

# POA Governmental Affairs Committee

## 2007 Annual Report

In April 2006, Dick Rabideau, Art Saalfield, and Tom Bryant replaced outgoing committee members Janice Morrison, John Meehan, and Guy Dowell. POA Director Bob Shoemaker replaced Ginna Watson as our POA Board Liaison and Linda Mayhood continued to be our POA Staff Liaison. The incumbent committee members included Herb Perrin, Ron Petti, Roger Pruit, Jerry Yeric, Teri Jackson, Paul Day, and Ex-officio member Al Behm from the Lake and Water Management POA committee. Once the new committee was seated, Paul Day was elected Chairman, Jerry Yeric was elected Vice Chairman, and Teri Jackson was re-elected as Secretary.

Committee changes during the year: Tom Arwood replaced Roger Pruit who resigned due to an out-of-town employment opportunity; Tom Gallagher replaced Dick Rabideau who passed away in November; and John Lands was added to the committee as an Ex-officio member covering education issues.

Work plan adopted by GAC for 2006/2007:

- Continue to grow and build positive relations with state and local agencies and elected officials.
- Update white papers and gain POA Board approval and support for them for 2006.
- Prepare state general improvement fund (GIF) requests for Village projects for 2007 funding and gain POA Board approval.
- Present the 2006 approved white papers and our GIF requests to our local, state, and federal candidates after the primaries and before the general election in November.
- Track and expand Village involvement in county and state commissions, committees, and boards.

All committee members worked diligently to improve our participation in and relationships with the cities of Hot Springs, Benton, and Bryant; the counties of Saline and Garland; and our state legislators (Senators Shane Broadway, Terry Smith and Bob Johnson; and State Representatives Bill Sample and Dan Greenberg) to further the interests of Hot Springs Village. Their efforts include attending numerous Chamber of Commerce meetings, Quorum Court meetings, City Council meetings, School Board meetings, as well as luncheons, breakfasts, dinners, and other major events staged by these entities. Additionally, special meetings with county and state elected officials and governmental agencies were held to address specific issues relative to the interests of Hot Springs Village.

Counted among the accomplishments of the Governmental Affairs Committee in 2006/2007 were:

- Updated HSV's formal legislative program to reflect more concise initiatives better focused to achieve our objectives.
- Presented the Board approved HSV legislative package to state and local officials requesting their assistance in the following areas:
  - Enhancing state programs to attract retirees to Arkansas;
  - Providing funding for highway projects in Garland County, which included the additional passing lanes for Highway 7 currently under construction;
  - Increased funding for highway projects in Saline County;
  - Authority to allow private communities to implement policies established by its Board of Directors; and
  - Support for local solutions to watershed management.

- Distributed HSV's legislative package to our congressional members requesting their assistance in the following areas:
  - Making HSV and other private communities eligible for FEMA disaster relief and funds.
  - Providing funding for the completion of the Martin Luther King Expressway to the intersection split of Highways 5 and 7.
- Coordinated presentations for state general improvement fund requests to support the Simply Kids program of building a new facility, currently under construction, and HSV fire department enhancements.
- Initiated and coordinated the request to reconfigure and resurface Highway 5 at the east gate entrance to HSV to include dual left-turn lanes, and the approval to construct a west-bound deceleration right-turn lane at the same intersection. State responsible improvements completed within six months of request; remaining work requires POA funding.
- Worked with Garland and Saline County Quorum Courts to pass an ordinance to prohibit the discharge of firearms within HSV.
- Worked with Saline County Clerk to relocate the polling place for Dyer B voting district from Crows Fire Station to the Mountainside Methodist Church inside the Village.
- Hosted a pre-election Leadership Conference with appropriate state legislative candidates to determine their positions on issues affecting the Village. Senator Smith, senate challenger Gabe Allen, Representative Bill Sample, his challenger Ginna Watson, and unchallenged Representative candidate Dan Greenberg attended.
- Hosted a luncheon with local Chambers of Commerce from Hot Springs and Hot Spring Village to open lines of communication and strengthen relationships with leaders of these two entities.
- Hosted a reception and subsequent Saline County Quorum Court meeting in HSV to continue building a positive working relationship with this body of elected officials.
- Hosted a legislative luncheon at the State Capitol to promote our legislative program and further develop relationships with key elected officials in the state. Invitees were Senators Broadway, Johnson, and Smith; Representatives Greenberg and Sample; the Governor, Lt. Governor, State Treasurer, and State Auditor; agency heads Richard Davies and Joe David Rice of the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department and Sylvester Smith of Arkansas Economic Development Department; and other selected Representatives from Hot Springs, Benton, and Bryant. Host delegation consisted of GAC members, POA Board of Directors, and POA Staff.
- Presented Quorum Court Justices of the Peace Tom Lish (Saline County), Mickey Gates, Larry Griffin, and Darryl Mahoney (Garland County) to the POA Board at their November meeting.
- Worked with Saline County officials to remove three abandoned houses at Highway 5 and Highway 298 to eliminate eyesores in the Benton-to-HSV corridor.
- Arranged for the HSV's *Best Kept Secret* presentation to be included on Benton's Chamber of Commerce website under "Retirement Living". HSV information is already included on the Hot Springs website.

- Arranged for HSV and “Attracting Retirees” to become a component of the Saline County Economic Development Plan.
- Continued to actively solicit and promote HSV residents to serve on state and county boards and commissions. Efforts have resulted in seven residents currently serving on state boards, six on Garland County boards, and six on Saline County boards. Additionally, five state applications are pending.
- Worked with county and state officials to resolve the undercounting issue of the 2000 census. Currently have assurance from MetroPlan that all required data has been received and coordination with Hot Springs MPO office will occur to correctly identify the legal boundaries of HSV. It is anticipated HSV will have a representative appointed to the Saline County Census Committee upon its formation prior to the next census taking.
- Worked with the Coalition of Arkansas Planned Communities to promote increased emphasis on state retirement /relocation programs.
- Met with Parks and Tourism and Economic Development agency representatives to brainstorm new ideas to promote retirement/relocation efforts resulting in an request to increase their budget to \$500,000. The proposal is currently working through the legislative budgeting process.
- Attended Chambers of Commerce Annual meetings in Hot Springs, Hot Springs Village, Benton, and Bryant.
- Worked with Saline County JP Tom Lish and Judge Lanny Fite to request the State Highway Department improve directional signage to Hot Springs Village at the Highway 5 off ramp at I-30 in Benton. This request was approved February 15 and will be implemented as soon as their schedule permits.
- Worked with Garland County Judge Larry Williams in his capacity as President of Arkansas Association of Counties and Arkansas Municipal League Executive Director, Don Zimmerman to ensure their tacit approval of SB187, a bill to allow county quorum courts to pass ordinances for private communities in unincorporated areas of our state.
- Worked with our State Senators and House Representatives to pass SB187, which was sponsored by Senator Terry Smith and Representative Bill Sample. This bill passed the Senate on February 6 and then the House on February 20 and is expected to be signed into law by the Governor within a week. It would become effective in 90 days after signing.

All these things have been accomplished thru the teamwork of the Governmental Affairs committee, the POA Board, and the POA staff. We thank the POA Board for the opportunity to serve Hot Springs Village.

Paul Day  
Chairman