

Résumé for Phyllis Farenga

Phyllis Farenga is a hard working 38-year Marana resident and small business owner with extensive experience with local, state and federal governments. She is resourceful with extensive contacts in both the government and private sectors. She has a long history of working for community and economic development, small business development and child welfare issues.

Historic summary of experience:

Phyllis graduated from Purdue University Pest Control Management Program while majoring in Biology under industry legend Dr. Austin Frishman at Farmingdale University in New York in 1978.

Phyllis went to work for a national mouse-eared company in 1978. She was eventually fired in 1981 for being too intelligent and too educated - "Your collage education does not mean anything here." Thus Phyllis decided never to work for another corporation.

Phyllis is the owner of Pest-Techs Pest Control LLC. The company was started in 1982 and has been in continuous operation ever since. Pest-Techs was the first pest control company in Marana. Phyllis has the distinction of being the only woman in Arizona to have been granted the unlimited class A pest control license. Pest-Techs has gone on to win 3 consecutive years of Marana Best in Business award for 2016 to 2018 and Marana Hallmark Business award for overcoming adversity in 2019.

Around 1983, Phyllis helped found the Tucson chapter of the National Association of Woman Business Owners (NAWBO). NAWBO helped women become politically active and positively affect domestic and international policies.

Phyllis became a charter member of Resources for Woman in 1984. Resources for Woman is a networking group that had both men and woman members to promote local businesses.

Phyllis provided assistance during the devastating October 1983 flood by helping to shovel mud from houses on Grier Road, close to Marana Town Hall.

Phyllis was elected to the position of White House delegate in 1985. White House delegates help to set the national agenda for Congress and are selected by small businesses, Chambers of Commerce and pro-business groups to serve as a small business advocate for a period of 5 years. As a delegate Chair for Community Development and Education, Phyllis was able to meet Bill Gates, Lee Iacocca and many other Fortune 500 business leaders to discuss labor, education and environmental issues. In addition, Phyllis was able to meet the U.S. Presidents, Senator John McCain, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and many other government officials.

Marana Mayor Bill Schisler asked Phyllis to start the Marana Chamber of Commerce in 1986.

Phyllis was the founder and first director. She set up the charter, bylaws, policies, procedures and goals. During her tenure she started the Chamber's first promotional magazine.

Marana Mayor Bill Schisler then asked Phyllis to sit on the Marana Planning and Zoning Commission in 1986. He wanted her on the Commission because of her independent thinking and her willingness to stand up for what was right. As Bill said: "I want someone who will tell me the things I don't want to hear." Phyllis served on the Marana Planning and Zoning Commission for 6 years.

Phyllis was selected for the Governor's Board of Contract Compliance in 1987 by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Phyllis won a scholarship and joined the Goldwater Institute in 1988 where they teach members how to be proactive, entrepreneurial and to improve the government.

Phyllis received the Small Business Challenger Award in 1989 from Arizona Small Business United. The award was for being the smallest company to confront significant adversity and continuing to thrive.

Phyllis was a member of the Pima County Comprehensive Planning Commission and selected to represent Marana.

Phyllis was continued as a small business White House delegate in 1990 for a second 5-year period, appointed by Senator John Kyle.

Phyllis received the Honorary Empowerment Award from Resources for Woman in 1992.

Phyllis participated in Career Day for the Marana School District during 1990 to 2005. She talked about pest control, education being equal to freedom and the successful characteristics of being a small business owner in a competitive field. She provided real life examples to demonstrate to second graders why reading, writing and arithmetic were a fundamental part of small businesses.

Phyllis received the Small Business Guardian recognition from National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) in 1992.

Phyllis was appointed by President Clinton to continue as a small business White House delegate in 1995 for a third 5-year period.

Phyllis gave motivational talks to women trying to get off welfare for the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). She provided a living example that hard work and determination can lead to independence. She received a Certificate of Appreciation in 1995 for her volunteer work.

Phyllis was a volunteer Arizona Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for four years. A CASA represents the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. She was the eyes and ears for the judges and reported regularly to the assigned judges as to the condition of the

children and made recommendations as to what was best for the children. Phyllis received a Certificate of Appreciation from Judge Bernini in 2002.

Phyllis led a proactive campaign to expose an inefficient and abusive state commission - the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission (SPCC) - which led to the bipartisan Sunset Review committee recommending to the full legislature to abolish the SPCC on October 30, 2007. She will be continuing her participation in early 2008 to assist with the industry's transition to a state agency to protect the public safety and small entrepreneurs.

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), member of Leadership Council.

Member of the Marana Board of Adjustments, 2011 to present. The Board of Adjustments position is a quasi judicial position.

Former member National Association of Woman Business Owners (NAWBO), co-chair of public policy for the Tucson chapter.

League of Woman Voters, committee member Education and Voter Outreach.

Organized and facilitated legislative workshops to help citizens engage with government and understand the legislative process. She also organized nonpartisan candidate training programs to train potential candidates how to organize a campaign and run for office. 2010 to present.

Its-Our-Turn.com president, non-profit representing small business in updated legislation to prevent economic barriers to entry. 2006 to present.

Phyllis became a published authority in 2018 for her work on Cave Dwelling Arthropods in Buckelew Cave, Arizona.

References available upon request.

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