



**Rotonda West Association, Inc.**

**Candidate Information Sheet Booklet**

Information sheets of declared candidates for the Board of Directors (two will be elected) are inside. Please read the candidate information sheets before voting.

Association members in good standing who have qualified as declared candidates for election are:

Patricia (Patti) Cowin  
David Kelly  
Bernard (Bernie) Schmelz  
Diane Shaw

To learn more and have a chance to see and hear the members who have qualified for this election to the Association's Board of Directors, please plan to attend, either in person or via Zoom, the Candidates Night meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Rotonda West Community Center, 646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL.

**DISCLAIMER:** *Candidate Information Sheets are based solely on the opinion or opinions of the individual candidate and are NOT based on an opinion or opinions of the Rotonda West Association, Inc., its officers, directors, committee members, or employees (collectively referred to as the "Association"). The Association does not assume any liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in the Candidate Information Sheets.*

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

Name: Patricia (Patti) Cowin  
Address: 60 Mariner Lane  
Rotonda West, FL 33947  
Email: pcowin@gmail.com  
Phone: 317-789-6052



### **BACKGROUND:**

I was born and raised in Indiana and lived there until I joined the Army in 1980. While with the Army I lived in SC, TX, KS, CO, and MD. In 2002 I moved to VA after accepting a position at NASA Langley Research Center. Upon retirement, in 2012, I briefly moved back to IN before moving here to "Paradise" in 2016. After moving here, I immediately became involved in the community as a part of Neighborhood Watch (Car #255). Subsequently I have served on numerous Rotonda West Association (RWA) Committees as well as on the Board of Directors.

### **EDUCATION:**

MS, Occupational Hygiene/Safety, 1999, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506 BA,  
Chemistry, 1988, Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO 80204  
BA, Education, 1980, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907  
High School Diploma, 1975, Michigan City Rogers, Michigan City, IN 46360

### **EXPERIENCE:**

I began my 30 years of federal service as a soldier in the U.S. Army. Over the next 20 years with the Department of the Army (DA) I worked my way up from being an active duty Environmental Health Specialist to Career Field Manager for all Army Industrial Hygiene personnel. The final ten years of my federal career I worked in the Safety and Mission Assurance Office of NASA Langley Research Center. While there I coordinated the annual Safety and Health Awareness Week activities, developed the Center's Ergonomics Program, Pandemic Plan, and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). My responsibilities also included, contract development and review, emergency preparedness, and emergency response.

2017 – Present RWA Director (BOD Secretary since 2019)  
2018 - Present BOD Liaison Wildlife Committee  
2018 – 2019 Member Deed Restrictions Committee  
2018 - 2019 Member Activities Committee  
2017 - 2019 Member, Residential Modification Committee  
2016 - Present Member, Neighborhood Watch, Patrol Car #255

### **SUMMARY:**

Three years ago, I ran for and was elected to the RWA Board of Directors. My goal then was, and continues to be, to work towards the betterment of our community by improving communication between RWA members and the RWA Board of Directors. I believe I have made a good deal of progress towards that goal and would like another 3 years to make open two- way communication the norm, not the exception, as I believe all members should have a voice in future of RWA. Since my election to the Board I have championed ways to more broadly engage and inform the membership of Board and Committee activities. I have freely shared my contact information, responded to member concerns, and posted matters of interest on HOA Facebook pages. I have also sought, and finally attained, RWA email addresses for not only all Directors but also the Chairs of each Committee so that RWA members can easily contact the appropriate individual with their concerns.



David Kelly  
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11 Pine Valley Lane  
[Davidkellyrgcc@aol.com](mailto:Davidkellyrgcc@aol.com)

**Personal:**

Native of: Rotonda West, Englewood  
Family: 3 Children (14,19,20) Resident of Rotonda West and Surrounding areas for 40 Years

**Education:**

High School: Lemon Bay High School  
College/Degree: BS Degree University of South Florida -Business Administration

**Employment History:**

Oyster Creek Golf Club 1998-2000  
Rotonda Golf & Country Club 19 Years -2001-Present

**Public Service:**

Rotary Club of Placida 19 Years  
Englewood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors-2004-2011, President 2010

**Why I Want to serve:**

It has truly been great to serve our community for the last 9 years. If I am elected for 3 more years I will continue to provide the business side approach to all my fellow directors and residents. Rotonda is growing very rapidly and I would like to continue to contribute to this to make sure it continues to do so responsibly. The golf courses and the community are working together better than ever, the signing of the MOU with Charlotte County will now allow the county to correct drainage issues that have plagued us for over 15 years! Our community is moving in a direction to be proud of!

**My Vision of the future of Rotonda:**

My vision for Rotonda is to continue our responsible growth and at the same time keep this an affordable community to live in for our residents. We need to continue to maintain canals, green belts, common areas and Broadmoor park at the highest levels possible to keep property values high for our residents.

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

### **Bernard "Bernie" Schmelz**

28 Sportsman Ter  
Rotonda West, FL 33947  
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### Introduction

As one of the largest HOA's in Florida, Rotonda is now entering a period where it begins to face the challenges of a vibrant yet aging community. The challenges we face include continued growth and demands that result from this growth – demands for more services, aging infrastructure, and constrained budgets.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will seek to continue the prudent fiscal policies that have been put in place by our communities' previous leadership; I will seek a better relationship with the County's leaders and county staff for a more equitable and just policy as it relates to road and bridge expenditures (and taxes) imposed upon our community. I will work closely with our residents and neighbors of Broadmoor Park to ensure that the Park is managed in accordance with the adopted 2014 Master Plan. As a founding member of Rotonda CERT, I will work diligently with our team members and County emergency services personnel to make sure our community is "storm ready".

I believe that my experience as President of my former HOA as well as my 35 years of experience as a community planner, and in the management of highways, roads and bridges puts me in the unique position of being able to look back at our community's history and build a future that we can all continue to be proud of.

My education and experience leads me to research problems rather than to react to issues, that way we can arrive at a better solution to real issues.

### Rotonda Experience

Since becoming a full time resident I have worked closely with several RWA committees including the Deed Restriction Committee (member) and Buildings and Grounds Committee. I previously worked on updating the Broadmoor Park Master Plan for the positioning of new amenities and facilities within the Park while adhering to the core principles for the Park adopted by the Board of Directors in 2014. I also serve as a Director and President of the Rotonda Communities Emergency Response Team (CERT), am a member of the Charlotte County CERT Team and serve on its leadership board.

### Background

My wife Ellen and I first purchased a home in Rotonda in 2014 and became full time residents in 2015 after I retired from the Virginia Department of Transportation where I had many roles including supervision, funding oversight, legislative review and compliance with federal laws and rules.

Prior to joining Virginia DOT, I was the Quality Communities Program Manager for the State of New York under then Governor George Pataki. In this role my team and I provided guidance and management to the Governor's Office, State Officials and local governments on Smart Growth Principles, planning, zoning and economic and community development. In addition, my team also served as staff to the Governor's Local Government Reform

Task force in bringing innovative solutions for long standing problems. My lengthy career included seven years as an Engineering Supervisor in Chesterfield County, Virginia, and many years as a Community Planner for various localities in Upstate New York, in addition to being a small business owner.

I hold degrees from the State University of NY at Plattsburgh and from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY and I have been recognized as a Professional Planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners; I was awarded Certificates from Rutgers University, Virginia Tech and the Karras Institute as a contract negotiator. I was a commercial airplane pilot; I am an FAA licensed Drone Pilot and a licensed realtor, which I pursue on a part-time basis.



*Diane Shaw*  
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*314.952.9920*

**BACKGROUND and EDUCATION:** I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. I consider St. Louis my home. During my employment with the Federal Government, I have lived in Dale City, VA, and Cheyenne, WY. I have been married for the past 32 years to Jim Shaw and our combined family includes four children. We moved seasonally to Rotonda West in 2009 and permanently in 2013. I have an Associate's degree in Journalism from Meramec Community College, St. Louis

**EXPERIENCE:** I worked for the Federal Government as a web site designer and manager as well as computer systems administrator and retired after 29 years in 2004. I was a single mom for many years and during that time, I worked several jobs simultaneously to support myself and my children. As a result, I have a varied employment history. I worked full time for the Federal Government from approximately 1975 to 2004, but as a single mom, in my "spare" time, I worked as a restaurant server, wrote part time for a newspaper and wrote free lance articles for several publications and commercial entities. I was President of the Federal Women's Program in 1985-86. I served on several boards including the advisory board to the Committee on Family and Children for the Missouri House of Representatives, 1988-1991, the Jefferson County Missouri Sewer Board 2007-9, the HOA board of Oak Crest Subdivision 1988-1991, the Father's Rights Association of Missouri 1988-89 and Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments 1986-88, In 1989, I won a recognition award from the Children's Rights Council of the US and was recognized with a Chief Justice Warren E. Burger award for my work on children's rights. In 2008, I received recognition for many years of activism in Jefferson County on the issue of clean drinking water. In 1992, I was active with a group of community leaders in St. Louis whose goal was recognition of the contributions of Irish immigrants to the St. Louis community. The result is a monument to them in the form of a wall of names and a large celtic cross in the city of St. Louis. . My greatest accomplishment is that my children both have received Master's Degrees and are good parents and active volunteers in society. My hobbies are learning Irish history and researching my family's genealogy.

This year, I joined the Communications Committee of the RWA and I write for the West Ways newsletter. Last year, I formed a group of Rotonda West citizens who are active in community issues, especially those dealing with our local Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU). Under my leadership, this group was instrumental in: getting a tax refund of \$180 each to every Rotonda resident, stopping wasteful spending by our MSBU, getting our taxes lowered and saving tax payers almost \$7 million. I personally contacted Charlotte County and arranged a meeting between the Head of Public Works and citizens of Rotonda West to address drainage issues in Rotonda West and to explain the Memorandum of Understanding that was agreed to by the RWA, the County and the Golf Course Partners. Currently, my husband and I serve on the Neighborhood Watch program and deliver both full and part time for Meals on Wheels of Englewood. I created and administer a Facebook page called *Rotonda West People for Progress*. It focuses on the RWA and the MSBU, providing news and discussions among Rotonda West residents of issues related to the MSBU and the RWA.

**SUMMARY:** I want to be on the RWA board to support the board in its efforts to include residents in decision making, bring about more transparency, improve communication and make residents feel welcomed by the RWA and its committees. I hope to encourage more residents to participate in RWA committees and activities.