



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Who Are the Bluff Heights Board Members and What Do They Do?

By Donna Sievers

Good questions! Here are the answers:

Donna Sievers	President
David Clement	Vice President
Theresa Marino	Secretary
Debbie Davis	Treasurer
Frank Ginipro	Member - marketing, banners, membership, events
Lee Apel	Member - events, holiday decorating
Rick Schank	Member - newsletter, events, emails
Maria Kootsikis	Member - trees, events, holiday decorating
Shonnie Spina	Member - events, holiday decorating

These volunteers keep our events scheduled and work cooperatively to complete all the tasks that are needed to be successful. Our activities and events include:

- A newsletter and various informational emails sent each month
- Decorating the Bembridge House for the holidays and the roundabout on Vista and Orizaba
- Collecting non-perishable food donations to support those in need
- Holiday lights contest
- Hosting quarterly forums to inform and engage our community
- Spring Clean-Up and Clear Out event
- Hosting an annual 4th of July gathering on Vista Street for 300-400 participants
- Spooktacular Pet Halloween Costume and Photo Contest
- Celebrating our 100 year-old homes, including Immanuel Senior Housing in 2022
- Preserving and beautifying our historical neighborhood
- Planting and watering of trees
- Collaborating and supporting Horace Mann Elementary School (donated \$500 to the PTA 9/22)
- Working with District 2 City Council and the city regarding crosswalks, traffic safety, etc.
- Backyard Bounty on the second Sunday of each month: share veggies, herbs or fruit with your neighbors
- Filing non-profit forms to IRS and Secretary of State annually

Every year, the Board of the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association must plan for our ongoing costs. We are so grateful for the donations of our residents and our sponsors, as we have had limited opportunities to raise funds during the pandemic. Our ongoing costs per year are approximately:

Insurance	\$ 1,148
Constant Contact	\$ 371(database and newsletter)
GoDaddy	\$ 125 (web hosting)
Wix	\$ 192 (website)
Printing	\$ 300
Postage	\$ 500
Annual IRS and State Non-Profit Forms	\$ 75
Event supplies and prizes	\$ 500
<b>Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,211</b>

In addition, I was able to write two grant applications to the Port of Long Beach, and both were generously funded. Our 4th of July block party was granted \$2,000, which will be used to fund the tents and chairs and will enable us to improve the activities to include more music and events for kids of all ages. In addition, we received a second grant to continue our tree-planting activities in the Bluff Heights neighborhood. Our first tree-planting event was held in April 2022, and we learned that we needed additional funds to dig deeper holes by renting an auger to dig to an appropriate depth for the trees. We also needed to ensure that the trees are watered properly, especially during the summer months. The funds we received will allow us to purchase the trees if the city cannot provide them, and support the tree planting with soil amendments, tree guards, and a watering contract.

This brings me to the last question...Can we ask you to spend a few hours a year to help Bluff Heights achieve our goals? We would love for you to join one of our committees: the 4th of July Committee, the Beautification Committee, the Tree-Planting Committee, or the Holiday Decorating Committee. Please contact us either via email ([info@bluffheights.org](mailto:info@bluffheights.org)) or phone (562-546-3067).

*Donna Sievers is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC). She was raised in Long Beach and taught at Stanford Junior High, Bolsa Grande High, Pacifica High, and CSULB before leaving the classroom for administrator duties in Garden Grove USD. She and her husband live in Bluff Heights, where their retirement activities include volunteering for the Joyful Child Foundation in Memory of Samantha Runnion, gardening at the Bembridge House, bike riding, walking to the ocean, and maintaining a 107-year-old house and garden.*