

APPLICATION FOR  
SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

JAN 13 2005

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REGION II

Completed applications are due by January 13, 2006.

Please print or type all information.

Title: Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Esq. ☐ Rev. ☐

Name: First Middle Initial Last  
GLEN E. OLSON

Address: Street Address/RR City/State Township  
223 HILLCREST DR WARREN CANTON

Phone: Home Business Cell  
814-723-3704 814-688-3045

Email: Home Business  
GLEN.OLSON@WARREN.NET

Age: (18-29) ☐ (30-39) ☐ (40-59) ☐ (60-79) ☒ (80+) ☐

Gender: Female: ☐ Male: ☒

Education: Did Not Graduate ☐ High Sch. Grad ☒ College Grad ☐ Post Grad ☐

Occupation: RETIRED

Are you employed by the Warren County School District? Yes ☐ No ☒

Are any family members employed by the Warren County School District? Yes ☒ No ☐

Please provide a brief description of why you are interested in filling this position:

SEE ATTACHED

What qualifications or strengths would you bring to the position?

SEE ATTACHED

List school or community organizations/activities in which you have been involved: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE ATTACHED

Please provide any additional information you feel would assist in evaluating this application: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE ATTACHED

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed application to:

Ruth Huck, Board Secretary  
Warren County School District  
185 Hospital Drive  
N. Warren, PA 16365  
Fax: 814-726-1060  
Phone: 814-723-6900 ext. 2123

Gary E. Olson  
808 Hillcrest Drive  
Warren, PA 16365  
814-723-3704

January 12, 2006

E-mail address – geksolson@verizon.net

Description why interested:

My reason for interest is the education of our children. I have observed the actions of several boards and find them lacking in developing long-term goals and direction for the district. Administration cannot do their job properly without proper goals and direction from the board. The district faces many challenges, which cannot be addressed if the board as a TEAM cannot look at the BIG picture and develop long-term goals and direction for the district. I hope that with my many years of management and public service experience that I may be able to help as a team member to develop goals and direction for the district. It is long past time that the board put aside personal goals and looks at the big picture of what needs to be done to give our students the best possible education.

Qualifications and strengths:

25 years owning and operating my own business, 7 years operating a large multi location business doing over \$10 million per year. Serving as the Mayor of the City of Warren, learning the necessary skills of managing a public entity. Serving on local, regional, state and national boards and committees.

List school and community organizations/activities:

Warren County Ad-Hoc Committee on Drug Abuse  
Warren Recreation Center Fund Inc.

President

Board of Directors

Warren County Chamber of Commerce

Chairman of Ambassadors Club - 2 years

Board of Directors - 7 years

VP - Membership Development - 1 year

President - 1 year

Warren County Development Association

Board of Directors - 8 years

Chairman of Site Development Committee - 4 years

Interim Executive Director - 1 year

Warren County Crippled Children's Committee

Board of Directors - 4 years

Treasurer - 2 years

Warren County Economic Opportunity Council

Board of Directors - 3 years

Seneca Heritage and Four Flags Committee

Board of Directors - 4 years

Chairman of Fund raising - 2 years

President - 3 years

Four Flags Joint Service Committee

Advisor - 4 years

Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Advisory Board - 5 years

Chairman – 4 years

Treasurer 1 year

City of Warren

Member of Council - 3 years

Mayor & President of Council - 8 years

Steering Committee for Economic Development

Central Business District Development Committee

Police Pension Committee

Pennsylvania Florists Association

Board of Directors - 12 years

Chairman of Budget & Finance - 5 years

Treasurer - 3 years

Executive Director 1988 -1995

Pennsylvania Flower Growers Association

Executive Director 1990 - 1995

Penn State University, Department of Horticulture

Advisory Council – 6 years

Penn State University, College of Agricultural Sciences

Advisory council to the Dean – 3 years

PA Department of Agriculture

Advisory Council to the Secretary – 3 years

Additional information:

Most board members are familiar with me and the accomplishments that I have helped produce in the area. I am now retired and am looking for an organization that could use my talents and experiences to advance their needs and goals. The school system is in need of individuals who are willing to set aside personal goals and interests to work as a team for the benefit of the district. I feel that I can fill your position on the board with an open mind and no personal or regional prejudices to cloud the issues. My goal is to have the best school system that educates the students prepared for either college or other life opportunities.

## **GARY E. OLSON**

808 Hillcrest Drive  
Warren, PA 16365

1-814-723-3704 Home  
1-814-688-2043 Cell  
geksolson@verizon.net

### **BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

Over 35 successful years in retail and management consulting specializing in the horticulture industry. Civic and community leader for over 20 years. Demonstrated skills in developing policy and procedures, negotiating, strategic planning, team building and follow through. Ability to accomplish multiple assignments simultaneously meeting deadlines and achieve excellent results.

### **AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **MANAGEMENT**

- Managed two state trade associations increasing membership by 15%.
- Developed and delivered educational seminars in Floral Design and Floral Business Management to generate new revenue for small businesses.
- Expedited state trade alliance to lobby state legislature on industry related issues.
- Developed volunteer teams to improve delivery of services to membership and operate trade shows, conventions and educational meetings.
- Designed, built and managed three leased departments of 1200 sq. ft. each achieving \$1.5 million in sales per year within in three years.
- Managed Floral Design Production facility improving selection, quality and quantity of product for five stores.
- Negotiated contracts from construction to publication building three stores and fixtures, decorating state functions and publishing International Grower Manual.
- Organized strategic planning for municipality to implement a change in form of government, and long-term capital improvements to municipal services and facilities.
- Consulted with companies improving their operating profits from 25 to 150%.
- Consulted with companies on development of proper staffing policies and procedures to establish proper operating and staff development.
- Developed operating budgets for associations, reducing operating expenses and improving cash reserves while expanding member services.
- Developed new investment plan for endowment fund increasing available program income by 100% in three years.
- Organized strategic planning for associations resulting in increase services to membership and financial stability of the associations.

#### **COMMUNICATION**

- Wrote monthly members newsletter, keeping members abreast of changes and news in the industry.
- Edited research newsletter to improve opportunities for industry production improvements.
- Trained store employees on automated sales and marketing systems that increased sales and database marketing.
- Conducted seminars on floral business and design, which increased sales and productivity for attendees.
- Developed statewide databank as part of a networking service for association members.

## EVENTS MANAGEMENT

- Developed state convention and tradeshow, which brought national programs and vendors to increase business opportunities and products to members.
- Administered five state, Horticulture competition enabling college students to test their knowledge and skills in a competitive environment.
- Chaired International floral convention and trade show which offered the attendees the opportunity to see products and techniques of other cultures.
- Director of International Geranium Conference in Denmark- handled registration and tour opportunities of attendees in North America.
- Managed contract with state to decorate 15-acre complex and all special events for eight-day farm show using volunteer help.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ENGLISH GARDENS INC., Dearborn Heights, MI 1995-2002  
Multi-location retail garden center, nursery and floral company.

**General Manager Floral Services** 1995-1999  
**Management Team – Retail Store** 1999-2002

GIRTON'S FLOWERS AND GIFTS INC., Warren, PA 1970-1995  
Retail Florist, Management Consulting and Administration.

**President and CEO** 1970-1995  
**Floral Management Consulting Services** 1988-1995  
**Executive Director – Pennsylvania Florists Association** 1988-1995  
**Executive Director-Pennsylvania Flower Growers Association** 1989-1995  
**Executive Director – Pennsylvania Floral Short Course** 1989-1992  
**Director - Mid Atlantic Horticultural Field Days** 1990-1994  
**Representative – Professional Florist Group** 1987-1994  
**Executive Director – Warren County Development Association** 1986-1987

## EDUCATION

Jamestown Community College, Jamestown, NY  
**Diploma**, New York State Police Academy, Albany, NY  
**Diploma**, Jamestown High School, Jamestown, NY

## CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

Mayor and President of Council, City of Warren, PA, population 12,000 1978-1986  
President, Warren Recreation Center Fund Inc. 1984-1995  
Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Board Member, Treasurer and President 1986-1996  
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs 1978-1986

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Penn State University, College of Agriculture, Advisory Council to the dean 1990-1995  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 1990-1995  
Advisory Council to the Secretary of Agriculture  
Society of American Florists, Retail Council and Membership Committee 1993-1996  
American Academy of Floriculture Inducted 1983