

Jackie Meck

Name: Jackie Meck

Age: 66

Occupation: Retired general manager-Buckeye Water Conservation & Drainage District

City of residence: Buckeye

Business: Retired

City of business location: Buckeye

Years in West Valley: 66

Family: Wonderful wife-Verlyne: Children-Teresa Kennedy, Sara Faccio, Jackie Meck Jr. and four grandchildren.

Membership in civic or political organizations: Current VP of Agri-Business Council of Arizona, WESTMARC, Fighter Country Partnership, Far West Valley Young Life Organization, Past Mayor and City Councilman/1968-1975, Past City Council/2002-2006, 1993-1994 High School Assistant Football Coach, 1985-1996 High School Assistant Baseball Coach, Current member of Elks and Lions club, member and past president of the Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce, Past Chair of the Medical Facility Study, Past Chair Coordinating Council, past chair of Pioneer Days Celebration, Member of Buckeye Valley Centennial Commission, current Advisory Board Member Mesquite Power Plant and past member of Red Hawk Power Plant, current chair of Tres Rios Nature Festival, member of the El Rios Restoration of the Gila River, past board member Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

Honors and awards: Citizen of the Year 2005 and Volunteer of the Year 2006.

Member and deacon of the First Southern Baptist Church of Buckeye.

Favorite quote: "Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but sooner or later the man who wins, is the man who thinks he can." - Vince Lombardi

Who in history would you most like to have dinner with? Billy Graham or John Wayne

What's your favorite book? "The Heart of a Champion" by Bob Richardson

What's your favorite musical group? Bill Gaither Vocal Band

What you miss most? Athletic Competition

What's your biggest inspiration? My wife Verlyne

Most coveted: My three children, two grandchildren and two grandchildren to be born in January or February 2008.

What is your favorite cause? Restoration of the Gila River

What would your super power be? To Create Peace Around the World

What's your nickname? Jake

What's your favorite food? Steak

What is your biggest pet peeve? Persons in leadership positions that place personal goals ahead of others.



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What originally drew you to the West Valley? My Grandparents, V.O & Lydia Shepard in 1907 and my parents, Billy & Mildred [Shepard] Meck in 1935, provided me the roots for being a Buckeye native.

What drives you? Competition and Challenges

What are your goals (career, personal or for the West Valley)? To make a difference. To meet and welcome new residents to the West Valley. To encourage developers to invest in the community and provide for exceptional amenities.

What is the secret to your success? If I am a considered a success, I would attribute it to being a workaholic plus I enjoy working with others.

How do you feel the West Valley has affected you, and how do you feel you've affected the West Valley? The West Valley growth has allowed me to be very involved in multiple areas. I have many friends that have provided me with support and encouragement. Not the least of other water district managers, farmers, legislators, politicians, school administrators, and fellow Christians.

What would you recommend to people looking to get into your field? Be aware of change and embrace it.

Who was an influence in your life/career, and how did they affect what you do? My dad was a model of commitment to his family, his work and his community. I have tried to duplicate his dedication and commitment.

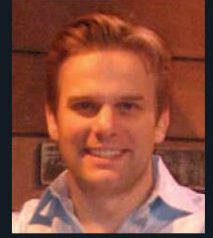
What's the biggest challenge facing you in your work? Having been the manager of a farming and water district, I have seen farm land become housing and commercial developments, beginning in the 1960s with John F. Long's Maryvale community. The challenge is to embrace the growth and be prepared to convert the agricultural water to municipal and industrial needs.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the West Valley, and how does what you do help ease those challenges? Challenges I see are: To seek commercial and industry to provide for local jobs; local hospital and medical facilities; local college opportunities; open spaces and parks for current and future population; additional police and fire coverage; develop potable water supply: Professional ball parks; freeway expansion and stop lights for arterial roads.

As I am retired, I have the time and the will to devote to any and all of the above mentioned areas. Each is just as important to the West Valley as the other. My hope is that current and future generations will be proud to live in the Buckeye Valley. I am willing to pick up a shovel and help start the foundation for tomorrow.



Landis Elliott



Kiel Klaphake

west valley



Scott Phillips



James Patrick de la Montaigne

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Lee McFarland



Bryan Sperber

Two more have been added to the ranks of the West Valley's Movers and Shakers, and two more are coming this month. We hope you've found these people as interesting as we have.

In the coming months, we may throw some curves at you, and there may be some people you may look at and say, "Well, that makes sense." There's a lot these people, and not just these, have to offer the region, and we're happy to be highlighting some of them and their accomplishments.

16 down, 8 to go for this year.



Dustin C. Jones



Walt Kallestad



Steve Yamamori



Stephen Cleveland



Jenny Ellis



Reyes Medrano Jr.



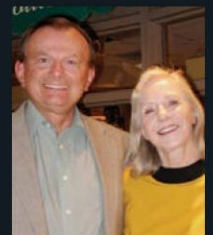
Christopher Garman



Jack Lytle



Thom Cyder



The Kellams