

The Niners

By MARY FIEWEGER

Joanna Sawyer exemplifies leadership



FIEWEGER

Well, we went from "Hello Spring" to some cold weather and several hailstorms. I think our Niners down south are going to stay a little longer!

This issue we were asked to talk about leadership.

No one has shown leadership longer than Joanna Sawyer.

"When I started taking jazz, tap and ballet as a young girl, I never thought in a million years I would still be dancing at 76. (It is) different than when I was younger but I am still enjoying the movement and being able to share the experience with other women, some who have never danced before. I continued my dance studies as an adult taking classes with my daughters including performing in dance recitals. I became the dance team coach for the Hillsboro High

School dance team, the Sparta Stars, through encouragement from my older daughter Shawna, who also lives in Charbonneau.

I was the coach from 1982 to 1992. I attended dance camps with the team every year and attended dance classes right along with the team members. This is where I learned about choreography routines. Many team members continued dancing in college, many were Trail Blazer dancers and a couple became coaches for dance teams and opened their own dance studios. We moved to Charbonneau in 1996. I joined The Niners, CWA and Boys & Girls Aid in 2004. On my first day golfing I was paired with Helen Heestand in her cart. She was in charge of the Niners program that year, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Charbonneau." I told her about my dance experience and by the next day I was in charge of our dance group, The Charbonnettes, and had a calendar to teach a Western routine and a Can Can. That was the beginning of fabulous friendships and dedicated dancers. Later



Sawyer

I became the director for some of the programs such as "Mama Mia," "Eat Drink Dance," "A Show About Golf," "Queens of Music," "Motown," "Disney" and "On the Road with the Niners."

Next year's program is all planned out. "It's 5 o'clock Somewhere". I edit the music, write the narration, direct the show and choreograph the dance routine. I love working with all that are involved with the program and dance. I also appreciate the support of our community that attends our performances."

Joanna starts working with us (20 Charbonettes) in June. She spends 70-plus hours working with us to learn the dance and our skits. Here are some of the comments we hear: "Well, let's start over on that. Now that is a dance move I don't recall teaching".

The Niners thank Joanna for her 19 years of dedication and leadership in directing an annual event for the Charbonneau community!

Let's welcome some new Niners! Joann Caravalla moved to Charbonneau from Lake Oswego. She was born and raised in Sunnyvale, California. While in San Jose, she was with Bank of America for 46 years and retired with a position as vice president of customer service. One of her hobbies is fishing. She catches salmon, halibut, trout and even tuna, in Cabo! Her other hobbies include

cooking, creating decorative garden art, crafts and crochet. Joann has a goal to go to Alaska and will bring her own fishing pole! She loves traveling with friends and is going to Europe (including Paris and Venice) and Canada. Her favorite dinner is 'anything food,' yet especially enjoys Italian and loves Champagne. Joann has lived in Charbonneau for one year and is a member of Solo Sisters. Thank you Marian Bailey for introducing your friend.

The Welcome Back Committee has a fun event planned for Tuesday, April 3. It will be fun to see each other and meet our new members.

And we welcome Shellie Sillman. She is a native of Washington state. Shellie played golf at Oregon Golf Course in West Linn. Thank you to Marsha Herron for referring her to the Niners! She has a condo in Hawaii and enjoys the weather and venue. Shellie's husband passed away unexpectedly from COVID-19. Keeping Shellie busy these days are her 18 grandchildren — 11 boys and seven girls. She has three sons and a daughter. Her 7-year-old grandson was sitting next to her when I asked, "What is your favorite food?" He replied for her: "Say chocolate". However, it is Mexican food. Shellie enjoys sewing and is an avid sports fan, especially college football. "Go BYU Cougars and Go Ducks."