

**APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS**



**Board/Commission/Committee:** Tourism Task Force

**Seat Applying For (select only ONE):**

- Sitka Tribe of Alaska Representative
- Ports and Harbors Commission Representative
- Sustainability Commission Representative
- Downtown Business Corridor
- Business in General
- Tours and Attractions
- Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal
- Community At-Large

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Length of Residence in Sitka:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Registered to vote in Sitka?**  Yes  No

**Employer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organizations you belong to or participate in:**

- ATIA - Alaska Travel Industry Assoc.
- Sitka Chamber of Commerce
- Alaska Raptor Center

**Explain your main reason for applying:**

**What experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?**

**Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:** N/A

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

**To be considered, your application must be complete AND include a letter of interest, or a resume.**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** *Bob West*

Return your completed application and letter of interest or resume to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: All information submitted is public and will be published online. Appointments are typically made during Assembly meeting open sessions. However, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed?  Yes  No

**RETURN TO: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist**  
**Municipal Clerk's Office, 100 Lincoln Street, Floor 3 ~ Fax: 907-747-7403 ~ clerk@cityofsitka.org**

## Ral T. West



Ral West lives in Sitka, Alaska. Ral began working in the Alaska tourism industry in the early 1970's. She worked for Westours, Princess Tours, and TravAlaska Tours in Seattle, and Leisure Tours in Ketchikan. In 1981, she moved from Ketchikan to Anchorage and opened her own business, providing marketing consulting to Alaska visitor industry firms. During her 40-plus years as an entrepreneur, Ral (together with her husband, John Hardwick) has built several businesses, including a charter airline business (Hawaiian Vacations, based in Anchorage) which they had for over 25 years. They sold that business to Alaska Airlines in 2008.

Following the sale of Hawaiian Vacations, they purchased several small cruise ships and for over 10 years they owned and leased these 100-ton passenger overnight vessels, which were deployed in Alaska and Mexico. They sold the last vessel in 2022.

Ral and John are also real estate investors. They have owned vacation rental condos in Maui for almost 30 years. They have also been investing in commercial and residential income properties in Alaska for over 30 years. Their company, Sitka Makai LLC, owns residential income property in Sitka and commercial property in Soldotna. They entered the multifamily investment market in February 2021 when they joined Brad Sumrok's Apartment Investor Mastery Personal Mentoring and Mastermind program. They founded Hardwick Apartment Homes LLC in March 2021 and since then have invested as Limited Partners, Key Principals and co-General Partners in nearly 6000 apartment units in Arizona, Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Florida.

Ral has a wealth of travel industry experience, as well as over 40 years of experience as an entrepreneur. She understands business, especially small businesses. And she has been an Alaska resident since 1980. Sitka is their chosen home, and because they are committed to Sitka for the long term, they have built a new home on Halibut Point Road which they call "Forever Sitka".

Ral will not benefit from her work on the Sitka Tourism Task Force in any tangible way. She simply wants to make a contribution to the community she loves, and to the industry that has provided so much to her family for decades.