



www.sgaofatlanta.org

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Vice-Pres: Mike Nobles
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Ward Humphries 2025
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Past President

Larry Fauconnet
678-654-2594

Chaplain

Norm Jaros
404-636-2159

Table Captains

Monday

Larry Fauconnet 678-654-2594

Tuesday

John Cyran 404-272-1571

Wednesday

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Thursday

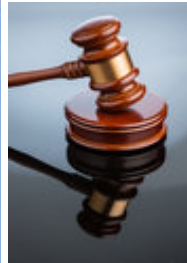
Bob Remich 404-822-1379

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 68 Issue 3

March 2024



President
Ron Wade
Ron3392@aol.com
(706) 318-2379



As Shakespeare wrote, "Now is the winter of our discontent," but unlike Richard III our discontent is not with the throne, but because our new year of golf got off to a sloppy start. But spring is around the corner and our wives will be as happy as we are when we're all back on the golf course.

Earlier I have written of our priorities for 2024. Briefly, we will be emphasizing membership and participation. The Membership Committee met on January 25 and adopted several recommendations which were approved by the board on February 14. The recommendations are as follow:

1. As an incentive for members to invite guests who are prospective members, we will waive the table fee for a member who brings a guest who is a prospective member. (This is discussed further in Mike Nobles' article below.)
2. We will revise the marketing brochure and investigate venues where these may be utilized.
3. We will add an "About" link to the website home page which will include summary information about SGAA, testimonials, and access to the membership application.
4. We will revise the membership application to make it more inviting.
5. We will enhance our Facebook page

You are the most effective person in our efforts to expand our membership. While we are occasionally contacted by prospective new members through the web site or through another source, most new members join because they were invited by a friend or neighbor who is a member.

On another topic, we believe that we will soon complete the plans for our Member-Guest tournament. We are planning for the tournament to be held at Apple Mountain Golf Resort in Clarkesville, GA on Sept 30-Oct 2. In the interest of economy, we will begin by teeing off at 1PM on Sept 30, with morning starts on Oct 1 and 2.

Some details are yet to be worked out, but we are optimistic that we can provide a great golf experience. A number of our members have played Apple Mountain and highly recommended it to the committee. Start planning for the event now and invite a guest.

Lee Trevino as quoted by "Executive Golfer," February 2024: "Remember that golf was invented by folks who think music comes from bagpipes."

In Memorium

Lest we forget, this golf we play is just a game. A game we enjoy as often as we can. These members passed away this year and no longer have that opportunity let us not forget them. Let us offer this golfer's prayer...

"For all the times I have swung a club, for the many friends and the game I love, for the patience I have found in sand or rough, for the excitement of making the shots though tough; for success is not measured by holes in one; but by the times that are shared when having fun.

Lord would you grant me one last request; to play You a round of the game I love best."

Bill Lewis member from 1998 – 2020

Don Helm member since 2002

Charles King member since 2019

TEE TIMES

8:30 a.m.

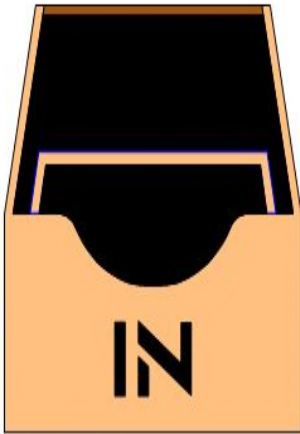
beginning this month

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Vice President

Mike Nobles

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Several of you have asked me why I ran for Vice President when I have been a member of SGAA for less than a year. The reason is simple. I love golf and I thoroughly enjoy the fellowship with all the other senior golfers in our group. I want to see our organization grow and thrive and exist well into the future.

I don't think it's a secret that our membership role has been declining over the last few years. Many of you remember the days when SGAA had over 300 members and had a waiting list of one to two years after your application was accepted before you could start actively playing with the group. There was not a whole lot of emphasis put on marketing the organization because it had plenty of active members and a healthy waiting list to replace any members lost. That is not the case any longer. The impact of COVID-19 and the growth of senior groups at many of the courses we play have put us in a situation where we need to actively market SGAA to ramp up our member numbers. We need more golfers participating in our local and out-of-town tournaments to continue getting the discounted rates and other amenities that we receive from most of the courses we play.

The membership committee has put together a number of ideas that we are pursuing to help market our organization to senior golfers in our area. However, we need each and every one of our members to step up and assist us in our efforts. The most effective means of reaching potential new members is through word-of-mouth endorsements by our existing members. Here are a few suggestions that you may want to consider:

1. Ask your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, Sunday school classmates, lodge brothers, etc. to join us as a guest.
2. Get your spouse to mention SGAA to the other ladies in her book club, quilting group, bible study, sorority group, etc. My wife knows a lot more ladies than I know men and many of them want to get their husbands out of the house and doing something that keeps them active.
3. If you are a member at a course and participate in their senior men's group or know some of the men who do, ask them to join SGAA. It is inexpensive to join and allows them to play other courses in the area at discounted rates.

As an incentive for your efforts, we are going to waive your five dollar table fee each time you bring a qualified potential member to play with us as a guest. The waiver only applies the first time you bring that individual guest. The guest must be local and meet the requirements for membership. We are also working on a larger incentive for the member who brings in the most new members over a given period of time. Details of that incentive have yet to be finalized and/or approved.

I know our group is up to this challenge. If just half of our members bring in one new member this year, our roster will be back up to near 300 again. We'll have more golfers for local and out-of-town tournaments and help increase our numbers for special events like the Member Guest tournament. More golfers/guests mean more desirable locations.

Good golfing! Drive for show, putt for dough!!

**EVENTS FOR
MARCH 2024**

***Tee times begin
8:30 a/m***

March 4
MON: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley \$40

March 5
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Cherokee Run \$40

March 6
WED: 8:30 a/m
Georgia National \$37

March 12
TUES: 10:00 a/m
CC of Gwinnett \$40

March 13
WED: 8:30 a/m
Pine Hills \$28

March 24
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Providence \$37

March 18
MON: 8:30 a/m
Heron Bay \$37

March 20
WED: 8:30 a/m
Honey Creek \$32

March 21
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek \$42

March 25
MON: 8:30 a/m
Southland \$36.72

March 26
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Crystal Lake \$37

March 28
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Hard Labor Creek \$37+

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**Secretary
Ted Pogue
tandgpogue@att.net
(404) 281-6158**



We begin March with 187 active members. Two members and one past member have passed in 2024; past member Bill Lewis, and present members Don Helm and Charles King. They will be missed. Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group.

We have 36 members who have not paid their dues for 2024. The list is as follows. They will now need to pay their dues of \$25 dollars and a late fee of \$20 for a total of \$45 dollars. If you know any of the people on the list and would like to contact them, please do not hesitate to contact them. It would be helpful to the club if we knew why they are not renewing

ALMAND	BILL	KNIGHT	JIM
BENEDA	BOB	LAWLESS	MICHAEL
BINDER	DAVID	LEBLANC JR.	EARL
BRIGHT	KEVIN	LIBBON	MARK
BURKETT SR.	ROBERT	MOORMAN	KEN
CARROL	JIM	MORRIS	WILLIAM
CHEATHAM III	JOHN	MOSCOVITZ	DAVID
CHEATHAM IV	JOHN	MOSS	JERRY
D'ARATA	EDWARD	RAMSEY	DAVID
DYER	FRED	REYNOLDS	DAVID
ERNST	DAVID	RICHARDS	JIM
FOLDEN	PETE	ROARK	DAVID
HANEL	ROBERT	SALTER	MARK
HARRIS	LESLIE	SUDDERTH	ROBERT
HARRIS	RODGER	TAYLOR JR.	JAMES
HOLDER	PATRICK	TILLER	GREGORY
JENKINS	RONNIE	WILLIAMS	EDWARD
JOHNSON	GEORGE	WOLFE	EDWARD

Continue to sign up new members. Please make sure the applications are easily read before you send them in. We now have 187 active members.

See you on the course.

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Editor

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Rambling from Tee to Green

In or Out?

My personal preference is to putt with the flagstick out of the hole. The first time I played this year, the three others in my foursome preferred to leave the flagstick in the hole when they putted. At one point in the round I facetiously made the comment that the flag takes up half the hole and was quickly chided for exaggerating.

Having spent the majority of my previous life in the engineering field I felt it was more of a hyperbole than an exaggeration. But it did pique my curiosity.

The regulation size of a golf hole is 4.25" in diameter, the golf ball is 1.68" in diameter and the flagstick is .75" in diameter.

With the flagstick in the hole, this reduces the space left to allow your ball to drop into the hole to 1.75" (That's $4.25 - .75 = 3.5$ divided by two since you can only enter the hole from one side – or half). Now with just 1.75" of space for the ball (1.68" in diameter) to fall into the hole you end up with just .07" left for error.

However, with the flagstick out of the hole you have 2.125" of space for the ball to fall into the hole. With means you now have .445" left for error.

Then there's the argument the flagstick can act like a basketball backboard if you have too much speed on your ball. Close, but no cigar. A basketball backboard is flat while the flagstick is round which means the odds of your golf ball hitting the flagstick and bouncing straight back (and maybe falling in the hole remember there's only .07" room for error) are astronomical. More often than not the ball caroms off the flagstick and rolls off in another direction. With the flagstick removed the ball has a better chance of falling in the hole from too much speed or at least hitting the back of the hole and losing momentum.

Now you can add the question, "Flag in or out?" while you contemplate whether the putt is uphill; downhill; with the grain; against the grain; breaking left; breaking right; how much break; or just straight in. Oh, by the way, I have noticed the majority of PGA players putt with the flagstick out of the hole.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

March 2024

We have asked ourselves ad nauseam why the continuing decline in SGAA membership. There are many reasons for the decline, such as COVID-19, the economy, distance to courses, etc. Although all these are viable contributing factors, perhaps there is another aspect to consider.

Over the last half-decade, SGAA members have lost control of their association. Yes, this is a bold statement, but one only needs to look at the PGA of today to get a sense of what is happening at SGAA. For several decades, PGA professionals had an influential voice in venues, golf rules, association policy and more. However, over the past decade, they have unwittingly relinquished control of their association to a governing body that has become increasingly inflexible. PGA players can no longer influence prominent issues within their association to the extent they once did. At present, many PGA professionals feel that the hierarchy no longer represents their best interests or listens intently to their opinions or concerns. That is why, in part, many golf professionals have departed the PGA and joined LIV, notwithstanding the huge financial packages they are getting, which makes it easier to leave. To a great extent, the PGA board has forgotten the nature of their role, which is essentially administrative, promotional, and custodial, not authoritarian or acting out of self-interest. Could it be that the SGAA has fallen into a similar situation? Consider the dismissal of the entire 2020 survey results by the SGAA board. Such behavior seems to suggest that members cannot influence their association (much like the PGA professionals of today) because of the imperious posture of a few. Sound familiar? Perhaps some of our members no longer feel that their board is acting according to their wishes and thus opted not to renew their membership.

Can we learn something by revisiting the past? I hope so. In its formative years, the SGAA board occasionally asked its members for suggested improvements, which they enthusiastically implemented, much like the PGA did in its early years. By reaching out and soliciting the wishes and ideas of its members, any organization is more likely to promote a better membership experience and foster a feeling of ownership. In other words, we can better serve and strengthen the organization when ideas flow upward. The Board of Directors does not "own" the association; it belongs to the membership, and the membership needs to feel like it is their association. Fortunately, in the last couple of years, our leadership has proactively engaged the member community to seek input and perspectives. Perhaps this fresh approach, coupled with an improved economy, will stimulate membership renewals and thus reverse the decline.

Jim Ruiz (1-18-24)

"Letters to the Editor" will be included, on a first-come basis, as many as space will allow. Letters can not contain any slanderous or derogatory remarks about any individual. All letters must include the sender's name which will be included in the publication. The deadline for inclusion is the 15th of the month. *(The Editor reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling as well as the right to reject any letters not adhering to the above guidelines.)*

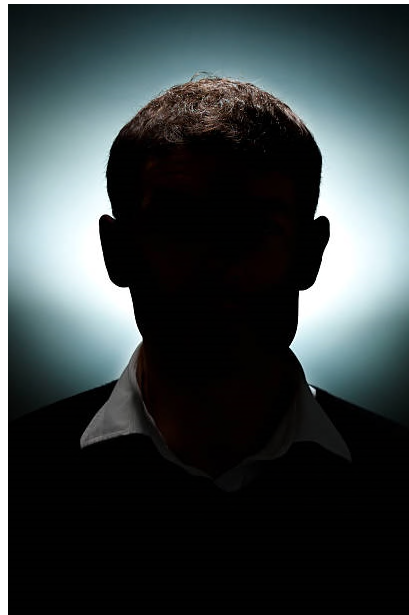
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Coming Soon!



As part of the drive to make Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta a more friendly and inviting organization we will be instituting a Spotlight on New Members. Each month we will spotlight a New Member randomly picked from the members gained in the previous month.

The Spotlight will include a picture of the member and a short biographical sketch as a way of introduction.

We encourage you to send a head and shoulders photo of each new member to Steve Puster via text to 678-262-7541 or email to steve.puster@gmail.com with the individuals name at the time the membership application is submitted. This will allow us to include your New Member for consideration more easily.



Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation*

Training

Dr. Steve Holbrook, M.D.
Instructor

April 10, 2024
Browns Mill Golf Course



Doctor Holbrook is providing this valuable life-saving training free of charge to any and all Senior Golfers Association members



* Slow Play may cause the need of CPR



SGAA Out of Town

Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge



Wallace Adams Course at Little Ocmulgee State Park & Lodge
80 Live Oak Trail
Helena, GA

April 15, 16, 17, 2024
Monday Tee-Time 12:30 pm (EDT)

Guests are welcome! Bring a friend, family member, neighbor, etc.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 15, 2024

Packages include the following:

Two or three nights lodging, golf, dinners, breakfasts, & lunch on Tuesday

Note: All roommates must have identical packages!

Choose Option

Occupancy	Packages	Price per Person (2 nights)	Sunday Arrival (3 nights)
Single	3 Days golf, 2 nights, meals	\$517.00	\$639.00
Double	3 Days golf, 2 nights, meals	\$392.00	\$453.00
Call For	Additional Packages		

Name: _____ SGAA Member #: _____

Guest Name: _____ Guest Stroke Handicap: _____

SGAA Roommate: _____ SGAA Member #: _____

ALL reservations, including Sunday, must be made through SGAA.

No Refunds after reservation deadline on April 1, 2024

Make Checks Payable to: SGAA

Mail Reservation form and check to:

Larry Fauconnet
4439 Foxfire Crossing
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Formats:

Monday: Four-man teams – ABCD dogfight

Tuesday: Two-man teams –A/B vs A/B and C/D vs. C/D

Wednesday: Individual Dogfight

- *Blind-draw for empty slots / guests*
- *Mon/Tue teams randomly generated*
- *Pavouts to top three places*



Classic

The Mitsubishi Electric Classic is looking for volunteers! This PGA TOUR Champions tournament will take place the week of April 22 - 28, 2024 at TPC Sugarloaf in Duluth Georgia. Volunteers play a pivotal role in the event's success. Since its inception in 2013, the Mitsubishi Electric Classic has raised over \$4.1 million for charity and we cannot do that without the help of our amazing volunteers.

Volunteers can select from a variety of committees, performing the many tasks required to conduct a PGA TOUR Champions event. Please refer to the [Committee Descriptions document](#) for a brief description on the committees that are available. We will do our best to accommodate your preferences for your committee of choice.

[Volunteer package](#) includes:

- One (1) Logoed Polo Shirt
- One (1) Lightweight Logoed 1/4 Zip Pullover
- One (1) Ball Cap or Visor
- One (1) Clear Logoed String Backpack
- Personalized Volunteer Credential
- Annual Commemorative Volunteer Pin
- Volunteer Parking Pass
- Continental Breakfast and/or Lunch during Scheduled Volunteer Shifts
- Two (2) Weekly Grounds Badges (valid Friday – Sunday of tournament week)
- Opportunity to play TPC Sugarloaf post-tournament
- 15% Discount on Tournament Merchandise

The volunteer registration fee is \$85, with options to add extra shirts, hats, and pullovers. If you register before the end of the year, you will be entered into a drawing to win a 4 some at TPC Sugarloaf. Also, by watching the Volunteer Training video and completing the Volunteer Training Quiz, you will be entered to be reimbursed the volunteer registration fee. 5 lucky winners will be announced after the tournament in May.

Click [here](#) to register for the '24 Mitsubishi Electric Classic!

Please reach out to info@mitsubishielectricclassic.com if you have any questions.


The Volunteer Program is Supported by



AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING • PLUMBING

Story After Story, We Deliver Smiles!

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>SUMMER SEASON BEGINS ALL TEE TIMES 8:30 a/m</p>						
3	4 Mystery Valley 8:30a/m \$40	5 Cherokee Run 8:30a/m \$40	6 Georgia National 8:30a/m \$37	7	8	9
10	11	12 CC of Gwinnett 10:00a/m \$40	13 Pine Hills 8:30a/m \$28	14 Providence 8:30a/m \$37	15 	16
17	18 Heron Bay 8:30a/m \$37	19	20 Honey Creek 8:30a/m \$32	21 Bear Creek 8:30a/m \$42	22	23
24	25 Southland 8:30a/m \$36.72	26 Crystal Lake 8:30a/m \$37	27	28 Hard Labor Creek 8:30a/m \$37+	29	30
31	<p>*DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE LITTLE OCMULGEE TRIP By March 15th</p>					

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253