

NOMINATIONS

Mike Wurst, HSIA Secretary & Nominations Chair

Meet the Candidate Night— HSIA Candidates for HSIA Board Positions for the 2024-2025 Term Election will be held this November for seven HSIA At-Large Board positions. HSIA is sponsoring a “Meet the Candidate Night” in The Barn Commons, Key School, off Carroll Drive on Thursday, October 12th, at 7 pm. This provides opportunities to meet candidates and ask questions about their history of volunteerism in Hillsmere, vision for the community, and commitment as chair or co-chair for committees.

All candidates must be residents of the Hillsmere Shores Community and are confirmed to be in good standing and current in their HSIA membership. Ballots are included in the October 2023 *Sea Breeze* and available on our website.

Candidate Statements:

SHARON BLUGIS

It is my intent to run for the HSIA Board of Directors for the 2024-2025 term. I live at 150 E. Bay View and am a current member of HSIA since 2019 when my husband and I moved here.

My qualifications to run for the Board include my 20+ years of community outreach and leadership experience. Since 2021, I have served as the Executive Director of two non-profits overseeing the administration, education programs, and strategic planning of each organization. My other qualifications include working at the following county and state agencies over the last 20 years:

AACo Health Department – Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response. This position completed essential emergency preparedness tasks such as planning, providing or coordinating training opportunities, and assisting with health planning activities.

AACo Fire Department – Life Safety and Program Specialist. Responsible for all fire safety public education for Anne Arundel County including 79 elementary schools (Approximately 60-70 presentations a year and 3,000 children). Position required strong citizen contact; problem solving and ability to refer to other county agencies. Respond to requests from community/home association groups to speak on fire safety and injury prevention (20-30 presentations a year).

AACo County Executive’s Office – Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff and Constituent Services for

District 6 (where Hillsmere lies). Represented and served County Council District 6 (D6) which includes the City of Annapolis, and parts of Anne Arundel County. Plan and execute special events (from large town-hall meetings to small receptions). Handled all D6 constituent issues and requests and worked regularly with AACo P&Z, AACo Permits office, AACo DPW and State Highway Administration.

Comptroller of Maryland – Community Affairs Outreach Specialist. Cultivated and maintained relationships with public officials and leaders of both public and private institutions and agencies, faith communities, county and state health departments, non-profit agencies and city governments to help carry-out initiatives of Comptroller’s office (example: COVID Relief Package, PROTECT WEEK: Elder Abuse/Fraud).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

My husband and I moved to Hillsmere in April of 2019. I immediately set out to become involved and have since participated in the following Hillsmere community events:

- o Chili dinner open to neighbors and community at our home 2019
- o Christmas parade hot cider station in 2020
- o We provide hot apple cider to our neighbors on Halloween and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know people throughout the community.
- o Initiated buying a new Little Red Library box at the beach (and work to help keep it full of books lol)
- o Organized a Fire Safety Training for the community (2023)
- o Held multiple meet-n-greets in my home for neighbors to meet their local elected representatives. One of these events led to our marina receiving a \$100,000 grant for the living shore project.
- o In my capacity as a life safety educator, I have provided Home Escape Plans for neighbors and assisted with practicing their fire escape plan.
- o Volunteered at the Come and Get it Days

GOALS AND VISION:

I am personally invested in this community and want to see it the best it can be. I do believe there are distinct areas of improvement that need to be made:

Reimagine our waterfront beach area: The beach needs to have more equitable space. Currently, the majority is dedicated to playground equipment. I would like to see just one side of the beach be a specific children’s playground area and the rest of the beach area be more multi-use and for families. And speaking of playground equipment, I have heard from numerous families how hot the playground equipment can be in the summer and there is no relief from the sun. I would like to propose we begin to look at some kind of temporary shade over one side of the playground during summer. Perhaps you’ve seen as I have the use of canvas shades that are being utilized by marinas and beaches (Severn Inn restaurant is a good example of this).

We also need new grills and the pavilions desperately need updating and painted. I believe there is a distinct lack of vision where the beach is concerned and I would love to pull together a group of creative and visionary neighbors to re-imagine our waterfront beach area.

Openness to new ideas: While I love living in Hillsmere, I have noticed the time I have lived here there is a strong resistance to new ideas. I know that I have personally submitted numerous new ideas regarding the beach only to have them instantly dismissed. This should not be. Every idea

should have a fair hearing in a respectful manner and it doesn't matter if the idea is coming from someone who has only lived here 5 months or 50 years. I would really like to change the tone of how new ideas are responded to. We will all benefit.

Update our communications: While the addition of an official HSIA Facebook page has been helpful, there are still so many ways HSIA board and administration could continue to improve and expand messaging. Not everyone reads the *Sea Breeze*, not everyone is on Facebook and more and more people don't even check email.

- o I would like to explore the use of a HSIA app. This could include pool notifications as well as Come and Get It Day reminders, links to important documents and our website or make payments from your phone.

- o Also, we should be taking advantage of the prevalence of texting. Even those who don't use social media, do have an iPhone/Samsung and people are now used to receiving notifications when a bill has been automatically withdrawn or a news announcement. I would like the HSIA communications committee to explore the use of texting our neighbors with updates.

While I have many interests, I believe I would be best suited for the beach committee as I have a lot of ideas and would like to be involved in a re-imagining of our incredible waterfront area.

JOANNA PARKINSON

I am submitting my statement of intent to serve on the HSIA Board of Directors. I am a current Hillsmere resident and member.

My name is Joanna Parkinson. I grew up in Annapolis and graduated from Annapolis High school then the University of Maryland College Park with a degree in Interior Design. I've worked in Commercial Architecture for 25 years, and I am currently an Interior Designer/ Community Planner for the Navy, where I work on master planning and sustainment projects.

I am a long-time resident of Hillsmere of over 30 years. I moved to Hillsmere in my teens with my parents and siblings. My husband Al and I purchased our first home over 20 years ago. We love living here and raising our kids in the community, where both sets of grandparents also live.

I have volunteered in several community projects and events. I am interested in joining the board and committed to helping the neighborhood with community planning efforts that would benefit our great neighborhood and families.

HELENE C. RAVEN

Bio: I am a long-time resident of Hillsmere and a current member of HSIA. I've served on the board on two occasions, the Pool Committee for several years, the Welcoming, House, and Field Committees. As an active dog walker, I often stop at the marina and clean up plastic and other

debris. Most recently I've taken on responsibility for the Events Committee (previously the Entertainment Committee). I am a new member of the Hillsmere Garden Club. Outside of Hillsmere, I was the original secretary to the Annapolis Neck Peninsula Federation (ANPF), on the boards of St. Anne's Preschool and the Eastport Yacht Club. I also volunteer at the Naval Academy, with Books for International Goodwill and Little Free Libraries.

Vision: This has always been a diverse community and a welcoming one. Through community projects at the beach, marina, pool, swim team, entrance, and median, we've worked together and met neighbors then became friends. Friendships build and grow when people find common ground and common interests. The Events Committee can serve as a way for neighbors to find commonality.

Goals: I will continue as the Events Chair and by the end of my two-year term I will have expanded the events offered to the community. *Possible events include a spring community garage sale at the beach, the ice cream social, Memorial Day Remembrance, happy hours, and parades (Easter, Fourth of July, and Halloween). Other events will be added based on feedback from the community and Events Committee.*

At the beginning of my two-year term, I will establish an ongoing committee to evaluate recurring events to see what works and see what needs improvement. *For example, will we have a higher turnout at happy hours if they are on Saturdays instead of Fridays when there is a conflict with food trucks at the pool?*

By the end of my two-year term, I will have expanded the number of volunteers. If we can create events that interest neighbors, more will volunteer. *This will require analyzing the types of volunteer commitment needed, number of hours volunteers can reasonably expect to contribute, and events that interest volunteers. This directly reflects my vision.*

I look forward to the election. Thank you for your consideration.

PATRICE TEETERMORAN

This is my notification that I intend to run for the seat on the board that I currently occupy by appointment.

Hello, I am Patrice Teetermoran and have been a member of the HSIA since 2018. My wife and I moved here as renters living on Cedar Lane for many years and are now homeowners on Harbor Drive. We have enjoyed living in Hillsmere and I am excited about the opportunity to be more involved in the place we have made our home. My entire professional career has been in nonprofits. For almost 20 years I worked with State and National AmeriCorps programs in programs and outreach, development, and as an Executive Director. AmeriCorps, like Peace Corps provides domestic formal service opportunities across the country for individuals 17+ who are looking for a structured way of giving back to our communities. I find that my strengths align best with development work and currently I am working with an organization in Boston called La Colaborativa. I manage a grant portfolio of \$18,000,000 lead our organization's grant writing, and

reporting and work directly with program staff to ensure we meet the metrics outlined in our grants. I attended Towson University and am a Maryland native.

Goals and/or vision for the community

I like the rule of three. So, I will share my three main hopes/goals for my time on the board.

My time on the board, if so granted, I hope to:

Learn more about the Hillsmere community and be of service tapping into my years of working with nonprofits focused on solving community issues through a strengths-based approach.

Create a welcoming environment for our community to share ideas and introduce some new perspectives that enhance our community and its many assets.

Build a bridge to more diversity, equity, and inclusion across all sectors of our community that creates opportunities for more diverse interactions, celebrations, and community involvement.

I thank you for your consideration.

BILL SCHROTT

My name is Bill Schrott. I only recently moved to Hillsmere and I am enjoying my experiences so far. I am retired from the high-tech industry after almost 50 years of employment at 4 different companies of varying sizes. I held several leadership positions over the years and most prominently as a sales leader. I have no experience working with community development organizations, but I have an interest in contributing to the efforts to maintain the current neighborhood feeling of friendliness that Hillsmere currently has and hopefully to work with others in looking for ways to continuously improve it.

I have no particular vision for our community since I am in the mode of watching, talking, and listening to others and learning about the issues and concerns. I am not interested in changing anything for the sake of change but just to identify the areas of concern and hopefully figure out the best options for improvement.

I am a member of the HSIA and I live at 408 Harbor Drive. Please consider my nomination. If your committee has already garnered an adequate number of interested candidates and cannot support my nomination, I would certainly understand. In general, I do believe that identifying good candidates, particularly younger people, to serve is preferred. But I also surmise that it is difficult to convince the younger folks given the demands on their time.

That being said, I offer my help to you as an alternative approach.

Thanks for your consideration.

RAY SULLIVAN

We moved to Hillsmere in 2001 from New England. This is a great community. I have served on the board since 2004. My main concern has been environmental issues. For the past ten years we have helped sponsor a community native plant sale. I am a Watershed Steward Academy Graduate.

Through the Annapolis Neck peninsula federation, the community has been kept abreast of the developments on Forest Drive.

I serve on the board of the Friends of Quiet Waters Park. I played a key role in the effort around the retreat property in Quiet Waters Park. It is important that we defend our environment.

MARIA TRIANDOS

My name is Maria Triandos Arnold and I am happy to announce my candidacy for the HSIA Board, and I am honored to be considered as a candidate who is deeply rooted in this community. Having grown up here, I have witnessed the positive changes and challenges our community has faced over the years. As a parent raising my own family in this neighborhood, I am committed to making Hillsmere an even better place for all residents, and my diverse experiences have equipped me to do just that. I served on the Hillsmere Pool Board during its contentious transition to HSIA. This experience taught me the value of constructive dialogue and finding common ground even in the face of challenges. I also served on the Peninsula Athletic League Board. The board worked with families, local business and county government to ensure we had the business, necessary to provide a safe positive athletic experience. While I was a board member our football field lost its lights due to storm damage. It was imperative that we get those lights back up as they were not only needed for games but for safe practices as well. I had meetings with Speaker Mike Busch and Senator John Astle to help us bring lights back to our playing fields quickly. This project was a testament to what can be achieved when we collaborate with our elected officials and advocate for the needs of our youth. Additionally, I contributed to our community's cultural richness by serving on the Maryland State Arts Council Board, where I reviewed grant applications to support local artists and cultural initiatives. Moreover, my involvement as a board member of the Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center reinforced my belief in the power of communication and peaceful resolution in addressing community conflicts. I believe in creating an atmosphere where diverse voices are heard, respected, and valued. For the past 20 years, I have worked in news and have been a dedicated member of the NBC News Team for 15 of those years. My career has equipped me with the skills of research, communication, and critical thinking. I understand the importance of delivering accurate information to the public and upholding the principles of transparency and accountability. As a candidate for the HSIA Board, I am committed to leveraging my deep community roots, diverse experiences, and unwavering dedication to serve our neighborhood.

STEVE VANDERBOSCH

I have been a HSIA resident/property owner for over 24 years (and paid my 2023 dues!), and have been a member of the HSIA Board and Chair of the Piers & Harbors Committee (“P&H”) for 10 years.

During the past two years we continued to make improvements at the Marina, Boat Ramps, and Boat Park, including among others: completing design of a Living Shoreline at the Sandspit and acquiring both a \$109,000 State capital grant and a \$669,000 DNR grant for its construction, upgrading the Marina security camera system, constructing 18 additional kayak racks, and the imminent (October 2023) installation of 8 additional boat lifts at the Marina. Future projects, in addition to constructing the Sandspit Living Shoreline, are replacing the Kayak Dock at 541 Beach Drive and perhaps an environmentally friendly resurfacing of the Beach Drive Boat Ramp parking lot.

I am aware of the many issues facing the Hillsmere Shores community, and if re-elected I will continue to build on the progress HSIA has made in addressing those issues. As P&H Chair, I fully understand that service on the HSIA Board takes a commitment of time and effort to do the job well and I believe that I have demonstrated my commitment over the past ten years.

I retired ten years ago from a 32-year public service career as a Maryland Assistant Attorney General, working for the last 13 years as Counsel to the State Treasurer in Annapolis. My public sector legal experience included providing legal advice and opinions on finance, banking, investments and procurement, negotiation, and preparation of contracts, and drafting, editing and reviewing legislation, rules, regulations and policies. I am also a retired Navy Captain, having served 10 years on active duty, including a 4-year tour at the U.S. Naval Academy, and 20 years in the Naval Reserve.