



Sue Schaffer

Nominating Committee Recommended Candidate

Statement of Focus

My extensive and varied Kiawah experience gives me a knowledge of the island and a keen understanding of KICA and “the maze of K’s” that will make me a valuable addition to the KICA board. All board candidates are

committed to preserving Kiawah’s natural beauty, creating a stable financial picture, and creating a strong community with high class amenities, and I share that vision. However, board service is much more complex. New board members have an approximate one-year learning curve, but from 10 years of varied service to KICA, I have deep knowledge of the association and can immediately “hit the ground running.”

One of my key strengths is that I recognize and welcome the wide range of viewpoints, expectations and experiences that KICA members bring to Kiawah. I would encourage and explore diversity of perspective. I have always promoted open dialogue in the community; from the beginning of my membership on the *Digest* Production Committee, I urged that *Digest* cover all sides of issues rather than try to paint a rosy picture. As both a private homeowner and former rental condominium owner, I understand the differences in the needs of people who do and do not rent their homes and those who do and do not belong to regimes. As a board member I will work to learn and attempt to address the concerns of our demographically varied community.

My background and experience give me an understanding of the financial and legal aspects of nonprofit and service boards. While I am not afraid to express a different opinion, I work collaboratively, help to make decisions creatively, solicit feedback and build consensus.

While KICA is currently financially secure, the board should not assume it will always be so and should continue to carefully monitor the association’s finances and seek ways to keep income stable and costs under control. In particular, this means seeking ways to stabilize income for capital expenses; the Major Repairs and Reserve accounts are too highly dependent on the unpredictable “contributions to reserves,” known as real estate transfer fees. Furthermore, Kiawah has experienced three straight years of severe storm-related flooding and resultant unanticipated expenses, and I would urge the board to consider the consequences to KICA’s finances and to the real estate market if that pattern continues.

KICA boards should no longer be looking only to the near future. The board needs to deal with a number of changes in the coming years: the ARB will transition from developer to KICA control;

the developer will leave the island, and KICA will have additional responsibilities as a result; the resort will transform the East and West Beach areas; weather-related emergencies could increase. My KICA knowledge and professional experience position me to help KICA adapt to these changes and will make me a valuable board member.

Although the 2015 amenities project was rejected by the KICA membership, it gave the community an appreciation of the shortcomings of KICA’s community facilities and social and fitness programming. I am a Kiawah Island Club member who has always supported community amenities. Amenities for KICA members are like libraries in larger towns; they enrich the community and make it a more desirable place to live, which enhances everyone’s property values and quality of life. I fully support the renovation of the Sandcastle. The acquisition of the prior Town Hall building opens exciting new management and programming opportunities for KICA.

I hope you will give me the opportunity to help KICA adapt to and shape island changes while continuing to keep Kiawah special and magnificent.

Personal and Career Highlights

- Kiawah homeowner and part-time resident for almost 30 years, since 1988 (plus three summers as renter).
- Current owner of private home and unimproved lot; former owner of a rental condo; Kiawah Island Club member.
- Doctorate in Business Administration from George Washington University; concentration in Management and Organization Behavior.
- Full-time residence in McLean, VA.
- Professional career in management consulting and university business school faculty.
- Experience working with corporations, family-owned businesses, government and medical groups.
- Served on two non-profit boards six years each, chairing one.
- Masters swimmer for over 40 years.
- Married, three adult children, one grandchild.

KICA Experience

- Board of Directors, 2012-2015
- Strategic Planning Committee.
- West Beach Revitalization Committee.
- Communications Development Committee
- Amenities and Services Committee
- *Digest* feature writer since 2007
- Have established relationships with leaders of the major Kiawah entities: town, resort, developer, KICA.