

Fellow DPOA Members,

Each year, we eagerly await the first indications of springtime, like the migration of birds and butterflies, budding flowers and leaves. Spring has finally arrived! Are you prepared for the actual and symbolic rebirth that comes with Spring? Did you know that, astronomically, the spring season began on March 1st, even if it didn't start until March 20th this year? At Diamante, the eagerly anticipated spring golf season has finally arrived. Please avoid harm to slow-growing or dormant turf, as it may have an impact on the situation for weeks or even months. Additionally, the spring course care schedule probably includes aeration. Keep in mind that while aeration may cause short-term disruptions to your game, the long-term advantages exceed the drawbacks.

The Diamante Property Owners Association (DPOA) will hold an open board meeting on April 10th, which is the day of our annual meeting. Plans for the annual DPOA picnic will be discussed, along with the introduction of our board members, a vote on our DPOA bylaws, a slate of officers, floor nominations for board members, and project solicitations. Please plan to attend, your input is welcomed and needed to make the DPOA a success.

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." – Leo Tolstoy. This month, the DPOA will be doing plantings at the entrance of Estado Estates and adding mulch to the entrance of Diamante Boulevard. Your contributions are a wise investment in our Diamante neighborhood and your financial support will help fund future projects such as these.

The spring season is certainly the best anywhere on Earth, especially in Hot Springs Village and Diamante. Diamante Country Club and the DPOA have plenty of activities planned for the spring season. This is due to the beautiful, comfortable weather at this time of the year. Without hesitation, one can call spring the king of all seasons. Plan on attending the DPOA picnic and enjoying our beautiful club and festivities.

-Heidi Hilbert, DPOA President



YOUR MARCH SCORECARD

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The DPOA Board and Committees are made up entirely of volunteers—your neighbors! While our Diamante properties are governed by the greater Hot Springs Village POA, our DPOA members seek to keep our neighborhoods beautiful—and safe.

And we take on other projects throughout the year. We take pride in our properties, our Club and our little slice of Heaven on Earth.

Our core Mission is centered around a need to care for our neighborhood interests and common areas that are not managed by the Club's BOD. Past DPOA initiatives have included landscaping common areas, trimming the areas adjacent to our streets, holiday decorations, our Annual member picnic, Welcome Baskets to new homeowners. In past years, we've also donated the Dining Room chandeliers, outdoor fans for the patio areas, and the monument refacing for Estado Estates and Diamante Boulevard entrances. We've also made donations in the past for the clock and patio furniture.

What you may not know is the amount of time that DPOA member volunteers dedicate to these—and other activities and projects. Lots of volunteer hours go into planning, communicating, archiving and executing the DPOA's work for all of us. Hopefully, you'll agree that these volunteer manhours are adding value to the beauty and growth of our Diamante community.

That's why we're asking for your help. Did you know that some DPOA Member dues are received as late as October? Our dues are \$80 annually. When we don't receive Member dues at the beginning of each year, it makes it especially difficult to plan and budget for the year. That's why we're asking nearly 100 of you to **renew your membership and remit your 2025 dues before our Annual Meeting on April 10th.** That's a few days past the end of Q1 and that should be sufficient time for everyone. If you were a previous Member but don't plan to renew, let us know that also. No questions asked. But please, help us better plan our commitments and activities for 2025. Our Annual Picnic is also for paid Members only. We'll need to hear from you before April 10th to keep you on that list. **We'd also like to thank Members who've previously renewed.** You can find a list of current paid Member on the Members-only website under the "DPOA" tab.

We're Volunteers because we choose to be involved. Likewise, if you have ideas, but not the time, we encourage you to submit them to any DPOA Board Member or Committee Chair. Our names and contact info are included in each newsletter for your convenience. Better yet, why not plan to attend our **DPOA Annual Meeting (April 10th at 3:30 pm)** or our monthly meetings—and bring a neighbor!

Thanks, and hope to see y'all soon!

TREASURER'S REPORT



Membership

As of March 10, 2025, 164 members paid \$14,265 in DPOA dues and additional contributions for 2025.

A list of 2025 members based on payments received on or before March 10, 2025 is available on the Members only website, then click on the DPOA tab.

To become a 2025 member, please send your payment of \$80, by April 10th, payable to "DPOA" to:

Ford Williams, DPOA Treasurer
8 Aventura Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

Note: DPOA dues are voluntary and are not tax deductible.

Financial Report

The financial report for February 28, 2025 is included at the end of this newsletter.



DPOA Board

Heidi Hilbert

President

Annual DPOA Picnic
hhilbert@eicc.edu

Lana Prosen

Vice President

Neighborhood Watch
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Karla Sebastiani

Secretary

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Assistant Treasurer

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Greg Hilbert

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 Flags and DPOA Picnic

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Craig Staley

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e Mails to the Editor

Fellow Property Owners,

I guess I didn't properly introduce myself last month. My name is **Craig Staley**, and I've taken over as Editor of this newsletter from **Heidi Hilbert** so that hopefully, she can dedicate more time to her Presidential duties. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments or ideas on what you'd like me to include in future editions. My goal is to highlight DPOA activities for our Members, help to promote the Club overall, *and to have a little bit of fun while doing so*. My email is at the bottom left of the DPOA Board listing. I'd love to hear from you!

Some DPOA Members may have nagging back or hip ailments that preclude you from taking advantage of our picturesque Diamante fairways and water features. Others may have old shoulder, hip or knee wounds and the only way you can enjoy tennis or pickleball is from the bleachers. For many of us, let's face it, our glory days are gone. Well fear not, there's a new, non-contact sport at Diamante for anyone—of any age—to enjoy! And best of all, **Miste Ellis** hasn't figured out a way to charge you for it on your monthly statements from the Club! It's called ***Birdwatching for Boomers!***

There are a few requirements to begin enjoying Birdwatching. First, you need a patio or deck area. You should have a railing, a pole and/or a few low tree branches. You can invest in squirrel-proof feeders from any number of local retailers, along with feed and seed and suet blocks—all depending on the varieties of birds you hope to attract. A personal favorite is a bird feeder that features a built in camera that snaps pics of various visitors and sends them to a downloadable app on your smart phone. Since getting ours, we're hosts to numerous birds I didn't know the names of or didn't know existed in the Village (some, all Winter long): **Blue Birds and Blue Jays, Tufted Titmouses, Carolina Wrens, Northern Cardinals** (we have more Cardinals than the Vatican!), **Chickadees, Hummingbirds** (went to Mexico for the Winter, but headed back before the tariffs kick in!), **Finches, Woodpeckers and Pine Warblers**.

This type of feeder can retail for as low as \$50 on Amazon, many with free shipping. Below are some actual photos from the phone app. Enjoy your new-found sport—Birdwatching can be just as engaging as watching episodes of *The White Lotus!*



Camera & Feeder



Pine Warbler



Tufted Titmouse

March photo bombs

Wine Tasting & Dinner Party



Another successful **Wine Tasting and Dinner Party** sponsored by the 30th Anniversary Committee.

The original date had to be postponed due to weather, but that didn't impact another sold out event!

Keep popping those corks **Suzanne Iantosca and team!**



March photo bombs

Fat Tuesday 2025



Lori McGhee & her Social Committee strike again with another well-attended, festive, Cajun-styled event for **Fat Tuesday**. P.S. We all know where Lori's gonna hide the babies next year!

March photo bombs

Couples Golf St. Paddy's Fundraiser



Over 100 Golfers, Members and Guests attended the Saturday event, and the two-day event raised \$20,000 to help remodeling of the Dining Room and Bar areas.

Congrats to all the Sunday winners, especially the overall champs, the **Kuchs/Ryan team—and to **Jyl Skidmore** for her Hole in One on #7.**

Kudos to **Jim Baker and the Couples Golf group for hosting this outstanding event and fundraiser. Rumor has it this is going to become an annual event!**

March/April on-going events

Taco Tuesday's a Full House!

Plan Ahead / Reserve a Table!

Taco Tuesday

\$2.75 each SOFT SHELL BEEF TACOS

\$2.50 each HARD SHELL BEEF TACOS

\$4 CHIPS AND SALSA

\$3 Modelo Beer • \$4 Red Sangria
\$4 Margaritas - Rocks or Frozen

Great nights start with great bites!
Join friends for tacos, drinks & fun at Diamante

DIAMANTE GRILL 3:00 - 7:00 PM
ENJOY EVERY BITE!



DIAMANTE
30th Anniversary

A Toast to 30 Years of Diamante



For 30 years, Diamante has been a place where friendships are forged, stories are shared, and memories are made—often over a perfectly poured drink at the bar. Whether it's a classic Old Fashioned after a round of golf, a crisp Chardonnay at sunset, or a celebratory cocktail with friends, every sip carries the spirit of camaraderie that defines our Club.

To mark this milestone, we're adding a little adventure to the celebration! On the 30th of each month, special drink tickets will be hidden around the Clubhouse and Golf Course. If you're lucky enough to find one, you'll enjoy 30% off any beverage of your choice—a token of appreciation from Diamante and the 30th Anniversary Committee.

And that's not all! When a coupon is redeemed, the bar will ring a bell to celebrate the moment. So keep your eyes open, your spirits high, and join us in raising a glass to 30 incredible years—and many more to come! Cheers!

Thank you, Paul Murrison, the Food & Beverage team, the Wait Staff and Front Office for hosting our popular 'Taco Tuesday'. It's a great idea and a nice way to spend a Tuesday evening together! As Paul and his team work to streamline this phenom, there's something Members can do to help--make a Reservation! This will help w/planning and it's also a courtesy to fellow Members who've made reservations. Your guests will appreciate it too. Do your part—then enjoy the Club's new 'Taco Tuesdays'!

March/April Upcoming Events

COURT SPORTS:

- March 31:** Spring Open House for all HSV Residents
- April 21st:** Club Pickleball Championships
- April 23rd:** Club Tennis Championships
- May 12:** Pickleball Golf Tourney & Fundraiser

Need more info? Paula Hibbs has the answers!
paula.hibbs@gmail.com



ITALY

Wine & Dine Italian Style
April 24th, 6 pm

Featuring food and wine pairings from the various regions of Italy. Watch the Club newsletter for more info on wines and menu pairings. Buon Appetito!



Apps & Ales



Whether you're a seasoned beer connoisseur or just starting to explore the happy goodness, this is the perfect opportunity to discover beer with local breweries onsite providing free samples!

Wednesday, April 16th at 4:00pm
 Diamante Patio, Weather Permitting

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY GAVIN HARPER

Free Beer \$5.00 Apps Live Music

Attention all Diamante Ladies & Guests

Hop into Spring

TEA PARTY

Month **04** Date **17** Year **25**

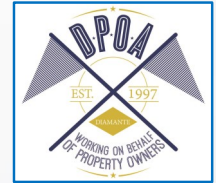
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MORE DETAILS COMING SOON



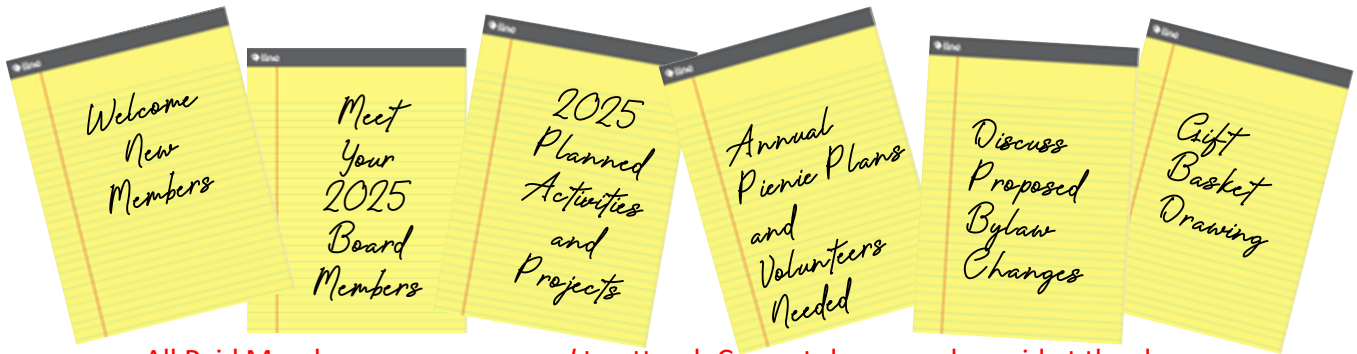
Upcoming dpoa events

Diamante Property Owners Association



2025 Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 10th 3:30 PM Clubhouse Main Dining Room



All Paid Members are encouraged to attend. Current dues may be paid at the door.



SAVE THE DATE DPOA ANNUAL PICNIC JUNE 2nd

Planning is underway—stay tuned for more details!

If you're interested in volunteering for this event, please contact:

Heidi Hilbert

AROUND THE CLOCK

A Gathering Place to Celebrate
Our Active DPOA Members



DPOA MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:

SYLVIA AND JOHN MATTHEWS

If you were tasked with finding two words that aptly describe **Sylvia and John Matthews**, I would choose “Southern Comfort-able”. The ‘comfortable’ part happens in that short period of time—from when you walk in their front door—to that time when it’s time to go. You feel like you’ve known them all your life—and you hope you’ll be invited back! Or, it’s like you run into that best friend from high school somewhere unexpectedly and you carry on as if the 30 years since your last meeting had never happened.

The ‘Southern’ part comes from their roots and where they settled and raised their family. They were born 4 blocks from each other in Virginia, but never knew one another until shortly before they eloped. They’ve been together 65 years since, and 25 of those right here at Diamante.

John worked extensively in the Oil industry, while Sylvia competed in the Natural Gas sector. That allowed them to live for a good portion of their careers in New Orleans, but Houston, TX is where they proudly hung their cowboy hats. I learned a long time ago that there are two things you don’t discuss in business: religion and politics. But, also being a 25+ year Dallasite, I would add a 3rd. In Texas, fisticuffs ensue if you try to discuss which city is better—Houston or Dallas? So, I gracefully pivoted to another topic.

The Matthews first learned about Diamante from some neighbors while living in New Orleans. They were

SYLVIA AND JOHN MATTHEWS (CONTINUED)

invited to Hot Springs and stayed at the Arlington Hotel. There, a man told them about the Village, and they decided to check things out. Back then, the Village didn't extend any further East than the Woodlands. But John liked what he saw: fresh air, clean water, spacious and secure. Sylvia's take? Not so much! Maybe something to do with the lack of shopping—or people? But eventually, they made their way North, and the rest, as they say, is history. That's another thing that's easy to admire about them. They're walking, talking historians of everything you'd ever want to know about Diamante—from its Club Corp days to the hurdles associated with independence, to the plans for our Club's future. While one can't fit 30 years of history onto these pages, the Matthews have some interesting and anecdotal memories since the Club's founding, through present day.

There weren't as many houses back then, and given that it was a Club Corp property, the neighbors used to throw huge backyard house parties and invite all the residents. They miss those parties and the comradery, but also understand that's not too practical nowadays. They also remember, back when Diamante was the premier venue in Arkansas for Golf, that Diamante played host to the Arkansas Open. They recalled that the course looked just like any other Sunday PGA event with the Clubhouse surrounded by bunting-draped bleachers that extended several rows into the pine-lined sky.

But probably their most fond memory is of their involvement in the acquisition of the Diamante property from Club Corp and its transition to the private Club that we all know and enjoy today. On a much smaller scale, one might feel as if they were talking with George Washington or Thomas Jefferson or James Madison. To hear John and Sylvia tell this story, it turns out that it wasn't much of a struggle. Club Corp was no longer in love with the Diamante property. It was too remote for its usual members, was an older age group in the Village vs. their suburban properties, difficult to staff and retain employees, and less profitable with substantial liabilities. Club Corp actually suggested to a band of early residents that they buy the \$5+ Mil property, which the residents eventually did, for a song. Thanks to the knowledge and expertise of one of the original Member's interest in water rights, John shared that the Village actually pays Diamante for the water flowing through our Club. It's at this point in the conversation that one feels like they're speaking to a writer from the series *Yellowstone*, or the movie *Chinatown*.

John stayed involved throughout the acquisition process and served on the Club Board for a year, then on the DPOA Board for another 5-6 years. Sylvia recalls that she served 3+ years on the Club Board and also started up an original newsletter of sorts—that was really just a Word document she circulated to others.

Together, they put a lot of time into managing the DPOA's Member Directory, providing electronic updates to the Member website and hardcopies as a fundraiser for the DPOA.

Editor's Note: I walked away from this interview with a feeling that I'd been speaking to Diamante's very own version of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Every story fastidiously wrapped. Every memory shared—a gift.

**DPOA Members Sylvia and John Matthews make their list and check it twice at
18 Loyola Circle.**



DPOA MEMBER FUN & GAMES:

LEE ANN NEWCOMB &
JAN COGGINS

This month's contest requires a couple seasoned golfers—with an eye for detail, a keen sense of awareness and a lot of luck. You'll have to play along to see **if Lee Ann Newcomb and Jan Coggins** were seasoned enough!

In fairness to the ladies, they've only been residents of Diamante just shy of 3 years. In fact, their 3rd anniversary will be next month. Given that we're celebrating 30 years of Diamante, it's interesting to hear from a couple of our younger transplants. They're prior residents of the Scottsdale, AZ area, and moved here for many of the same reasons that many of us have: fresh air, *plenty of water*, a much lower cost of living when you're getting ready to retire and a sense of security.

Both women were quick to add that AZ has become very over-populated in recent years and a majority of the new movers to the state were from CA—which was also driving up the cost of everything—especially housing.

It was also an easy decision for them as they have family and friends in both Tennessee and Texas. Now, they can just hop in the car for a quick visit or a long weekend instead of dealing with airports. It's a win/win for them!

This month's DPOA Member Fun & Games is called **"Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbor's Deck"**.

On the next page, there are photos of 9 Diamante homes taken from the cart paths. Correctly guess which Hole each of these homes is on. Give yourself a Bonus Point for each correct homeowner you can identify. Time yourself. See what you can correctly guess in 10 minutes or less. Above all else, be honest!

With a tiny bit of help, Lee Ann and Jan correctly identified 7 of the homes depicted, but were a bit less successful in identifying their owners. Lee Ann did say that they'll have to take a copy of page 13 with them the next time they're on the course and see if they can spot each one of these homes.

See if you can you beat their score. Good luck. The answers are on the last page of the newsletter.

Lee Ann Newcomb and Jan Coggins covet other Members' putting expertise from 8 Granada Way.





DPOA MEMBER VOLUNTEER:

DOUG ZOOK

You can take the curator out of the museum, but you can't take the museum out of the curator. **Doug Zook** is proof of that. Although retired from The Heritage Center in Broken Bow, OK in 2021, Doug's Diamante home (that he shares with husband Jon Lilley) is adorned with artifacts of his Master wood turning days.

Doug spent a lifetime honing his woodworking skills, and 28 years teaching his craft to students at the Heritage Center. One of his most prized creations was a carving that was turned from the remnants of an injured tree from the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. He mounted this onto a stone that was also from the Murrah Federal Building, and this sculpture was eventually presented to President Bill Clinton.

Doug credits his interest in woodworking to his Grandfather and to his Amish heritage. Growing up in Corpus Cristi, TX, Doug looked forward to each summer, when he would journey north to his grandfather's house in Kansas. The elder Master sharing his perfected woodworking skills with the younger Master-in-waiting. By the time he was 11 years old, Doug was carefully turning out hundreds of wooden bodies for one of the local Amish dollmakers. Impressive—working on an assembly line at age 11!

Fast forward to 2020. While Doug and Jon had visited Hot Springs and the Village numerous times over a period of 20 years, they hadn't known anything about Diamante until they bought their current home. They were excited about the Diamante Community and how quickly they'd made friends here. At their prior addresses, they hadn't known their neighbors well. But at Diamante, the residents were quick to knock on the couple's door and introduce themselves. That made them feel that they're a part of the community and that they'd made the right choice.

Doug has another attribute that was also instilled in him at an early by that same Amish grandfather—that of giving back to the community where one lives. The time spent volunteering locally at Jackson House and Faith Fellowship has filled Doug with an abounding sense of how blessed he is to be here, and to be able to help others.

Diamante has also benefitted immensely from Doug's volunteerism. He got involved in the DPOA as soon as they moved here—and it's where he's gotten to know many of you. He's helped with various landscaping chores: mulching, planting flowers, painting the fire hydrants in the neighborhoods. He took on raising and lowering the flags at the entrances. He's taken on the tedious task of helping to review and update our bylaws. And most recently, Doug's been lending his time and talents to the 30th Anniversary Committee's celebratory efforts. Thank you for all you do, Doug, for the Hot Springs area *and* our Diamante community!

DPOA Members Doug Zook and Jon Lilley curate their Diamante friendships at 12 Estado Circle.



GETTING 'PERSONNEL':

TERRI SOCHA

She's just one month shy of celebrating 15 years with our Club, so it's perfect timing to get to know our very own **Terri Socha** up close.

Terri's come a long way from that childhood home above the funeral parlor in Missouri, where her parents were a funeral director and a certified embalmer. Terri had planned to follow in their footsteps after high school, but she wasn't old enough for that coursework, so she opted for Beauty School instead. But, I'll let you ask her how she paid her way through school...

Terri and her late husband had been members at another Club Corp property, Hunters Green, so they had traveled to Diamante previously. Widowed at such an early age, Terri wanted time to figure out the next stage of her life, so she accepted a parttime bartending job at Diamante. That lasted all of 1 1/2 weeks as she was moved into her current role as Marketing and Membership Director. But, her first task was getting rid of that Pepto Bismol pink paint on her office walls. The rest is history!

While she liked the structure and detailed reporting of the Club Corp environment, she also likes the fact that a private club make her job easier—offering more membership options for her to discuss with prospects. That helps, because her two biggest challenges at trade shows are: 1) people never hearing of the Village and 2) selling them on Arkansas as a great place to live. She's also excited that the Members are becoming younger and more active, which translates into more Court Sports and Clubhouse Membership sales.

A few years back, Scotti Pippen of Chicago Bulls fame, played the Diamante links. But, Terri's slightly embarrassing brush with celebrity happened when she tried to stop a guest from entering a golf banquet fundraiser because the guest didn't have a ticket. It turns out that guest was then Arkansas Governor, Asa Hutchinson! Big Oops! Guessing that since then the Club doesn't let Terri collect the banquet tickets?

The CliffsNotes on Terri:

- ♦ **Club Favorites:** The Smash Burger for lunch; the Seas Bass for Dinner
- ♦ At home, her **comfort food is Chicken Marsala**—but her guilty pleasure is **Crawfish** any way you make 'em.
- ♦ **Favorite Club benefit:** Golf—"it's my therapy".
- ♦ **Favorite Local Watering Hole:** Maxine's in Hot Springs on a Thursday night
- ♦ **Favorite Local Restaurant:** Rober in Benton

“Let Them Eat Cake!”

-Marie Antoinette



DPOA Members’ March Birthdays*

2: Martha Mckindra

3: Ted Schramm

5: Carol Schramm

David Paul

11: Mark Ryan

13: Suzanne Iantosca

17: Vanessa Langlais

18: John Blake

21: Nancy Koski

22: Al Short

23: Dianne Blake

29: Steve Lux

**"Count your age by friends, not years.
Count your life by smiles, not tears."**

- John Lennon

*List is based on paid/renewed DPOA memberships through February ‘25. May not include some New Members as list is updated and periodically provided to us by the Front Desk.

Treasurer's Financial Report (thru February 28, 2025)

	2/28/2025 Year to Date
Member dues	8,080
Additional dues	300
Total dues revenue	8,380
Landscape Maintenance	-
Sprinkler repair	-
Electrical repair	-
Flags	(152)
Holiday décor	-
Welcome baskets	(25)
Storage unit	-
Administrative costs	(146)
Total operational expenses	(323)
Net revenue (expense)	8,057
Beginning Cash	14,817
Net revenue (expense)	8,057
Ending Cash	22,874
Cash Reserve	7,500
Cash available for operations	15,374



Administrative Note:

We have made an effort to insure all Paid DPOA members are on the distribution list for our Newsletter. If your spouse did not receive, please send an email to the TrustyScribe@att.net with the name and email of the paid member's address to be added.





Diamante Property Owners Association -- 2025 Dues Invoice

Property Owner Information:

First Name	
Last Name	
Preferred Email Address	
Mailing Address – Street	
Mailing Address – City, State, Zip	
Diamante Property Address if Different	

Dues Information:

Please complete this form **by April 10th** and send it with your check payable to “DPOA” for \$80 to:

Ford Williams
DPOA Treasurer
8 Aventura Trace
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

You may also **pay at the door** if you plan to attend our Annual Meeting on April 10th.

FUN AND GAMES ANSWERS (FROM PAGE 13):



1: **Hole 6**, Adams

2: **Hole 10**, Hardin

3: **Hole 8**, Smith

4: **Hole 11**, Jimes

5: **Hole 16**, Williams

6: **Hole 4**, Erwin

7: **Hole 18**, Anderson

8: **Hole 7**, Robbins

9: **Hole 9**, Jonaitis