

Preparing for the SOA Board of Directors Election 2020

It's time to begin the process for this year's Sandestin Owners Association (SOA) Board of Directors election. The election will include two homeowner seats (Class A) and one commercial (Class B) seat. Class A seats will be elected by the Class A members and the Class B seat will be elected by the Class B members, as described in the Association Documents.

Board of Directors Overview

The Board of Directors oversees the staff, policies, operations, and financial management of the SOA in accordance with the Bylaws and Declarations of the Association. The Bylaws call for a 9-member Board, currently that composition is 6 homeowners, 2 commercial, and 1 declarant representative.

The Mission of the SOA is to "*PRESEVE AND ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE AND ASSETS OF THE SANDESTIN COMMUNITY*". Board members are obligated to consider the Mission Statement as they deliberate on decisions regarding the SOA that come before them.

Some of the expectations include interaction with staff, consideration of legal matters, budget and financial responsibilities, overseeing an \$8M+ budget, special projects, committee assignments, and issues that impact the Sandestin community way of life. Becoming acquainted with the SOA governing documents is a requirement.

The following are some commonly asked questions regarding service on the Board.

How much of a time commitment is required for serving on the Board?

Board members should expect to commit up to 20 hours per month (**sometimes more**) to prepare for and attend the regular monthly board meetings. A briefing packet is prepared by staff for each meeting, and a significant amount of time is required to review and research information in order to be well prepared, this could entail additional meetings with staff to clarify particular issues. There may also be special board meetings to review items that cannot wait until the regularly scheduled meeting. In addition, Board members also serve as a Chairman or liaison to one or more of the Board appointed committees.

How much does it pay?

There is no compensation for serving on the Board of Directors.

Is it necessary to be a permanent resident in Sandestin to serve on the Board?

No, permanent residency in Sandestin is not required. It is desirable to have strong representation from full-time and part-time members, as well as rental owners. (Class A)

What are the qualifications for being a member of the Board?

- You must be a member in good standing, which means you must be current on assessments and that you have no unresolved financial issues with the Association.
- Per Florida Statute, qualified candidates may not have a conviction of a felony charge.
- It is desirable and almost mandatory that candidates be able to communicate by electronic means via Microsoft applications and email.

Why should you serve on the Board?

Sandestin is an exceptional place to live. There is a great deal of satisfaction in helping to ensure that the Sandestin Owners Association continues to be a quality, well-run association meeting the needs of all members.

What is involved in running for the Board?

You must first submit a Nomination Application (for the Class in which you are running), which will be available on July 1, 2020 in the SOA office or on line at www.sandestinowners.com. If you would like an application mailed to you, please email soa@soaowners.com and provide your name and Sandestin address (Class A), as well as the address in which you would like the application sent. Completed applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. on July 31, 2020.

The Nominating Committee for each Class will review the applications and confirm the slate of candidates whose applications will be reproduced and included in a packet to each of the Advisory Board Representatives. The Candidates will be presented with a Questionnaire, comprised of questions submitted by the Advisory Board Members (HOA/COA presidents (Class A, Commercial Representatives Class B). The responses to the questionnaires will be re-distributed to the representatives when the ballots are sent out.

What is the election procedure?

In September, ballots will be mailed to the Advisory Board Representatives for each Class. In accordance with the SOA documents, the Advisory Board Representative will be entitled to cast one vote for each residential dwelling unit (RDU) in good standing from their neighborhood or commercial entity. The Advisory Board Representative as of the date of the election must sign the ballot. Advisory Board representatives are encouraged to solicit opinions from their members before voting. **To be counted, ballots must be returned by the call to order of the Advisory Board meeting on October 30, 2020.** Ballots will be tallied and candidate elects announced at that time. The candidates elected will take office on January 1, 2021 and serve a 3-year term, ending on December 31, 2023.