



Village Life

HDV Member Profile - Anne Brickner

Anne hails from St. Louis, MO, a city proud of its “gateway to the West” heritage. Ironically, as a heartland city, it’s also known for offspring not straying too far from the nest. But there’s always that chick that has other plans, and Anne interpreted the Gateway Arch as permission to soar.

In 1970, armed with a degree in special education, Anne joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and taught Navajo youth ranging in age from seven to 15, first in remote St. Michaels, AZ, then in Window Rock. Following her love of middle school students, she moved to Albuquerque, NM to teach for another five years there.



Ready for a change after eight years in the classroom, Anne made the most of a two-month Eurail pass, living, she says, by her wits, figuring out how to get from one European gem to the next mostly on her own. These skills were key in her next job: working for an Albuquerque travel agency that gave her free rein to develop – and lead – tour groups to Mexico and China and skiers to Canada. While pursuing her outdoor hobbies, she met husband Gregg, an avid mountaineer, each impressing the other with their pluck and stamina working through deep snow on a mega cross-country trek near Crested Butte, CO.

The couple ultimately moved to Santa Fe. Anne became a sales rep for a textbook company, a position that took her to schools throughout her Southwest region. The couple jumped at the chance to settle in along Lake Washington when Gregg was offered a year sabbatical in Seattle. One element of their Pacific Northwest exploration was learning how to sail – on what Anne calls their aptly named 18-foot *Formidable*. When Gregg took a fulltime Seattle-based job, Anne drew on her travel and sales savvy skills and proposed a sales rep position to a seaplane operation. She spent the next five years coordinating fishing expeditions to the Canadian Inside Passage. Mastering *Formidable* led to acquiring a 36-ft, ocean-certified sailboat and bigger sea adventures, including taking off for a two-year coastal tour of Mexico and sailing to Hawaii.

Those heartland family ties – HDVers Mary and Tom Hartrich - drew the Brickners to Bend for retirement. They love Central Oregon’s multiple treasures, including, as Anne puts it, “so many people from different places wanting to be met!”

Deb Goodall

It’s All in the Name (Change)

The name says it all, High Desert Village Handyman Team. Does that mean women need not apply? No, and to make sure that we don’t give that impression, the team will take on a new, gender neutral identity. The new name will be determined by a contest open to all HDV members, Board of Directors excluded. The board will select the new name from among the entries you submit with the winner receiving a gift card for one of Bend’s fine coffee shops. Put on your thinking caps and submit entries to me via email at gsword@bendbroadband.com Women have always been welcome, so ladies get your tool belts ready and join the team.

Gene Storm, Team Lead

Health Advocacy Team – What We Do

We have an incredibly gifted group of team members; retired counselors, hospice staff, and social workers, RNs, Nurse Practitioners, Physical therapists, and medical doctors. Here is a partial list of some of the services we have provided. (We also help Villagers understand issues with their family and friends, if we can.)

- Discuss dealing with a new diagnosis, e.g., cancer, A-Fibrillation, dementia, etc. Provide information about it, options for providers, etc. Connect them with someone who has been through it, if possible.
- What to expect with surgeries, e.g. cancer, total joint replacement. How to do research on it.
- Take notes at a doctor’s office when there is a SIGNIFICANT new diagnosis from oncologist, neurologist, cardiologist, etc. Many like to completely focus on what the doctor is saying, asking questions and not worrying about writing the information down. We can also help “interpret” information, if it isn’t completely clear.
- Coaching on what to actually say when calling a provider’s office “to get their attention”.
- Counseling suggestions when feeling down or anxious, etc.
- Guidance in referring friends for serious alcohol or drug problems.
- Helpful information about a relative’s health problem, e.g. cancer, dementia.
- Grief support when a loved one dies, or is seriously injured.
- End of life guidance for writing Advanced Directives.
- One of the most difficult tasks is to suggest names of Primary Care Providers who are still taking Medicare patients. If any of you have suggestions, please let us know!

Jan Hildreth, Team Lead

Music Corner

Riverdance is a theatrical show consisting mainly of traditional Irish music and dance. With a score composed by Bill Whelan, it featured Irish dancing champions Jean Butler and Michael Flatley in its early performances more than 20 years ago. Enjoy their artistry.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoHlrQScWlo>



From the President’s Desk. . .A Vibrant New Era

HDV is at a pivotal point in its life-span, adolescence. It is in its 14th year! It is therefore timely that the board is now reorganizing in order to take the village into a vibrant young adulthood. The goals are enhancement of the strength of our teams, efficiency in providing services, and connectedness of all members. We had a board retreat in February and are in the process of addressing the above and orienting and training our newest board members and their backups.

Helen, at age 98, is stepping down after over nine years of volunteer service as our stellar dispatcher. The key word here is “stellar”. She has done an amazing job in this position and has impacted the lives of so many of us. Thank you, Helen, for an outstanding job.

Marilyn Sterbick has for the time being graciously taken the HDV phone and will entertain your service calls. She says it is fun, and we sincerely thank her for her service.

In the past virtually all of our service requests have been made by members contacting the dispatcher by phone at 541 419-9912. We plan to keep this number indefinitely. More recently, much to our surprise, we have seen that our members generally prefer to make their service requests electronically, and this is understandable because it is often more efficient and timely.

The article that follows offers more details on making a service request. Follow the steps described in navigating the process.

The service teams work best when members know one another and their board members. Get involved with your team, and get to know your team mates and team leaders. Join more than one team if you would like to do more. Attend the events that are listed on the HDV calendar. Communicate with your board members. The goal is to move forward together as a vibrant village. The villages where members make personal connections are the most robust in providing services to one another.

Our Annual General Meeting in May is scheduled to be held in person rather than virtually. Exact time and place are being decided, and you will receive more information about the meeting soon. At that meeting, as is our custom, we will present the financial report, introduce the HDV Board members, give updates on the village, and collect dues. There will be time to get acquainted and reacquainted.

Finally, many of you, about a third of our membership, have been working consistently for HDV throughout the COVID era, too many to thank all of you individually here. You are the engines that keep this village thriving, and to all of you HDV owes sincere gratitude.

I’m looking forward to seeing you at the Annual HDV General Meeting in May.

Pam DiDente

Making a Service Request, How Easy it Can Be

The COVID pandemic over the last couple of years has put a crimp in the delivery of services for many HDV Service Teams. With restrictions easing it may be time to review the HDV Service Teams, what they offer and how easy it is to make a request for help.

The list of Volunteer Service Teams is on our website <https://highdesertvillage.helpfulvillage.com/> Select the **Village Info** header, click on the **Volunteer Info** tab, then select the Volunteer **Service Team Activities** tab. It will list each of the eight service teams and the services provided. If a service isn’t listed but seems reasonable, call the service team lead and talk it over. If a service request is confidential, such as with the Health Advocacy team, make that known to the team.

There are three ways to request help from an HDV Service Team, which include calling the **HDV Members Service Request Dispatch Line** at 541-419-9912, and two choices for making the request through the HDV website. You can review these procedures by selecting the **Members** header on the opening page, then **Service Request HDV Help** tab. That will take you to the **Making a Service Request** page where each option is explained in detail. Avail yourself of this information and be prepared in the event you need any of the support services that HDV offers. Using this online service request process will be like riding a bicycle. Once you do it, you will see how quick and easy it can be.

WANTED: HIGH DESERT VILLAGE DISPATCHER

This is a fun volunteer job and a great way to get to know your fellow villagers. It’s simple and not time consuming. Training to be dispatcher with the provided phone takes 15 minutes. There is also back up available for this position.

Making service requests by signing into our HDV website will be the timeliest way to get a request filled. Using the HDV dispatch phone number is designed to be the alternative back up.

Please contact Marilyn Sterbick (she reports that she is having fun being the temporary back up) mksterbick@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer for this fun, stress free HDV service job.

March TED Session - Monday 3/28 at 5 PM

This month our “TED” session with Alan Hilles will present two pieces of recorded music that introduce a very important topic for us to contemplate and share. The sharing in the last several sessions has been amazing, adding to our learning about each other and our perspectives. I look forward to seeing as many of you that can join us and if you have other HDV acquaintances that have not participated to date...put a little “bug” in their ear. They might really enjoy the session. Again, sign up is on the HDV website under “Events Calendar”. When you sign up you will automatically get a link to JOIN. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Alan Hilles

High Desert Village Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 15 - 4 p.m.
Via Zoom