Expert Witness for Review of Health Care and Nursing Professional performance
- Consultant for:
 - Rand Corporation, Azusa Pacific University, Medcom, and California State University, Los Angeles

Leadership Achievements:

- Implemented innovative patient care quality control processes
- Developed and executed hospital strategic realignment initiatives for responsible departments.
- Demonstrated success in building high-performing teams
- Proven track record of fiscal responsibility and project management
 - Led transition planning activities for hospital departments of new 181-bed Acute Care Facility post-earthquake (Saint John's Health Center, Santa Monica, California)
 - Managed \$35M+ equipment budget
 - Coordinated complex technology integration plans and licensing activities
 - Facilitated hospital departmental process changes and educational expectations and costs
 - Coordinated operational processes and equipment procurement for new cardiac catheterization labs

6. What association amenities do you use?

- The Cottonwood and Palo Verde golf courses and practice areas
- The Cottonwood and Palo Verde restaurants.
- The Cottonwood Palo Verde Fitness Center
- The scenic walking trails
- Sisk Park

7. List any Association committees on which you have served.

- Audit & Finance Committee: Secretary and Chair (2021 - Present)
- Audit & Finance Liaison to the Golf Committee
- Golf Committee: Member at Large (2021 - Present) Vice Chair (2024-Present)
 - Communication Task Force (Lead)
 - Strategic Planning Task Force
 - Water Conservation Task Force
 - Driving Range Modification Task Force (Lead)
- Palo Verde Ladies Golf League: Cancer Tournament Raffle Chair (2023)

8. How many Board Meetings have you attended in the last year?

15+ Board Meetings

9. Provide a BIO of 100 words or less suitable for publication.

I am a New Jersey native and have lived across the U.S. and now reside year-round in Sun Lakes, where my parents settled in 1993. With over 40 years in leadership, I excel in fostering transparent and collaborative environments, rooted in active listening and engagement. My healthcare leadership experience, overseeing multimillion-dollar budgets and diverse teams, underscores my commitment to inclusive decision-making. As past HOA secretary and president in another community, I have demonstrated fiscal responsibility and a dedication to community growth. Outside of my community service, I enjoy golfing, fitness, photography, and traveling. I am eager to drive SLHOA2's future forward.