

2021 KICA BOARD CANDIDATE

John Cherf

Member Since 2020

138 Blue Heron Pond Road

Property Lot

Part-Time Resident

Primary Residence: Chicago, IL

KI Club Member



Candidate Overview

My first introduction to Kiawah was listening to numerous stories from my girlfriend, future fiancée and now wife Kelly. Kelly grew up in Ohio and vacationed on Kiawah with her family most of her life. I first visited Kiawah (and met my “future in-laws” – Bob and Betsy McCloskey) in 2000. On Aug. 11, 2001, we celebrated our wedding reception at the River Course. In addition to falling in love with Kelly, I fell in love with Kiawah. This past July we purchased a lot in the Preserve (138 Blue Heron Pond Road) and plan to start building a home in 2021. Our goal is to become full-time residents in

South Carolina and retire in this community. We typically visit Kiawah several times a year to include a tradition of spending New Years on the island. Our twin daughters, Elizabeth and Alexandra (seniors in high school), cherish their time on Kiawah as a complement to our urban lifestyle in Chicago. The Cherf family enjoys the freedom and outdoor activities and the natural environment afforded on Kiawah Island. Swimming and biking are a high priority. I plan to return to golf having “retired” from the sport during the twins high school years. I also enjoy sporting clay shooting. I hope to take advantage of these activities through the Kiawah Island Club where we are current members. We also like the Lowcountry cuisine and history found in Kiawah and Charleston.



Community Involvement

For the past decade I have tried to volunteer at least 10% of my time to community, not-for-profit and professional organizations. Supporting KICA and potentially serving on the board is ideal timing as I am “termining out” after eight years of serving on the editorial board of an orthopedic surgery journal effective March 2021 and will “graduate” from the board of the Loyola Academy Rowing Association in May 2021 where I have also served as president for the past two years (Alexandra is a coxswain on the high school crew and hopes to continue rowing as a student-athlete in college this fall). Additional volunteer activities include current board member and president of the Illinois Association of Orthopedic Surgeons, current board member and Chairman of OrthoCentrix Solutions and board member of the Ritz-Carlton Club Bachelor Gulch (dba Timbers Bachelor Gulch) in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

Professional Background

I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame and received my medical degree from Northwestern University where I also received a master’s in public health. My general surgical internship and orthopedic surgery residency were completed at Northwestern followed by a sports medicine fellowship in Salt Lake City, Utah. After ten years of private practice, I returned to Northwestern University for the executive master’s in business administration program at the Kellogg School of Management. For the past fifteen years, my clinical career has been balanced with non-clinical professional activities. This included healthcare consulting focused on strategic planning with Sg2 and OrthoIndex, working as the chief of orthopedics

for Advocate Health as well as being a founding member of the first neurosurgical and orthopedic surgical specialty hospital in the country. I also served as the chief medical officer (CMO) for two high-tech startups in Chicago and am the current CMO of Lumere, a SaaS company used by hospital and health systems to optimally manage drugs and devices (recently purchased by GHX). I have been fortunate to work on several forward-thinking and high-performing management teams. These experiences provide a good foundation to productive problem solving, strategic planning, governance and leadership.

Board Service Statement

The Cherf family is vested and committed to Kiawah Island. We are building a home in the Preserve and plan on making South Carolina our permanent residence. My goal is to become involved and support the community of Kiawah and South Carolina. In the short term, I will provide an unbiased perspective of a new landowner and soon-to-be home builder/owner. This will include real-time feedback about the design and build process on Kiawah. Hopefully, this will provide valuable information to potentially improve this process if needed. I will also share our experience and perspective on transitioning from a part-time to full-time resident on Kiawah. Long-term, I hope to ensure that Kiawah Island remains a premier resort and resident community with a strong respect for nature. I fully support the KICA strategic plan mission to “preserve and enhance the quality of life and property values of its members.” This is important to Kelly and me as well as our twin daughters and hopefully their future families.

View John’s video interview at kica.us/vote.

