

## **NEW COBWRA HEAD'S MAIN GOAL IS BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MEMBERS**

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Ken Lassiter is ready to leave to his mark on the community.

The 74-year-old suburban Boynton Beach resident was elected president of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations last month. He won by two votes during the first contested presidential election in **COBWRA** 's 28-year history.

"I'm trying to make a better quality of life for the people who live here," he said.

**COBWRA** represents 88 neighborhoods west of Boynton Beach and is one of Palm Beach County's most influential civic organizations.

One of Lassiter's goals as president is to get plans under way for a community center in suburban Boynton Beach that is big enough for **COBWRA** 's meetings. Meetings are held at various community clubhouses each month.

"It's inconvenient moving around," he said.

Lassiter grew up in a suburb of Richmond, Va., and attended Virginia Tech, where he graduated with his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1957.

While at Virginia Tech, he pursued his hobby of photography by taking photos for the college newspaper and yearbook.

His first job after college was in the industrial engineering division at Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, N.Y. For the next 36 years, he worked in a multitude of positions, eventually becoming director of Kodak publications.

It was at Kodak that he met his wife of 49 years, Carol.

They have a son, daughter and grandson.

After retiring from Kodak in 1993, Lassiter and his wife moved to South Florida and he worked as the managing director of Palm Beach Photographic Workshops for a season. He contributes regularly to photography publications.

Lassiter's preparation for his current position in **COBWRA** began in 1997, when he was chosen as an alternate delegate to represent his community of Pipers Glen Estates.

"I'm retired from getting a paycheck, but I guess I'm still a workaholic," he said.

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Q&A

If you could switch jobs with anyone, who would it be?

Guy Fieri of the Food Network's Diners, Drive-ins and Dives. "He's got the best job in the country."

What is your favorite junk food?

"Chocolate ice cream."

What is one thing people don't know about you that would surprise them?

"I'm a kid at heart."

What is your favorite childhood memory?

"I grew up as an only child, so I had lots of time alone. I loved playing in the woods behind our house."

What's the best advice you've been given?

"A boss at Kodak told me, 'A good boss always takes less than his share of the credit and more than his share of the blame.'"

With whom would you like to be stuck in an elevator?

"My wife."

**Caption:** ELIZA GUTIERREZ/Staff Photographer

Ken Lassiter, the new president of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations, looks on as state Rep. Kelly Skidmore addresses a recent meeting of the organization. **COBWRA** represents 88 neighborhoods west of Boynton Beach.

**Memo:** MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: Ken Lassiter, 74

South Palm Beach County

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