

RESTON HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
1971 Elections  
Final Report

Beverley D. Sharp, Chairman  
RHOA Elections Committee  
January 28, 1972

This report contains an account of the proceedings of the 1971 Reston Home Owners Association elections, the detailed results, and a summary of retrospective thoughts of the members of the Elections Committee. Hopefully, it will be of benefit to those who follow.

1. Planning

The single full committee meeting before the elections was held on April 17, 1971. The schedule and policies adopted and the particular assignments made are listed in the report of the meeting. (Appendix I). This schedule was followed precisely. As petitions were taken out, a committee member was designated to function as a liason for each potential candidate. All remaining planning and coordination was accomplished by phone or in brief meetings of those committee members responsible for particular tasks, e.g. the coordinators for the Candidates' Forums.

2. Filing

One hundred copies of the Petition of Candidacy (Appendix II) and the Instructions to Candidates (Appendix III) were made. Six copies of each document were given to each member of the committee.

The balance was left in the RHOA Information Office in Lake Anne Hall. Committee members actively solicited the candidacy of a wide variety of residents. Fourteen petitions were returned and verified: six candidates filed for three Hunters Woods Village Council seats; four people filed for two Lake Anne Village Council seats; and five people filed for the position on the Board of Directors. One candidate filed for the Board seat and a Hunters Woods Village Council seat. Copies of their petitions are included as Appendix IV.

### 3. Candidates' Forums

One forum was conducted in each village at the respective elementary schools on the Tuesday and Wednesday immediately preceding the elections. Prior to the forums the candidates were given two questions and were requested to address these questions in the prepared statements to the audience. The prescribed questions for the Village Council candidates included one question of townwide interest (the same for all candidates) and one question concerning a particular village problem (the same for all candidates of a given village). The candidates for the Board of Directors were asked to discuss the role of RHOA's village level organization and their priorities for the Town Council. All of the candidates were encouraged to speak on any other matters they deemed important.

The same format was used in both forums. One committee member moderated the discussion; another served as timekeeper. First, each of the candidates for that village's Council seats was allotted two



minutes to present his or her prepared statement. During the next fifteen to twenty minutes, the candidates answered written questions from the audience. This pattern was repeated with the candidates for the Board of Directors each delivering a three minute statement. While the Board candidates assembled before the audience, the chairman of the Elections Committee reviewed the hours, places, and procedures for voting.

Refreshments (coffee, homemade cookies and cake) were provided by volunteers under the direction of a member of the Elections Committee. A representative of the Reston Garden Club made a flower arrangement for the refreshment table.

#### 4. Publicity

On April 21, 1971 a public notice of the elections and the filing deadline (Appendix V) was posted on the bulletin boards in Washington Plaza and Lake Anne Hall and on the door of the Glade Pool Room. A similar announcement appeared in the April 22, 1971 issue of the Reston Times. Coverage in the Reston Times continued throughout election time. (See Appendix VI.)

Approximately ten days before the filing deadline, posters announcing the elections and encouraging people to file petitions were placed in the window of the bank on Washington Plaza and on the doors of the Glade Pool Room and both elementary schools. A large display, including a sample petition and instructions to candidates, was posted on the bulletin board in Lake Anne Hall. On April 23, 1971,

pictures of the candidates (furnished by the Reston Times) and their statements of candidacy were mounted on the bulletin board in Lake Anne Hall. (Many of the materials used in this display are included in a box of supplies stored in the RHOA office.)

One week prior to the elections, posters listing the polling places and times and the places and times for the forums were placed in the bank window and at each swimming pool. Sample ballots were distributed door-to-door one day before the forum in each village. The reverse side of the Village Council ballots contained a reminder of the forums and information on voting procedures, polling places, etc. (See Appendix VII). The Candidates' Forums were televised on RTC-TV Channel A-8.

The election results were posted on the bulletin board in Lake Anne Hall, broadcast on RTC-TV, and announced in the Reston Times. The results were relayed to each of the candidates by their liason member of the committee within twenty-four hours after counting was completed.

#### 4. Polls

Votes were cast at two polling places--one in each village. Although two polling places were planned and publicized for Hunters Woods, at the last minute the possibility of a voter casting two untraceable ballots (one in each polling place) and thereby invalidating the entire election was realized. The poll at the Hunters Woods



Pool was shut down and voters were directed to the Glade Pool. (See Section 10 a.) Both polls were open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and were set up outside, thanks to the decent weather.

The polls were staffed by volunteers, at least two at a time in two-hour shifts, under the direction of a committee member in each village. These volunteers received a letter confirming their scheduled duty hours and written instructions well prior to the election. (See Appendix VIII). Several days before the election, each volunteer was reminded of his or her job by phone. One member of the committee distributed the ballot boxes, appropriate lists, envelopes, pencils, etc. to the polling places.

## 6. Counting

At 3:00 p.m. the ballots already deposited were collected and counting was begun. Each member of the Elections Committee was requested to bring one other person to help ease the burden. Counters in two-person teams worked with small batches of ballots ( 50).

The Board ballots were simply sorted and counted (only one vote per ballot) by both members of the team until their counts agreed. Each batch was marked on top with a letter (A,B,C...) and the number of votes. These numbers were totaled for each candidate. Because the counts received by the two front runners were so close, these ballots were recounted batch by batch. Similarly, batches of Village Council ballots were tallied by both members of a team until they

agreed and the batches were marked and totaled.

Absentee ballots were treated separately. First they were checked against the list of persons who voted at the polls and against the list of unpaid RHOA dues when necessary. Then the names and addresses were confirmed using the Reston Directory, the phone directory, and the phone company's information operators. Then they were counted. The tally sheets are included as Appendix IX.

## 7. Results

A total of 417 votes were cast in the Board poll: approximately 230 from Lake Anne and about 190 from Hunters Woods. Approximately 290 people voted in the Hunters Woods Village Council race and between 475 and 500 votes were cast in the Lake Anne Village Council race. Appendix X contains the pages bearing the signatures of the members of the Elections Committee who were present as certification of the results. The results of the elections are summarized here (\* = winner):

### Board of Directors

* Douglas M. Kleine	95
Von Morse	93
Robert F. Ewald	82
Al Jankowitz	77
Frederic Neitzke	71

### Hunters Woods Village Council

* Dennis J. Fischer	197
* Judith D. Hines	152
* Charles Wolfson	138
Paul B. Preusser	132
Frederic Neitzke	123
Robert B. Riley, III	79

### Lake Anne Village Council

* Elizabeth A. Kaplowitz	381
* Frank W. Anderson, Jr.	202
J. Michael Nye	184
William J. Viegel	127



Douglas Kleine was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors. At the regular Council meetings in July 1971, the new members of both Village Councils took office and new officers were elected.

#### 8. Thank-yous

Thirty thank-you notes were sent by the chairman to the volunteers who helped the committee as poll workers, cookie-bakers, counters, etc. Note: This was a simple but important step--these people will be ready to help again.

#### 9. Costs

Postage	\$ 4.64
Supplies (envelopes, poster paper, pens, etc.)	13.37
Refreshments (Candidates' Forums)	3.40
Distribution (paid June 1971, see Appendix XI)	65.00
Printing (paid June 1971, see Appendix XI)	<u>92.80</u>
Total	<u>\$179.21</u>

#### Outstanding Debts:

Due to Elinor Perex for refreshment supplies	\$ 3.40
Due to Irwin Holmes for supplies	2.06
Due to Pat Sayre for supplies and postage	3.12
Due to Beverley Sharp for supplies and postage	<u>12.83</u>
Total	<u>\$ 21.41</u>

#### 10. Retrospective Comments

On August 17, 1971, the committee discussed our election experiences including questions, comments, and criticisms from the Reston

citizenry. The following points were emphasized and hereby passed on to subsequent committees.

- a. We strongly recommend that one and only one poll be operated in each village. (See Section 4.)
- b. If only paid-up RHOA members are allowed to vote, it is imperative that a single current list of eligible voters in alphabetical order by last name be provided at each poll. (the lists provided were in several parts, were not up-to-date, and were in order by Section and Lot numbers.)
- c. Candidates should be required to acknowledge any paid employment by RHOA and/or the developer of Reston. This information should be published along with the statements of candidacy to allow voters to evaluate for themselves the possibility of conflicts of interest.
- d. Door-to-door distribution of ballots and the present concept of absentee voting, i.e. absent from the polls, are reasonable and in keeping with our unanimous conviction that maximum participation is to be encouraged, not repressed. Special care should be taken to insure delivery of materials in apartment buildings.
- e. Firm regulations on campaigning at the polls should be adopted, publicized, and enforced. For example, an arbitrary limit should be set on the allowable proximity of



posters, distriubuion of materials, and attempts at verbal persuasion of potential voters by candidates and/or their allies.



Status Report--Lake Anne Village Council

Beverley D. Sharp, Chairman  
RHOA Elections Committee  
February 1, 1972

Election  
Spring 1971

Council Members	Term Expires
<u>LeGallo</u>	1972
<u>Secundy</u>	1972
<u>Rifaat</u>	1972
<u>Kaplowitz</u>	1973
<u>Anderson</u>	1973

Present  
Council

Veigel  
Secundy  
Nye  
-----  
Anderson

Election  
Spring 1972

Council Members	Term Expires
<u>-----</u>	1974
<u>-----</u>	1974
<u>-----</u>	1974
<u>-----</u>	1973
<u>Anderson</u>	1973

The following positions need to be filled in the Spring  
1972 Election:

- Three ~~two~~-year terms
- One one-year term

*Beverley D. Sharp*