

Along the Canal: Thoughts on Retirement

Vicky Daly

As of this writing, my official retirement has been for 217 days or 31 weeks. During that time I have adapted well although my husband, whose retirement from Mobil Chemical is measured in years, insists otherwise, that I have not yet gotten the hang of it – and likely never will. He may be right (usually is) but for what it's worth, what follows is a new retiree's experiences and comments thereto.

There appears to be a script used when addressing someone thought to be retired:

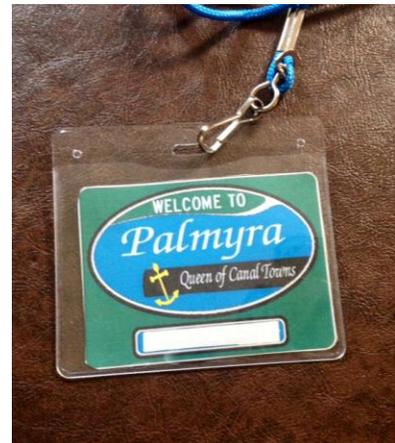
Are you really retired? Yes.

Do you like it? Yes.

Are you as busy as you were before? Yes.

The third response needs clarification. The new retiree should be only as busy as he/she allows. Be warned: retirees are fair game for organizations, all worthy, which need volunteers for everything from delivering Meals on Wheels to reading to school children to driving folks to medical appointments or cooking for the Library Luncheons. I could fill up the rest of the page with additional examples but even then worthwhile causes would be missed purely out of ignorance on my part. What I have seen in this brief period of time is that 1) the retiree can focus on particular interests and avoid those areas which could not be avoided before, and 2) the lack of a paycheck. That lack is more than made up for, in my case anyway, by the reduced professional expenses – memberships, gas, clothes. I do love my jeans and tee shirts!

The volunteer effort I am really enthused about is the Palmyra Harbor Host project. It's easy, fun, flexible and volunteers have particularly snazzy ID badges. What's it all about? Involvement starts with signing up for a time slot, 7:30 – 9:00 AM or 4:30 – 6:00 PM on a day that suits your schedule. (July is pretty well taken care of but slots are available for August.) Harbor Hosts have materials about Palmyra, the canal, and the county to offer to visitors. They answer questions, provide directions and generally make people feel welcome. A FAQ booklet prepared and revised annually by the Village Office helps fill in possible gaps in the HH's knowledge base. This is a win/win/win – our visitors appreciate being assisted/ the greeter enjoys the conversation/ Palmyra as a whole benefits by being seen as a friendly and interesting place to visit.



If you like people and enjoy talking to them, you will like spending time this way. I guarantee it. Call the Village Hall. [315-597-4849](tel:315-597-4849) and leave your contact information or email me directly, bvdaly@hotmail.com if you want to give it a try. We will work around your schedule and have a place for you in August, September and October.

PS: An unadvertised benefit. If it's quiet at the marina, it's a delightful place to sit and read uninterrupted, a rare treat.