

# Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

## Celebrating Diane Sheridan's 34 Years as PCAC Facilitator

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Trying to keep the details of a PCAC meeting secret from longtime facilitator Diane Sheridan proved to be difficult but not impossible. The normal agenda was suspended for the December 3, 2024, meeting to honor Sheridan's 34 years of service with the Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council. That much, she knew. What Sheridan did not know was that she would be regaled and recognized throughout the evening by representatives of the state, city, plants, and community for the standards she developed as a facilitator, and her dedication to community-industry dialog.

The Log Cabin was transformed for the evening with color-coordinated cloths and centerpieces on each table, and a string quartet in the corner playing Christmas favorites throughout dinner. A video on the dual screens at the front of the room showed images of Sheridan and PCAC attendees throughout her 34 years with the group.

Incoming Facilitator Emily Morris opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees, reviewing the altered agenda, and introducing the event's emcee, Dennis Winkler, of Winkler Public Relations, before she invited the group to head to the buffet for brisket, sausage, potato salad, and beans.

In keeping with Sheridan's policy to stay on schedule, Winkler began introducing the speakers at 6 p.m., beginning with Pasadena Mayor Jeff Wagner, who declared Dec. 3, 2024, "Diane Sheridan Day in Pasadena."

Additional honors and accolades followed:

- State Rep. Mary Ann Perez, Texas House District 144: Presented a State of Texas resolution
- Raul Camarillo, Harris County Pct. 2 Community Liaison: Announced that a Harris County proclamation for Sheridan would be read at Commissioners Court on Dec. 10, 2024.
- Cristina Womack, President and CEO of Pasadena Chamber of Commerce: Presented Sheridan with flowers and a plaque for her commitment to the City of Pasadena.
- Mark Staes, LyondellBasell Houston Refinery: Presented a State of Texas Certificate of Recognition from Briscoe Cain, State Rep. District 128
- Several plant reps and community members shared their remembrances and thanks (for a complete list, see attached PCAC 12-3-24 Program).

Winkler deftly shared anecdotes as he introduced each speaker and reminisced about his 34-year friendship with Sheridan. Throughout the evening, the comments about Sheridan shared a common theme: her organizational skills, her commitment to community-industry dialog, and her ability to bridge the gap between people with differing viewpoints, all while keeping the meetings civil, not always an easy undertaking.

The evening wrapped up with cake and some parting words from Sheridan, who recalled how much has changed since she began working with the PCAC: "The elder George Bush was President, Ann Richards was soon to become Governor, and John Ray Harrison was Mayor. ... I had no email yet, nor did most members. When someone needed me, they called! And you received all of your mailings by postal service." Sheridan also commented on what hasn't changed: The commitment to open

“constructive dialogue between a group of petrochemical plants and the communities closest to them.”

After thanking Sheridan for being a thorough and understanding mentor, Morris assured Sheridan that the commitment to constructive dialogue will be her priority as facilitator as well. Morris followed by thanking attendees for coming and the many who contributed to the evening (see PCAC 12-3-24 Program for a complete list of contributors), before reminding the group that PCAC would reconvene Jan. 28, 2025, with Morris as its new facilitator.