

2022 KICA BOARD CANDIDATE

# Perry Molinoff

10 Blue Heron Pond Road  
KICA Member Since 1999  
Full-Time Resident  
Single-Family Home  
Occasional Sandcastle User  
KI Club Member

## MY KIAWAH OWNERSHIP STORY

In the mid-1990s, my wife Marlene and I began thinking about finding a place where we could vacation and eventually retire. We developed a set of criteria. We wanted it to be in a warm climate on the East Coast, near our children. We wanted to be close to water for boating, and to a real city for restaurants, museums, and concerts. It needed to offer year-round or nearly year-round golf, and it couldn't be in Florida. Looking at a map suggested that the only candidates were Charleston and Savannah. In 1998, my wife attended a business meeting on Kiawah and immediately fell in love with the Island. While on Kiawah, she purchased a Mark Permar photograph of Blue Heron Pond and gave it to me as a birthday present when she returned. I couldn't wait to see Kiawah, and, within weeks, we had



scheduled a weekend visit. I was as struck by the beauty of this sea island and the unique ecological, non-commercial development of its community as she had been. Within a short time following this initial visit, we purchased the Preserve lot on which we built our house in 2004. We have spent increasing amounts of time on Kiawah since 2004, becoming essentially full-time residents since the start of the pandemic. It is interesting that we never actually made it to Savannah, but we have never regretted choosing Kiawah. For our children and grandchildren, it is a second home, which accounts for our spending summers here for the last 15 years, and for us, it is truly our home.

## MY RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

After graduating from Harvard Medical School, I began an academic career, lasting over twenty-five years. I was a Research Fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, and a Guggenheim Fellow at University College

London. I then served as Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Colorado Medical School before being appointed the A. N. Richards Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, a position I held from 1981-1995. While in the academic world, I served on and chaired medical school and university-wide committees that, like boards, maintained the community. After 25 years in academic medicine, I left Penn to launch a career in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1995, I was appointed Vice-President of Neuroscience Drug Discovery at Bristol Myers Squibb. I have also worked as head of R & D in several Biotech companies. Over the course of my career in industry, I helped to discover and develop five drugs that have been approved for sale by the FDA for treatment of Schizophrenia, Bipolar Depression, Parkinson's Disease, Sleep Disorders, and Chronic Pain. In 2006, I began the third chapter of my career by founding a consulting business. I have served on multiple for-profit and not-for-profit boards, including the Research Committee of the American Heart Association and currently the board of the Foundation for Research Development of the Medical University of South Carolina. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of multiple private biotech companies as well as two publicly traded companies. I have at various times chaired boards, and served on or chaired Management, Nominating, Governance and Finance Committees.

## **MY FOCUS**

I am running for the KICA Board for several reasons. First is to give back. My wife and I have enjoyed and benefited from living on Kiawah, and I believe that serving on the Board is a way to contribute in return. Second is to capitalize

on my experience for the betterment of the community. Having served on probably a dozen boards, I have a good understanding of the role of a board and the way that board members should recognize and respond to the desires of their constituents. Third is that I have the time to devote. My consulting business is active, but I can commit to serve. I believe that boards should be primarily strategic rather than operational. At the same time, board members should be fully informed and need to hold staff accountable. It is of paramount importance that board decisions be transparent, understandable, and defensible. One aspect of the governance of Kiawah that deserves greater consideration is the existence of multiple constituencies with different priorities. There are full- and part-time residents, owners who rent and those who do not, and people who are or are not members of the Kiawah Island Club or Governor's Club. While expenditures for roads, flood mitigation, and security benefit all residents, other amenities benefit only a subset of residents. The Board needs to be aware of these differences and to act accordingly. Finally, the board has dealt with some contentious issues over the past several years. It is possible to disagree without being hostile. Board members need to respect each other and to work together for the benefit of the community they serve.

**[VIEW PERRY'S VIDEO INTERVIEW.](#)**