



Diane Bittner was born on October 9, 1946, and raised in Pittsburgh. She met her husband Edwin there and they were married in June of 1967. They have a daughter Lisa and a son Mark and four grandchildren. She moved to Virginia in November of 1981 when her husband took a position at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Diane started her college education attending Allegheny County Community College in Pittsburgh and then transferred to Thomas Nelson Community College, then Christopher Newport University (CNU). She completed her Bachelor of Science in information science at CNU after attending night classes for eleven years and working full time while maintaining a home and two children in college.

Among other positions, Diane worked for the City of Newport News for eighteen years rising to the status of project manager supporting the Newport News Commissioner of Revenue and Treasurer Departments for the maintenance and improvement of programs and data platforms for tax programs.

Diane and Ed moved to The Chesapeake in April 2016. Diane said, “The first time Ed and I walked through the front doors of The Chesapeake we felt the warmth and friendliness that emanated from the community. This feeling was never felt at other CCRCs we visited. As we went through the process of learning everything about The Chesapeake, we felt this was where we wanted to be. We were impressed with the Medicare rating The Chesapeake had. This was not found at other facilities. We joined The Chesapeake Club and waited about a year and a half for the apartment we wanted and have been very comfortable in our home ever since.”

Since then, she has jumped into the community, seeking ways to be involved. She served on the Wellness Committee, she helps to organize monthly Wine Club events, and has served

on the Resident Council, one year as vice president, one year as president, and is currently on the board as past president. Eager to stay involved at the leadership level, she also serves on the Resident Advisory Committee and shares quarterly LifeSpire updates with her fellow residents. Diane also was active in the Yorktown Courtyard refurbishment project.

Diane finds that her best way of helping others is using her skills and expertise in technology to help people communicate. She is part of a Resident Tech Assistance Group to help residents with computer issues.

During the COVID-19 crisis, her skills were particularly useful to The Chesapeake community. She helped people navigate the isolation and quarantine of the pandemic by using technology to connect with one another and with their loved ones. Diane is quick to give credit to the other Resident Council members – they worked as a team to keep communications open, through using the Touchtown announcements and streaming updates to in-house broadcasting channels. The Council was involved in a phone tree calling residents to see if there was anything they needed. When the vaccine became available, Diane helped to set up and manage the vaccine clinics.

Diane said that she has been influenced by The Chesapeake Executive Director David Loop and Barbara Jackson-Ingram, health services administrator for The Chesapeake. Their leadership through the pandemic showed her how residents can be involved to keep their home safe. Being in her first year as President of Resident Council, this guided her to provide residents with the help they needed.

When asked how she hoped to influence others, she said, “Hopefully being able to communicate with the residents through technology assistance has influenced them to explore what is available widening their world around them. Many residents are encouraged by their families to use email and iPads. We have been here to guide them through any questions they may have while trying to keep connected to family and friends. This not only helps the residents, but it helps me keep abreast on the latest technology changes.”

“A fair, caring, focused and dedicated servant leader among the residents, her quiet approach does not hinder her influence of others, as her deeds and thoughtfulness have earned her the highest respect.” David Loop, Executive Director.