

## **AN ELECTION SCRAMBLE**

By William Nicoson

Who said what to whom has become a major issue in the tightly contested race to determine who will win the at-large seat on the Reston Association board being vacated by Vicky Wingert. Two other board members will also be elected but without controversy: the Dogwood candidate, Barbara Aaron, is running unopposed, and the apartment owners' candidate will not be nominated or elected by residents as a whole.

Three candidates are vying for the at-large seat: Bill Keefe, Jerry Volloy and Brian "Rock" Brown. The question for voters is to identify which candidate is best equipped to deal with current pressing issues facing the board.

The most far-reaching issue is adoption or revision of countless proposed changes to RA's governing documents: the Deed of Dedication, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Changes in these documents have been under review since November, 2002, and the report of a citizen's task force was concluded in August 2003. The retainer of a new lawyer to review proposed changes resulted in still further changes never reviewed by the task force.

The task force was organized, encouraged and comforted over long hours of debate by Jerry Volloy, then Executive Vice President of RA. His willingness to devote vast time, energy and insight to resolve varied unsettled issues facing resolution by RA, such as the governing documents review, deserves the support of RA members in the mailed balloting to begin March 11 and close April 1. It is no slight to other candidates to recognize Volloy's enormous experience in RA management, for which his Masters Degree in Executive Development in Public Service has prepared him.

There is some irony in the fact that the at-large contest is for the seat being vacated by Vicky Wingert, also a former RA Executive Vice President before joining the Board of Directors. Wingert has become President of Reston Historic Trust and decided not to seek reelection to the RA Board.

Some observers, noting that Volloy is seeking election as a director more quickly after his resignation as EVP than did Wingert, have been critical of the Volloy candidacy. For me Volloy's present candidacy clearly brings more current -- and thus more valuable -- inside knowledge of RA matters with him than he would have enjoyed had he delayed his election campaign.

By now you're thinking: well and good, but what about who said what to whom?

At a campaign meeting held on February 21, the chairman of the meeting, Bill Bouie, a respected governor of Reston Community Center, said he had been told that neither Rick Beyer nor Doug

Bushee, RA's President and Vice President, favored Volloy's candidacy. This was no small matter, since any new director will be obliged to work closely with these two principal officers both of whom serve on the board.

The following day I received a copy of an email sent by Bushee reading in part: "I am supporting Jerry Volloy for the election... Jerry fully understands all of the issues and while both candidates are terrific individuals, I believe Jerry has the institutional knowledge we need to get the governing documents passed."

Bill Bouie, in a blast email, then withdrew his statements about Beyer and Bushee, both of whom Bouie said will be supporting Volloy.

*William Nicoson is chairman of Reston Historic Trust and a former member of the RA board.*