From the Desk of the President

September 2026

As I begin my term as President of the Diamondhead Property Owners Association, I would like to sincerely thank Gary Becker, Ronnie La Fontaine, and Bob Pineau for their service to the POA. Each has devoted considerable time and effort to our community, and we are grateful for their many contributions and years of commitment.

I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve as President and work alongside the Board in the years ahead. Nancy Sislow will continue serving on the Board in an Ex-Officio capacity, and we are pleased to welcome Brigitte Becker and Ben Casuccio as new members.

The 2026–2028 Board of Directors

As previously reported, the 2024–2026 Board reviewed whether an Annual Membership Meeting and election were required and sought legal guidance regarding the applicable laws and procedural requirements. That legal review supported the Board's position that, under the circumstances that all 3 candidates were running unopposed, a formal Annual Membership Meeting was not required.

Working in coordination with the Elections Chairperson and in accordance with the authority provided, the Board adopted a formal resolution and completed the procedural steps necessary to transfer authority to the new Board. Accordingly, an Annual Membership Meeting and formal election will not be held.

The formal Board Resolution is available in the Board Business section of the POA website.

It is my pleasure to introduce the Diamondhead Property Owners Association Board of Directors for the 2026–2028 term, effective Monday, August 10, 2026:

- **President:** Mike Curia — new member
- **Vice President:** Trey Giarrusso — continuing his service
- **Secretary:** Pat Burgoyne — continuing her service
- **Treasurer:** Brice Howard — continuing his service
- **Director:** Brigitte Becker — new member
- **Director:** Ben Casuccio — new member
- **Director:** Ernie Lee — continuing his term
- **Director:** Ken Griffey — continuing his term
- **Director:** Michael Tubbs — continuing his term
- **Director:** Stewart Nutting — continuing his service
- **Ex-Officio:** Nancy Sislow — continuing her service in a new capacity

During the first several weeks of this transition, the Board will focus on organizing, establishing priorities, and developing plans for the future. Our goal is to build on the progress already made, thoughtfully address the challenges before us, and—most importantly—identify the best ways to serve Diamondhead and all its residents.

Budget and Financial Management

The Board has been devoting considerable time providing guidance and having discussions with our GM as he prepares our 2027 budget with his staff. As our plans and priorities are finalized, I will continue sharing important decisions and developments with the community.

One area in which we have already made progress is our accounting operation. As General Manager Hoppy Smith has focused on controlling expenses throughout the organization, those efforts have created the financial opportunity to engage APAC, a professional accounting firm based in Covington, Louisiana.

APAC will manage our day-to-day bookkeeping, compile our financial statements, and provide hands-on financial guidance. Its work began with closing the books for July, with the first closing statements expected during the week of August 17. Because of the newspaper's publication schedule, the July financial statements may not be available in time for inclusion in this issue.

Our goal is to complete future monthly closings promptly and consistently. If the July statements do not meet this publication deadline, we intend to include both the July and August financial reports in the next edition.

Even though the monthly financials have been in this paper, the most recent monthly financial statements currently available on the POA website are from January 2026. I have discussed this with the General Manager, and those postings will be brought up to date as quickly as possible.

We have also received the audited financial statements for 2023 and 2024 from the AVL accounting firm in Gulfport MS. We expect the 2025 audit to be completed by the end of this year, which should bring our annual financial reporting current and place us on a more consistent schedule going forward. AVL is one of Mississippi's leading CPA firms, and we look forward to continuing our work with them to bring the POA's financial reporting fully up to date by year-end.

I have reviewed the audited financial statements for 2023 and 2024, and I did not see anything that appeared unusual or raised an immediate concern. The reports did not identify any material misstatements, accounting irregularities, or other significant accounting issues. However, because I am not an accountant, we will review the audits carefully with our CPA firm and communicate any relevant findings or recommendations to our residents.

Asset Sales and Financial Position

We have completed the sales of the RV storage area and the marina/yacht club property. The sale of the tennis facilities is expected to be completed by the end of August.

I want to assure residents that the proceeds from these sales are not being used to fund the POA's day-to-day operations. Instead, those funds have been placed in an investment account to help protect the organization's long-term financial position.

At the same time, we have made meaningful progress in reducing expenses throughout the organization. We have also been encouraged by increases in POA, pool and golf memberships over the past several months.

We have established a "rainy day" fund and are carefully evaluating our projected year-end financial performance and the assumptions that will shape the 2027 budget. Protecting these funds and maintaining the long-term financial health of the POA will remain among the Board's highest priorities.

Food and Beverage at The Club

By the time you read this article, we will be pleased to have welcomed Mike Merrick as the new Food and Beverage Manager at The Club.

Mike brings extensive experience in the hospitality and restaurant industry. Most recently, he served as the front-of-house manager at Jourdan River Steamer, where he worked since 2016.

We are confident that Mike's experience and leadership will help guide the continued improvement of our food and beverage operation. He will be working tirelessly with Domonic Caranna, our Executive Chef, to improve your dining experiences at the Club. Also, Latitude 30 recently won the 2026 Diamondhead Business of the Year award awarded by the Hancock Chamber of Commerce! Congratulations to each of you responsible for this award!

If you have not visited The Club recently, I warmly encourage you to give Latitude 30 and the Oak Room another try. We are committed to improving the quality of the food, the level of service, and the overall dining experience.

We also welcome your feedback. If you have had a disappointing experience, please let us know and give Mike, Domonic, and their teams an opportunity to understand your concerns and make things right. Constructive comments—both positive and negative—are valuable as we work to improve.

The Club is an important gathering place for our community, and we want it to grow, thrive, and provide enjoyable dining experiences for residents and guests. Your patronage and thoughtful feedback will play an important role in helping us reach that goal.

Communication and Community Involvement

As we move through this transition, I invite you to share your questions, ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Open and respectful communication with our residents will be an essential part of how this Board moves forward.

You may contact me directly at **mcuria@dhpoa.org** or submit a message through the Comments feature on the Diamondhead POA website. Please use whichever method is most convenient for you.

I plan to compile and review the questions and comments we receive and address topics of broad community interest through my monthly "From the Desk of the President" articles in *Diamondhead News*. We will also address appropriate matters during open Board meetings in accordance with our bylaws.

As we look ahead, I will remain focused on strengthening transparency, communication, accountability, and community involvement. I believe the best decisions for Diamondhead begin with listening to our residents, considering different perspectives, and keeping the community informed about the direction of the POA.

Thank you for your patience, support, and participation as we begin this new chapter. I look forward to working with the Board, our residents, and the entire Diamondhead community as we build on the progress already made and work together toward a strong and promising future for Diamondhead.

Mike Curia
President
Diamondhead Property Owners Association
Board of Directors