Serving this neighborhood has been a great experience in leadership, negotiation, problem solving and multitasking. It's not always been fun. It has often been the equivalent of a full-time job. I have a core group of people to thank for the fact that we have been able to accomplish what we have. These eleven neighbors deserve my recognition and our collective thanks.

Ken Klein because he truly is the wind beneath my wings. Every single thing I have been able to accomplish in my time on the board wouldn't have happened without his wholehearted support.

Toby Newlin for his wonderful partnership with me on the board for so many years, his humor, his in-all willingness to spar when sparring was called for, for weed spraying and sign painting and gate fixing and mail checking and ordering remotes and park cleanup, entry cleanup, keeping the financial records, uploading a complete financial history of Paleface Ranch to the cloud and especially the addition of a touch of sanity, or insanity, as required.

Gary Jenkins for his constant encouragement, for hanging street signs, mowing roadsides, helping clean up the park, extend the boat ramp, get the mailbox cover stained, pull dead agaves and absolutely anything else I asked of him.

Steve Hooge for cheerfully lending his resources, experience, time and advice to projects like the boat ramp extension, the boat ramp parking expansion, the rock berms and erosion control.

Monica Hooge for her guidance and invaluable input in the proper execution of membership meetings, interpretation of CCRs, writing of amendments, researching legislative changes, the correct formatting of meeting minutes, hands on labor at the entrance, and rock berm construction.

Jim Hinton for his constant willingness to bring his tractor to the service of the neighborhood cleaning up the park, building rock berms, fixing erosion problems, creating fire breaks on the back side of the neighborhood during the fires of 2011. For serving on the boat ramp committee and spearheading the boat ramp extension project. For hauling all the little gremlins around the neighborhood on a hayride each Halloween.

Bill Paschall for his steady leadership on the board through two lawsuits and for happily lending his Ranger for weed spraying. To John Byington for his leadership through the oak wilt project.

Gail Finnegan for spraying weeds with me several times a year for six years, for picking up trash along the roadsides every single time she's walked the neighborhood for as long as I've known her. For her tireless cheerful assistance with anything I needed as secretary of the association. No job was ever too small or too big. If I needed her, Gail was there.

Sue Bennett for her encyclopedic knowledge of the CCRs and Bylaws and her willingness to talk through questions I have about either. For her efforts to bring the neighborhood together in ways both big and small. For her constant presence at board meetings and her ability to dish out constructive criticism to me whether or not I was interested.

Mike Natinsky, who no longer lives here, for his bottomless willingness to spar when sparring was required. For his insistence that I read and internalize the CCRs and Bylaws when I first was elected to
the board and his willingness to help me understand both. For his insistence that I learn to fix the gate.

Nancy Lambros for being an unwavering champion of maintaining the roads and being willing to spend her time and effort following through with road maintenance as the only member of the Road Maintenance Committee. For her work so many years ago on the deer census, which allowed us to hold onto our wildlife exemption as long as possible. And for her monthly maintenance of the gate codes.

Larry Feingersh for being singularly instrumental in our monumental fight last year to get oak wilt trenching completed.

There are more who have helped me - Ken and Bethany Thoresen, Nancy and David Platt, Chris Olson, Robin Newlin, Heather and Luis Martinez, Drew Brooks, Fran Raymond, Karl Hancock, Nick Granelli, Tyler O'Brien, Kim Richards, Gary Scharrer, and David Wigington.

In the past eight years, all Paleface Ranch documents have been converted to electronic files and been stored online, the website has been redone and moved to Wordpress, the CCRs and Bylaws have been transcribed into searchable online documents, we have extended the boat ramp, enlarged the boat ramp parking area, purchased and installed new mailboxes, made great strides in solving erosion problems, removed dead trees and miles of vines suffocating those trees that were still alive at the boat ramp park, trimmed back trees in all roadside easements to facilitate mowing and drainage, worked with the post office and 911 addressing to assign addresses to all lots, added a battery backup to the entry gate to guarantee it will fail in the open position in a power outage and chip sealed all roads in the subdivision. All of these projects have been the work of our volunteer board and our priceless tribe of neighborhood volunteers.

We pay to have our roads paved and crack filled. We pay to have the entrance mowed periodically. We pay to fix the gate occasionally. We pay for liability and D&O insurance. We bank roll special projects, voted on by the membership, to improve the neighborhood – including extending the ramp, new mailboxes, more parking at the ramp, the mailbox cover, and containing oak wilt.

Everything else regularly done around here is done by your neighbors in a volunteer capacity. These things include spraying for weeds, mowing the road easement, trimming trees in the easement, collecting litter, erosion control, fixing the gate, sprucing up the entrance, trimming back the trees on the ramp, chasing CCR violations, responding to title requests for property sales, paying bills, monitoring the condition of the roads, sending notices of meetings, holding meetings, changing gate codes, running the pfr-forum, selling remotes, handing out boat ramp passes, maintaining contact information and documents and directories, tracking dues payments and payment plans, reviewing house, shed, pool and fence plans and overseeing construction to ensure it complies to our ACC rules and CCRs.

Our dues are $400.00/year and are only that low because we have people who will help when something needs to be done. As I leave this board, I ask that you cultivate a mindset of gratefulness. If you cannot help with a project, seek out those who do and thank them. Thank your board members and show your support by attending board meetings. When you walk the streets, take along a bag and pick up any trash you see. If your trees are encroaching on the roadside easement, get your nippers out and cut them back so they don't whack Gary in the face when he mows for us. If you have a gravel driveway, sweep the rocks back off the road so they don't tear up the chip seal. With everyone doing a little bit, we can keep our dues low, our board members willing to serve and our volunteer force strong.
We will elect three new board members at this meeting today. They will join Heather Martinez and Mindy Smith on the board. I've worked with Mindy for the past year and with Heather for the last two months. They are dedicated and thoughtful and will do good things for this Association. Let's give them teammates who will help keep the wheels turning smoothly.

We do need people to serve. As you contemplate serving, please understand that it's not always easy. Being on the board is intense. The board is in constant communication by email. You will be criticized. Your decisions as a board will be questioned. You will deal with difficult situations and difficult people. In my eight years on the board I have found that one's ability to work well as part of a team is really the most important part of serving.

Don't be afraid to give your perspective on something - it's your job. Give others room to think differently and then figure out how to find common ground and come to a collective decision. Be bold. Be committed. Ask for help if you need it. We have a deep bench of people who have previously served on the board and who are willing to help with your questions. Cultivate relationships with your neighbors. Among them are a wealth of resources that will come in handy to you as a board member.