

## Board of Directors

Indian Wells Valley Water District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by voters within the Indian Wells Valley Water District. Directors are elected to a four-year staggered terms, with elections held in even-numbered years.

**Harold W. Manning – Vice-President** – A Ridgecrest resident since 1982, Harold Manning was



first elected to the Board of Directors in 2002. Mr. Manning has been a Certified Public Accountant since 1974. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs; the California Society of CPAs; and the Washington Society of CPAs. His accounting practice clientele includes several other water districts and community service districts (whose primary concern is providing water), giving him an in-depth familiarity with the challenges being faced by water utilities across the region, both fiscally and otherwise. When Harold gets the chance, he teaches ballroom dancing with his wife, Rancy. Off the dance floor, the two enjoy art, traveling and eating at “great” restaurants.

**Donald W. Cortichiato – Director** – Mr. Cortichiato graduated with a Bachelor of Science



degree in Business Economics from the University of California, Riverside. He retired from federal civil service after 33 years at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake. He had a variety of specialist, supervisory and managerial experience in both the Human Resources Department and the Safety and Security Department. Since retiring, Mr. Cortichiato has been volunteering with the local NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) chapter, has raised funds for the Ridgecrest Habitat for Humanity, and has been working for State Farm as a licensed insurance and financial services representative. Mr. Cortichiato was elected to the Board of

Directors in 2004. Since that time, he has served on the following sub-committees for the District: Administrative/Executive, Finance, Water Management, and Plant & Equipment. Mr. Cortichiato also represents the District in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) both as our Region 7 representative and as a member of the ACWA Statewide Insurance and Personnel Committee. Mr. Cortichiato is married to Erma and they have five daughters.

**Leroy H. Corlett – Director** – Having resided locally for 52 years, Indian Wells Valley Water



District’s newly elected Board President Leroy Corlett and wife Carol originally relocated to the high desert from Long Beach on the advice of a pediatrician in an effort to ease their son’s asthma.

In 1957, this two-time past Water Board president completed his Associate of Arts degree at Bakersfield City College as part of the Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) China Lake’s apprentice program. During his career on Base, he worked primarily as a project engineer. His last position there was Avionics Lead Engineer in the Advanced Projects Office. On this assignment, he was responsible for supporting the development, integration, and testing

of complex avionics systems and assuring that Navy requirements were met. In 1995, Corlett went to work for Lockheed Martin Corporation as a senior engineer.

Corlett believes his time with the Navy’s Research & Development team and his resultant accumulation of technical and management knowledge are two valuable assets he brings to IWVWD policy making decisions. “Solutions that are timely and cost effective are key,” Corlett

explained. "I advocate fiscal accountability. I also want to see the District become more proactive in the areas of system operation, water conservation, understanding of our aquifer and alternate water supply sources."

Although he is now in retirement after his years with the Navy and Lockheed Martin, Corlett sounds surprised to find himself busier than ever. "I am the District's representative on the Navy's environmental Restoration Advisory Board as well as on the Mojave Desert-Mountain Resource Conservation Council," he said and added with a laugh, "I used to enjoy working on automobiles but there is no time for that now."

The Corletts are parents of five adult children: Rick, Gary, David, Lorie and Kevin. After 55 years of marriage, they enjoy spending time together while gardening, traveling and – most especially – doting on their grandchildren. And as for his hectic schedule of responsibilities? Corlett responded, "I feel that I have been given a comfortable life and try to give back by helping others."

**Peggy Breeden – Director** – As a Valley resident since 1983, Margaret L. (Peggy) Breeden has children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She lives and works in Ridgecrest where she owns The Swap Sheet.



Ms. Breeden is a member and past president of the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce. She has served three terms on that Board of Directors and is often involved with issues that either relate, impact or may be impacted by water issues.

She is proud to have served two terms on the Indian Wells Valley Airport District where she helped to develop the Airport and the District as an emerging economic entity of the IWV as well as a hub for recreational/commercial travel and commercial enterprises.

As a business owner who lives in the Valley, she knows that clean, safe, affordable water or the lack thereof is the most important factor in our lives here.

Ms. Breeden has attended almost all water district meetings since 1984 as well as many of the other water-related meetings. She has served on committees, and written and spoken extensively about water since 1984.

In 1986, she helped form the Indian Wells Valley Well Owners Association and for many years served as president. In that capacity, she was honored to speak for the 400+ members and many other individuals. As a well owner, the lifetime investment is worthless without sufficient good quality water.

As a former private well owner, she understands the real fear that someone might/could impact the water that supplied her own well and that by doing so her property would decrease in value. It was a constant burden that she and thousands of others bore and still bear.

"Now as a customer of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, you and I are in the same situation – we all are well owners for our Valley."

**Peter Brown – President** – Born and raised in the upper Mojave Desert, located in the Indian



Wells Valley, California, Peter Brown has been self-employed for 27 years and is owner and operator of Earth Landscaping and Maintenance. Mr. Brown holds many licenses and certifications which qualify him in all aspects of landscape contracting. Landscaping allows him to pursue important environmental issues dealing with water conservation. Brown has been elected to the Board of Directors for over 13 years. Mr. Brown married his high school sweetheart, Debbie, and has two children, Mindy and Ruben. Hobbies include gardening, designing and building, welding and

wood working and watching science fiction movies. He loves to drive his 1930 Model "A" hobby car. He is an active member and Paul Harris Fellow of the China Lake Rotary Club and has traveled to India and Africa to assist in Rotary's Polio Plus campaigns immunizing children under five against polio.