

## District Three Trustee

Candidate Name: **Linda Middleton**

I am the Executive Director and Founder of Concerned Citizens, since 1979 it has provided me with a constant learning opportunity and helped me in every aspect of my life. My other teacher, son, and mentor, Toby, was born with hydrocephalus, a severe developmental delay, and seizures. We lost his father when he was a year old.

My husband of 40 years brought me another son, (two grown grandsons ), and a wonderful biological son (two beautiful grandsons, now 7 and 2). Our 11 year old great grand- daughter completes our family circle.

I currently have an AA degree in Licensed Practical Nursing (1973) and have an Early Childhood Development Degree (1992). In 1979 I started a non-profit, Concerned Citizens, with a bunch of awesome parents. It is now a 3.5-million-dollar organization with three branches in two counties, 14 programs, 23 State and County contracts, 130 employees and serves over 1,470 unduplicated clients annually.

Here are some life lessons I have learned and bring to the table : being right is not important; ignoring is a skill; consistency is hard; pick your battles; let go of the little stuff. Other people's judgement and expectation do not have to be yours; never let your guard down, think before you speak. Listening is more valuable than talking, compromise is good, avoid power struggles and finally communication and reflection are your most important skills. Being hard does not mean you can't be kind, but it depends on how you do it. Tests only measure one intelligence, success comes in many styles, personality, friendships and life experiences can take you a long way. Be persistent and tenacious, some things take a long time to accomplish, don't ever give up and in all cases humor is essential.

