

# Dauphin Island

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## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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### May 2010 Newsletter

Since the last newsletter much has happened on and around Dauphin Island. Our POA election has taken place, we've had our annual meeting, and -of course-we have an oil contamination crisis that continues to threaten our environment and our economy. While we have been fortunate that no oil—other than some tar balls—has actually reached our shores, we know that it is simply a matter of time and wind patterns. The proverbial Sword of Damocles is surely hanging over us. But even in the midst of this serious and overriding concern, life goes on and I will mention a few items of business as usual. I will also include some detail of how the POA is involved in the clean-up preparation and what we have done and will do to contribute to the effort.

**2010 POA Election.** As most know by now, we had a robust slate of director candidates—eight in all—running for the three board vacancies. Following the mail-out of the ballots, it was brought to our attention that the required proxy language (the constitution requires vote in person or by proxy and we use a proxy system) was not present. This was a cause for concern and we considered resending the ballots but given the fact that so many had been returned, etc., we decided to go ahead with the election for directors but to remove the constitutional amendment from consideration. I want to personally apologize for this omission and assure you that the problem will be corrected before the next vote. We had almost 600 responses and here are the results: M Rogers 303; R Linn 298; B Thompson 244; S Graves 194; D Meyer 180; N Sass 166; V Bratt 132; P Hemphill 69.

**2010 Annual Meeting.** The meeting was held on May 8 at 11:00 am. We presented the financial reports and noted that again during the fiscal year the organization incurred more expenses than income. The largest single factor is the reduced royalty income—down around \$100,000 from last year. Golf was off some and we are still ramping up our income from use of our facilities. Dues are a major source of funding and I greatly appreciate the response that we have seen thus far this year. More on dues and finances below. The board welcomed Mike Rogers, Robin Linn, and Bruce Thompson to three year terms. Officers chosen by the new board are: President—Bruce Jones; VP—Charles Gaba; Secretary—Mike Rogers; and Treasurer—Bruce Thompson. Subsequently, Frank Leatherbury resigned from the board and Stan Graves was selected by the board to fill the remaining one year of Frank's term.

**Dues.** As is often mentioned, membership dues are an increasingly important component of the organization's financing. It is suggested from time to time that dues should be mandatory-actually assessed - and that only those who are current should be able to vote. Those changes may come some day but for now I hope we are able to manage the organization in such a way as to gain confidence from the membership and consequently increase the willingness to make dues payments. Further, members have expressed an interest in being able to direct how their dues are used. The board agreed to this approach and the next dues bill will include categories of end-use that can be designated. For those who have already paid, you are welcome to send me an email -or other communication—indicating your desire. We'll see how this works—keep in mind, though, that certain fixed costs will have to be paid at least in the short term.

**Long-term Planning.** The board will be looking closely this year at our longer term prospects. We know that we must make some significant changes to prepare for the future. While we don't know at this point just what those changes may be, factors driving them are clear. We are taking a long term look at the golf course operation-our largest asset and income/expense category, as well as our other facilities. A first step will be to put our 2010-11 budget together and present/approve it at the June board meeting. Longer term challenges include the reduction of royalty payments, the impact of the oil crisis on our golf/clubhouse operation, the need to make repairs to our property, and generally increasing operational costs.

**POA Oil Cleanup Preparation Involvement.** We have forwarded information that has been received from various sources and will continue to do so. Many of you are on the island and are aware of conditions first hand-for those who aren't, I would describe it as a mobilization zone similar to what you see in the aftermath of a major hurricane. Lots of people and heavy equipment. While some actual work has been done—sand barriers, hay bale/other barriers, tar ball clean-up, etc., it's mostly planning and preparing, and waiting. Office, staging, and meeting space is limited and we have offered the POA facilities and properties to the response effort for their best use. Thus far we have discussed daily and longer term leases for the main building and have leased (on a month to month basis) the small POA office area to a response contractor. We expect to lease the main facility to BP but nothing is definite yet.

**Pool.** Lots of interest in the pool, given the time of year and the concern with beaches being closed or otherwise less inviting. As you may know, the POA leases the pool to Flamingo Fae's to operate along with the restaurant and Tiki Bar. I understand that the pool is in the process of being balanced, certified by health officials, etc and will be open on or before Memorial Day weekend.

**Next POA Board Meeting.** Our next meeting is Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM in the wheelhouse ( unless we have leased out the wheel house by then—stay tuned)

Thanks for your understanding and support as we work our way through these challenging times.

Bruce Jones  
DIPOA President