

# Dauphin Island

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## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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### Special Newsletter for Election Results and Dues Information June 2011

Dear POA members,

**The Election.** Let me begin by apologizing for taking so long to share this information. The board has been unusually busy with a number of matters since the election and we wanted to have the final election reports of our Election Manager in hand and posted on the website prior to officially announcing the results and declaring the election results final and accepted by a majority of the board. We are ready to do so now.

Here are the highlights and results -for details, please reference the posted full reports. The following directors listed in the order of votes received were elected to three year terms: Bruce Jones, Stan Graves, and Charles Gaba. Receiving the next highest number of votes and being elected to a one year term was Lynn Howes. Both proposed constitutional amendments were rejected—the dues amendment received 38% for and 62% against, and the utility easement amendment received 57% for and 43% against (2/3 majority required to pass an amendment). The question of whether the membership favors eliminating the "exclusive use" deed language was answered "NO" by 57% and "YES" 43%. The board will consider these results -which seem on the surface to be a validation of the status quo and a rejection of change—as we look at options to solve the serious financial challenges that we are facing.

Unfortunately, inaccurate and misleading information about the election has been widely disseminated. You will read and hear that ballots were wrongly rejected and that proxies were mishandled. That is not the case—the election was managed by an experienced professional and as you can see from reviewing the posted report, all decisions regarding proxies and ballots were properly made and fully documented. We did have a rather large number (approximately 120) of ballots returned without proxies. And while the instructions clearly stated that both were required for the vote to be valid, we regret that there were this many who apparently misunderstood. This will be among the items that we will improve upon for the next election.

The officers elected by the new board for the ensuing year are as follows:

President-----Charles Gaba

Vice-President---Jackie Gaines

Treasurer-----Bruce Thompson

Secretary-----Mike Rogers

The board would like to say "Thank-You" to the many POA members who took the time and made the effort to participate in the election. It was a larger than normal turn-out for a regular election.

**Dues.** The other item that is of utmost importance to the viability of the association is the matter of dues. This, too, has been the subject of more misleading information and the appalling suggestion by a small but vocal group that members actually withhold dues payments to protest the financial condition of the association. This suggestion—which some will recognize as a variation of the debtor's prison philosophy—is exactly what we don't need. The basis for their argument continues to be the false premise that dues payments only subsidize the golf operation for the purpose of keeping the fees artificially low so that a select few may enjoy low cost golf at the expense of the non-golfing members.

The fact is, that all of the POA assets are subsidized—not just the golf course. We recently spent almost \$30,000 on the pool alone. We have several small parks and a cemetery to take care of. The POA board is working hard to create income streams from those assets so that the amount of subsidy can be eliminated or at least lessened. But it will take time to make this happen—we're in a recession. The dues amount is modest—only \$100/year—and we need dues payments from all members. Each of you will soon receive a notice that dues are due, and we ask you to promptly send in your payment.

We have a number of other items of interest to report on and will do so in subsequently newsletters. Thanks to all of you who are supporting the Pool and Cabana, and the Grill. The next meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the clubhouse. We hope to see you there.

Charles Gaba  
POA President