



Welcome New Staff Member, Phyllis Kimmel Health & Wellness Operations Manager



By Bob McDonald

The Village provides comprehensive health and wellness education, programs, and services aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life for all members. Our focus includes

addressing common concerns in the aging community, such as preventive care and offering support to members requiring additional services.

The **Health and Wellness Committee** addresses social and health-related challenges to enhance the lives of our members. To assist our members in leading healthy, safe, and active lives, the Committee has established three main goals:

1. To provide health and wellness education including personal and home safety to our members;
2. To provide information and services to proactively support health and independence; and
3. To provide support to members with chronic or acute physical and mental challenges.

Over the past year, the Committee has grown in members as we have fleshed out our objectives in meeting these goals. Three teams were formed to work on each of these goals. Considering the importance of this work, a decision was made to search for a part-time staff member to manage the Committee's responsibilities.

We are very excited to announce that we have identified an excellent person to fill this position, **Phyllis Kimmel**.

Phyllis is a lawyer and long-time resident of DC; she has lived in Adams Morgan for 20 years. She works for herself and specializes in energy regulatory law, with a focus on advocating for lower electricity prices, improved integration of renewable energy, contractual rights and regulatory compliance.

Phyllis grew up in Poughkeepsie NY, in a family of mathematicians and computer programmers. She took a different path while attending college at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where she majored in psychology. Interested in public policy, she moved to the DC area where her first job out of college was at a small non-profit in Dupont Circle. Following that, Phyllis attended law school at NYU, where she focused on public interest law. She returned to DC where she worked on low-income energy issues at the National Consumer Law Center and then served as a consumer advocate at the DC Office of People's Counsel.

Phyllis worked for 19 years at a law firm, representing rural electric cooperatives, municipalities, state agencies and non-profits. Eventually, she decided she wanted more flexibility in her schedule, so in January 2020, she took a leap of faith and quit her job and started her own firm doing the same type of work.

Throughout her career, making time to volunteer has always been a priority for Phyllis. Over the years, Phyllis has been a peer mentor to women recently diagnosed with breast cancer (a program called Survivors Offering Support), helped low-income DC residents complete their taxes (Community Tax Aid), led numerous walks and hikes for several local hiking clubs, and photographed events for local community groups.

Phyllis began volunteering with DCV in 2023, and recently decided she wanted to ramp up her commitment to the needs of the organization itself. Given her own and family members' experiences with the health care system, she has long been enthusiastic about helping others on health-related matters. The part-time project manager role for DCV's Health and Wellness Committee not only gives Phyllis an opportunity to do just this but also has the immeasurable benefit of expanding her connection to local members of the community, for which she is very grateful.

Join us in welcoming Phyllis!