



Member Profile

Our Parrot Head Profile this month features my dear boss, Steve Larson. (So I'd better do a good job!) Steve and his lovely wife Renie bought their first home in The Villages in 2005 in the Village of Liberty Park. They were seasonal residents at that time since Renie was still teaching. Steve and Renie have now lived in the Village of Buttonwood fulltime since 2011.

Steve grew up on the plains of Kansas on a farm/ranch near McPherson, Kansas. He met Renie when he went back to college in Emporia, Kansas, when his roommate introduced the two of them. She stopped in on a trip back to her home in Wichita and after a six hour visit they discovered they were kindred spirits. Steve and Renie have two children and four grandchildren. Daughter Sarah and husband Corey live in Michigan with grandkids Colten and Cooper, and son Scott and wife Beth live in Fruitland Park with grandkids Alice and Nathan.

Before he retired to The Villages Steve served two combat tours in the Navy in Viet Nam aboard the USS Newport News. After the Navy he went back to school and then went to work for Sears Roebuck. He then went to work for Ford Motor Company for 34 years. For the last 20 years at Ford he was the Manager of the Company's Supplier Diversity Program.

Steve became a true Parrot Head on a Tuesday night fundraiser at Cody's, Lake Sumter Landing where Dunning Shaw was performing. The crowd was having such a great time singing along and dancing and Steve thought he'd never had so much fun on a Tuesday night and decided this was the club for him.

The Parrot Head Club keeps Steve pretty busy but he does enjoy playing pool, golf and also singing and strumming his many ukuleles. He started the Trop Rock Ukulele Society which has a Facebook page and meets weekly to play and sing. He looks forward to the time when the group can safely meet again.

Steve began his volunteer work for the Parrot Heads by delivering the food donations gathered at the Phlockings to the Lady Lake Food Pantry. He has served on the board as the Charity Trustee, and he now serves as our Media Trustee.

One of Steve's favorite things about the Parrot Heads is the incredible diversity of experience that the membership has. He is just blown away by the level of talent to be found in the club. He also appreciates that we have the ability to set aside our differences and just get together and have a good time. The advice he would give to new members is to be persistent. Go to the Phlockings and introduce yourself. Don't hang back and wait for people to come to you. You can be as social as you decide to be.