

# APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT – Martin County Historic Preservation Board – Please Print

**Type of Member:** All members must be Martin County residents.

RECEIVED

By Donna Gordon at 3:25 pm, Dec 30, 2025

- Architect with professional or educational experience related to his/her field
- General Contractor with professional or educational experience related to his/her field
- Realtor
- Demonstrated knowledge specifically related to Martin County history
- At-Large

Check One:  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss  Dr.

Name: Jette Lorion Rice Incumbent

Residence Address: 6957 SE Bay Hill Dr. Stuart, FL 34997  
Street/City/Zip Code

Mailing Address: 6526 S. Kanner Hwy PmB-316 Stuart, FL 34997  
(if different) Street/City/Zip Code

4<sup>th</sup>

Commission District in which you reside: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff will complete.

Are you available year round to attend meetings?  yes  no If no, what months are you available?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone numbers: daytime: 305-281-0429 alternate: \_\_\_\_\_ alternate: \_\_\_\_\_  
~Area Codes are considered 772 unless you note otherwise.

EMAIL: j13353@aol.com

Have you ever pled guilty or "no contest" to a crime, been convicted of a crime, had adjudication withheld, prosecution deferred, been placed on probation, received a suspended sentence or forfeited bail in connection with any offense (except minor traffic violations)? Please show all convictions, including driving while intoxicated (DUI) convictions.  yes  no If yes, please provide the following information:

TYPE OF OFFENCES: \_\_\_\_\_

DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACES (city/state): \_\_\_\_\_

SENTENCES OR FINES: \_\_\_\_\_

A conviction record does not necessarily disqualify you for consideration. Factors such as age at time of offense, nature of violation, and rehabilitation will be considered. The Martin County Board of County Commissioners retains the right to remove, at will, any appointee to a Board or Committee with or without cause.

→ CONTINUED →

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:** A resume is recommended to be attached containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application. Resume or letter of qualifications attached?  yes  no

Education: High school degree, Some college, and on job training as a paralegal and legal assistant.

Employment Experience: Environmental and Research consultant, including historical and public + government relations, paralegal and legal assistant experience. See attached.

Other experience you feel would be helpful to the Board in making this appointment: I have extensive experience researching and working on historic preservation issues, especially with community organizations & the media. I also have knowledge of the ordinance and institutional knowledge.

Community Experience and Affiliations: my many years working on Historic Preservation Month has acquainted me with many people and community organizations that share our preservation goals.

Other County Boards/Committees/Task Forces on which you have served: in Martin County, I served on the Historic Preservation Board, as well as Committee for the City of Stuart Centennial and Martin County Centennial.

Do you or any member of your immediate family work for Martin County or do you or a company that you are an officer or employee of have an existing contract with Martin County? If yes, please explain:

NO.

**REFERENCES:** Please list two references:

Sandra Thurlow, historian

772-287-6032

- Applicant may be required by State Law and County Ordinance to file a Financial Disclosure Statement as part of the appointment process.
- Florida law prohibits an advisory board member from doing business with its agency (the County). Sections 112.313(3) and (7), Florida Statutes. However, upon full disclosure by the Applicant, the conflict may be waived at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners by a supermajority vote. Section 112.313(12), Florida Statutes.

Barbara Osborn, DAR

772-286-2724

→ Signature:

Jordan Rile

Date: 12/30/2025

Applications must be filed with Martin County Administration, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996 by **Friday, January 2, 2026**. All information submitted becomes public record. If you have any questions, please call (772) 221-1352 or send email to [jordan@martin.fl.us](mailto:jordan@martin.fl.us).

## JOETTE LORION RICE

Joette Lorion Rice, has been an environmentalist, research consultant, and preservationist in South Florida for over forty years. In Miami-Dade, where she lived prior to her move to Martin County in 2004, she worked on both environmental and historic preservation issues. In the 1980s, Joette was the named party in a case *Lorion v United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission et al*, which was eventually heard by U.S. Supreme Court. An environmental consultant to the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida for eighteen years, Joette worked with the media and government agencies, as a paralegal on cases related to the Everglades, and testified before Congress on Everglades matters. In 2000, she married Colonel Terry Rice, the former District Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, who oversaw the development of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Sadly, Colonel Rice passed away on September 30, 2020.

Joette is the past President of *Friends of the Everglades*, the organization founded by pioneer conservationist and author of *The Everglades: River of Grass*, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. She remained volunteer President until Mrs. Douglas passed away at 108. As President, Joette became involved with the Miami-Dade County Land Trust on issues involving the historic designation of Mrs. Douglas historic home and an attempt to raise funds to restore the Cole House next door.

Joette has served on many committees and boards including: the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group and Science Coordination Team, the Combined Structural and Operational Plan Advisory Team, the Miami-Dade County CO2 Reduction Committee, the Habitat for Humanity Jordan Commons Steering Committee, and closer to home, the Martin County *Historic Preservation Board*, the Stuart News committee for *Celebrating 100*, a special edition for the *Stuart Centennial*, and the committee for the *Martin County Centennial*.

Joette was a researcher and co-producer with director/producer Tom Glennon on a number of videos intended to educate the community about the environmental and historic treasures in their midst, such as: Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the Everglades, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys, the Carrysfort Light House, Fairchild Tropical Garden, and the Barnacle in Coconut Grove. A video that she and Mr. Glennon co-produced on the Everglades won a Suncoast Regional Emmy Award.

Joette was also a research assistant for author John Rothchild on his book on Florida history, *Up for Grabs: A Trip through Time and Space in the Sunshine State*, and on the autobiography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, *The Voice of the River*. In *Up for Grabs*, Mr. Rothchild acknowledges: “Joette Lorion: a single-handed research department.”

Joette’s more interesting accomplishments include being named one of the “Six Most Unstoppable Women Under the Sun” by *South Florida Magazine* and “One of the 75 People Who Make South Florida Sizzle” by *Ocean Drive Magazine*.

Upon moving to Martin County in late 2004, Joette and Colonel Rice, quickly realized that preserving Martin County’s unique history was essential to maintaining their quality of life in this evolving community. In 2006, Joette was appointed to the Martin County *Historic Preservation Board* and has served for the past 20 years. During her tenure, Joette served as Vice-Chair and

Chair multiple times. Joette has demonstrated her knowledge of the *Historic Preservation Ordinance*, and Martin County's historic landmarks, and is often called upon to share her institutional and historical knowledge with the Board and the community. Joette was involved in the first Martin County *Historic Preservation Month* in 2006 and helped coordinate the calendar of events and publicity each year until it was brought to a halt temporarily by the Covid 19 pandemic. During Joette's tenure on the Board, this very special month grew from six events sponsored solely by the Board in 2006 to more than 30 events sponsored by a myriad of community organizations in 2025. Joette, who continues to help coordinate events, believes that *Historic Preservation Month* has been vital to accomplishing the Board's duty of *promoting an awareness of the benefits of historic preservation in the community*. She looks forward to continuing to help organize *Historic Preservation Month* in the future if reappointed.

Joette's research skills have also been important in her historic preservation work on behalf of the Board. In 2013, veteran journalist Joe Crankshaw invited Joette to be part of the committee working on *Project 100* for a special edition of the *Stuart News, Celebrating 100*, on the *City of Stuart Centennial*. Since there were no books detailing the more recent history of the City, Joette was asked to help research this period. She spent many hours researching the microfilm in the *Stuart News* archives to supplement the post-1974 timeline of events. The special edition, *Celebrating 100*, was published on October 27, 2013 during *Historic Preservation Month*.

Joette also wrote short histories of Martin County landmarks for the *Stuart News* and worked on story boards that were placed at historic properties to help educate the public about our local treasures. One of her most satisfying tasks was working with the former students of the one-room schoolhouse, known as the *Salerno Colored School* during the era of segregation, to piece together its history and that of its esteemed teacher, Costella Williams. On April 29, 2013, the schoolhouse (discovered to have been built in 1934) was placed on the *Martin County Register of Historic Places*. Joette continues to work with preservationist Julie Preast, and the Martin County Black Heritage Initiatives Inc. (MCBHI), to further compile the history of the building to use on an application to one day place this significant landmark on the *National Register of Historic Places*. Joette also worked with Ms. Preast and MCBHI to prepare an application for a Florida Historical Marker that was approved by the State on July 25, 2025, and was dedicated at the Schoolhouse on May 17, 2025, during Historic Preservation Month.

Joette's future plans include continuing to use her time and talents, and historical and institutional knowledge, to further the goal of preserving the history of Martin County. Joette would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for having allowed her to serve as a member of the *Historic Preservation Board*, where she has learned much about the unique heritage of Martin County and the substantial significance of preserving our local treasures for future generations. In 2025, the *Daughters of the American Revolution* (DAR) presented Joette with the prestigious *National Historic Preservation Medal* for her decades of work on behalf of historic preservation in Martin County. Many leaders of community organizations attended this event. While Joette greatly appreciated and was touched by the honor, she remembers the words of Marjory Stoneman Douglas who taught her that "*the work is its own reward*."

Note: Joette's current appointment to the *Historic Preservation Board* is as a member who has *Demonstrated knowledge specifically related to Martin County History*.