

Candidates for HSIA Officer Positions 2018 Election

Election of HSIA Officers will be held at the HSIA General Membership meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018. Ballots will be included in the November issue of *the Sea Breeze*, available on our website and at 11/8 General Meeting. All candidates are residents of the Hillsmere Shores Community and are confirmed to be in good standing and current in their HSIA membership. In alphabetical order, the candidates:

Gene Gross - Candidate for Treasurer

I am seeking reelection to serve as Treasurer for the next term. I have been an HSIA member in good standing since moving to Hillsmere in 2001.

I look forward to having the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer for the next two years and if elected, I will ensure fiscal responsibility and support any initiatives that are supported by the residents of Hillsmere to improve our community from an environmental, safety, civic, and social stand-point. I have a business background and currently own my own business. As the chair of the Budget committee, I will continue to improve our accounting processes and provide more timely information for Board members, committee chairs and Hillsmere residents.

Phil Jones - Candidate for Vice President

I have lived in Hillsmere for more than 30 years and I am a past President and Board member of HSIA. During those years I have lead or been involved with most major community projects including the construction of the pool, many beach and marina expansion and improvement projects. I was the HSIA President during the building of Quiet Waters Park and I am a longtime member of the Hillsmere Beach Committee. One of the efforts I helped lead was the successfully 2010–2012 effort to “Save the Hillsmere Beach”, the beach as we know it today. One of the questions asked of each candidate for the HSIA Board is what are your “goals and/or visions for the community.” My goals and vision for the community are the same as they were 7 years ago and that is to save the current beach configuration that has served Hillsmere so well for the last 60 years.

A little history – About 7 years ago, the then HSIA Board proposed a plan to remove all the hardened structures at the beach and in its place to create a “living shoreline”. As a part of this plan they proposed getting a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to pay for this change. The Foundation disapproved this request stating that a “living shoreline” and a community beach were incompatible. The plan for a “living shoreline” was thoroughly discussed and rejected by the community under such heavy pressure that the then Board withdrew the plan from consideration. That Board then proposed to only remove one-half of the hardened structure; the community again rejected that idea by a 2 to 1 vote in favor of keeping the existing and current beach configuration.

On July 26, 2018, the current Board approved unanimously (Sutherland and Gallagher were absent), without discussion, a contract to spend \$3,000 of your special tax money to “... analyze what would happen to the [beach] shoreline if the hardened structures are removed

...” The exact same idea that the earlier Board had proposed and had been forced to withdraw. If there had been any discussion, this Board would have learned that the idea of removing the hardened structure at the beach was something the community had already rejected in favor of keeping the existing beach configuration. Fortunately, the Board at their next meeting, after an open discussion, rescinded the earlier study approval. Unfortunately, in its place the President established a new committee to “study removal of hardscape at the beach” to identify any problems at the beach and to propose fixes. This new committee is to consider the installation of artificial breakwaters/reef balls across the beach front and the use of County provided “clean dredge material” to widen the shoreline. No mention in the latest discussion was made that: (1) it would cost the community an estimated \$300,000 in special tax money (cost of improvements recently made plus the cost of actually removing the hardened structure – 2012 numbers) should this become an approved project and (2) once any of the hardened structure is removed, the County will never let it be reinstalled, so a failed project is not correctable.

Another concern is at what point should a Board override the well-known wishes of the community? If elected my first goal would be to **Save the Existing Beach Configuration** with an additional goal of bringing more community background and history to the Board. I am a retired Navy Officer, a retired Engineering Manager, and a previously very small consulting business owner. My education is as a mechanical engineer and as a computer information systems designer. I ask for your vote and thank you for your support and together we can **SAVE THE BEACH.**

David Miles - Candidate for Vice President

My wife and I moved to Hillsmere with our four sons, Michael, Peter, Philip and Patrick in 2003. Our sons, who were homeschooled, have been doing yard work, pet sitting, snow shoveling, and assisting neighbors with projects as they grew up in this great community. I have helped, usually grilling, with the Happy Hours, Pig Roasts, and Sock Burnings for several years. I have been a member of the Board since last summer, initially as a replacement for Noel Gaspirin, who stepped down. I then ran for a two-year term that fall and was elected. In the interim, the Vice President position became vacant and I agreed to take that position which is now up for re-election this fall. In the time I have served on the Board, I volunteered to chair the Building Permit Committee. I discovered that many did not know about the HSIA permitting, or the process, and I had the information updated and more prominently located on our website so that it is easier to find. I also had the list of approved permits listed online so that the process is more transparent and accessible to the community.

I have grown to appreciate the time and effort that other Board members, who have served for years, put in for the betterment of our community and I would like to offer my services by remaining on the Board. As an architect on the Board, I have assisted in obtaining contractor bids and assisting in capital projects. I believe, as a Board member, I can use my experience in owning an architecture firm to assist our community with development projects, large and small. I believe inclusivity and transparency should be the goal for moving forward in any Board decision which affects us all.

Mike Wurst - Candidate for Secretary

Hello Hillsmere Residents! My name is Mike Wurst and I have held the position of HSIA Secretary since June of 2017. My wife and I have lived in Hillsmere since 2007, and we have 4 young children, with the oldest attending Hillsmere Elementary. We thoroughly enjoy what this community has to offer. I have decided to run for re-election to continue to help the community work together to maintain and improve our amenities. I look forward to working with the next Board to continue to make Hillsmere a community we are all proud of. My immediate goal in the next term would be to improve on our community outreach and overall knowledge of HSIA. We have numerous residents that, after many years (thank you!), have decided to pass the baton to some new faces. As a result, we have had some new folks stepping forward (thank you!), but we need to continue to build strong committees, while at the same time, reaching out to new residents. I am always open to suggestions, ideas, and even general comments to improve on things. I thank you for your continued support.

Michael Waters - Candidate for President

I was recently appointed to fill the remainder of Mike Penn's position when he stepped down as President. I now offer myself as President for two years.

My wife Jane and I raised our two children here and have chosen to stay for our retirement. It is a special place that we appreciate more each year. Curiously, serving on the Board has helped grow that appreciation as we have meet more neighbors and expanded our network of friends.

My background includes an engineering degree from the Naval Academy, graduate degree from the Robert H. Smith School of Business in College Park, and thirty years working with independent software vendors supporting large mainframe projects.

If elected I will work toward being an effective steward and uphold the community's covenants, charter, and bylaws in the most inclusive manner I can. Along with prudent finances, it is important to manage the environment that surrounds us. I fully support projects that improve the natural aesthetics of our common areas and provide recreational opportunities for children and adults alike.

I hope to serve you and thank you for your consideration.