

**Election of Lake Arrowhead Property Owners
Association (LAPOA) Board of Directors
By James Hatcher**

This year, the LAPOA Board of Directors is proposing a change in the process used to elect new Board members. The purpose of this change is to give more residents an opportunity to seek office and modify what some in the community believe is an unnecessarily restrictive process for nominating and electing new Board of Directors.

The terms of three Board members are due to expire on September 24 of this year. To fill these vacancies, LAPOA's By-laws (Article III, Section 5) require the following:

- At least 30 days prior to an annual meeting where new Board members will be elected, the Board shall elect a Nominating Committee of not less than three members.
- The Nominating Committee will recommend to the annual meeting one nominee for each position to be filled.
- Nominations for the Board of Directors may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

During the first part of this year, a Bylaw Focus Group, constituted by the LAPOA Board of Directors, looked at all aspects of the By-laws. This Focus Group included Johnny DeLoach, LAPOA Board Liaison; Jerry Snyder, Chairman; Tony Rogowski, Dave Logel; Charles Burgess; and Frank Saggese. This group completed its analysis and recommended several changes for the Board of Director's consideration. One of those recommendations was to change the nominating process to give more residents an opportunity to be considered for election to the LAPOA Board of Directors and to modify language in the By-Laws that arguably favors candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee.

While the By-Laws also allow for nominations to be made from the floor at the annual meeting, this procedure is hardly ever used and there is little likelihood that property owners nominated under such a process would ever be elected. While such a nominee could receive votes from those at the annual meeting, many property owners vote by proxy and do not attend the annual meeting. Moreover, the proxy ballot, which property owners receive by mail prior to the annual meeting, only includes the names of those recommended by the Nominating Committee. Thus, nominees from the floor are likely defeated before their nomination can be entered at the annual meeting.

The LAPOA Board of Directors is unanimously in favor of a change in the nomination process to address the By-Law Focus Group's recommendation. However, the exact language of the change has not been formulated. Moreover, the change would have to be brought before and voted on by Lake Arrowhead property owners during either a special or annual meeting. Therefore, there is not sufficient time, in the Board's view, to effect the necessary changes in the By-Laws prior to the September annual meeting and election of new Board members. Nevertheless, the Board of Directors has approved a change in the nomination and election process this year which it believes will open the nomination process to more property owners and still be within the requirements of existing By-Laws. This process is as follows:

- All property owners interested in becoming a member of the LAPOA Board of Directors will submit their names to the Nominating Committee by Wednesday, August 10, 2011.
- The Nominating Committee will interview all potential candidates and select, by August 19, 2011, the individuals it intends to recommend to the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee will also have the discretion to identify up to three additional write-in candidates which, in its collective judgment, also has the experience and qualifications to be on the LAPOA

Board of Directors. In either case, the potential candidates would have to give their consent for their names to be entered into nomination at the September annual meeting.

- Ballots will be made available to all Lake Arrowhead property owners between 15 and 30 days prior to the annual meeting. To stay within the strict requirements of the By-Laws, only the Nominating Committee's recommended candidates can be included on the ballot. However, the ballot will include room for the write-in candidates.
- The September edition of the "Environs" Magazine will include the names and brief resumes of the Nominating Committee's recommended candidates and the write-in candidates. At this point, property owners who intend to submit proxy ballots will have the opportunity to vote for the recommended candidates or enter the name one or more of the write-in candidates.
- At the September 24, 2011, annual meeting, the Nominating Committee will place the names of its recommended candidates into nomination. Other members in good standing at the meeting must enter the names of the write-in candidates into nomination.

The LAPOA Board of Directors recognizes that this is a rather convoluted process to go through to open the nomination process up to a few more candidates. At the same time, the Board believes it is very important that all segments of the community have confidence in the nomination and election process and do not believe that the opportunity to serve on the Board is limited to only a few people within a closed group of property owners. The Board also makes a commitment to ensure that the By-Laws are changed so that this type of process is not needed in future elections.

For those property owners interested in being a member of the LAPOA Board of Directors, please contact, no later than August 10, , 2011, one or more of the following members of this year's Nominating Committee:

Bill Hess	b3779@hotmail.com	770-704-6297
Julia Marshall	bjmarsh1836@comcast.net	678-767-6818
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