



www.sgaofatlanta.org

Officers

President: Larry Fauconnet
Vice-Pres: Ron Wade
Secretary: Ted Pogue
Treasurer: Tom Vardase

Board of Directors

Dennis Hanson 2025
Ward Humphries 2025
Gary Nelson 2025
Jim Begnaud 2024
Ron Panter 2024
Cleve Shupe 2024
Kevin Anderson 2023
John Cyran 2023
JJ Goldsack 2023

Past President

Dave Mueller
770-298-2829

Chaplain

Norm Jaros
404-636-2159

Table Captains

Monday

John Cyran 404-272-1571

Tuesday

John Cyran 404-272-1571

Wednesday

Tom Gryder 404-232-9741

Thursday

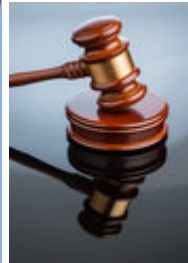
Bob Remich 404-822-1379

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 67 Issue 11

November 2023



President

Larry Fauconnet

LHFauconnet@gmail.com

(678) 654-2594



As October comes to a close and we head into November, I reflect on how fast this year has gone by! And, for the most part, it's been a good year for the organization. Looking at year-over-year stats (end-of-month September) over the past few years, our membership decline appears to be slowing, the average number of rounds played per member is increasing, and the percent of members not-playing is declining. All positive trends suggesting we're getting close to turning the corner. However, we aren't there yet. Key will be continuing to bring in new players and, by supporting the organization with your presence at the games we play! Some of the things that many people don't know are how much and often we play, the broad number of venues we play at, the level of organization that we bring to the game while being truly open to new prospects joining our ranks. Our approach is unmatched by any other senior golf group that I'm aware of. Keep getting the word out!

Also key to our success is the continued dedicated support we get from our volunteers. Every year we host a volunteer outing as a way of saying thanks to all those who serve on the on the board, as officers, on the tables, or on one of the many committees that make this club run smoothly. That event is coming up in early November. Some of the most critical volunteer roles are the table workers. With the coming of the end of our season, we're starting to look in earnest for folks to fill vacancies that are coming open. It's likely that we'll have openings on at least three of our days of play, and we have a desire to keep our bench of alternates deep enough to have folks who can fill in as required. Please let me know if you have an interest, whether as a regular table worker or alternate, and we'll get you involved. With any luck, we'll be setting up another orientation session earlier in the coming year for new and returning table workers.

Our member-guest outing at Lake Junaluska was a notable success! We had a great group of folks braving the century-old course in the foggy hills of western North Carolina, just as the leaves started to turn. Several were even able to birdie number 14 – named by Golf Digest as one of the worst holes in golf! The events for the spouses were well attended and received good reviews. In all, the golf, food, entertainment, and comradery were memorable. Thanks to all those who attended for making it a special event!

Continued on Page 2

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—The President's Message— Continued from Page 1

Other upcoming events include our final out-of-town event for the year which will take place at Hickory Knob, SC. By the time this publication goes to press, all those who wish to attend should have already registered and paid. However, if you haven't – and would like to attend – the venue may well have space available so please contact me as soon as possible if you'd like to attend but haven't registered or paid yet!

Additionally, our end-of-year banquet will take place right on the heels of our out-of-town. This year the event takes place at the Elks lodge in Tucker. It's priced right, centrally located, and should be well worth the price tag! At that event we'll conduct our annual election, recognize members for special accomplishments, and generally just have a good time! Please make sure to get your payments in so we know how many to prepare for! More specific information can be found on our web site.

See you on the course!

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."

Jim Hood member since 1995

Bob Smith member since 2000

Jeff Burke member since 2021

Earl Conine member since 2002

Harley Thompson member since 1996

Harold Varn member 2016 – 2020

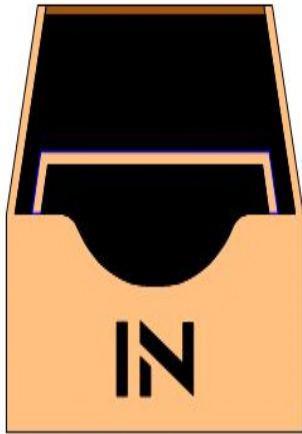
Jim Adams member 2010 – 2022

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Vice President

Ron Wade

Ron3392@aol.com

(706) 318-2379



In this article, we give tribute to two prime movers in the back office: John Cyran and Steve Puster.

John has been a member of SGAA since 2017, and has served in numerous volunteer capacities almost from the beginning of his membership. He is currently a member of the Board, our Webmaster, and table captain for both Monday and Tuesday.

Arguably, John's toughest job is Webmaster. Our computer system is old and full of years, and has a number of idiosyncrasies which may appear without warning. When that happens, John is likely to get a text or phone from a confused table captain. He responds promptly with the right solution, and generally refrains from mentioning that he has already answered the question a half dozen times.

For some time now, John has served as Table Captain for two days. Trust me, that's above and beyond the call of duty!

Steve joined SGAA in 2015. He has served as Editor of the newsletter since 2018. As editor, he must remind the officers to submit their articles each month, which frequently requires more than one gentle nudge. He also reviews the articles, generally without commenting on grammar and syntax, cringe worthy though it may be.

Steve prepares his own article for each newsletter as well as the art work and an occasional joke. Finally, he arranges printing and publication each month.

SGAA cannot function without volunteers. Of our 219 members, 30 serve as volunteers, most in several different capacities. We seriously need others to serve, and have a special need for table workers. Please join the volunteer team. If you have questions, talk with an officer or board member. We need YOU.



EVENTS FOR
NOVEMBER 2023

**All tee times
are 10:00 a/m**

November 1
WED: 10:00 a/m
Hickory Hills \$30

November 6
MON: 10:00 a/m
Panola Mountain \$30

November 8
WED: 10:00 a/m
CC of Gwinnett \$40

November 13-15
MON—WED
HICKORY KNOB, NC

November 16
THUR: 11:00 a/m
**YEAR-END BANQUET
TUCKER ELKS LODGE \$25**

November 27
MON: 10:00 a/m
Monroe CC \$35

November 29
WED: 10:00 a/m
Honey Creek \$30

**Only four (4) more
tournaments scheduled
this year**

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



We begin November 2023 with 219 active members. Seven members have passed away in 2023, Jim Hood, Bob Smith, Jeff Burke, Earl Co-nine, Harley Thompson, Harold Varn and Jim Adams.

Keep up the good work on the new applications. We are accepting ap-plications for 2023. Application forms are available at each registration table or by contacting me.

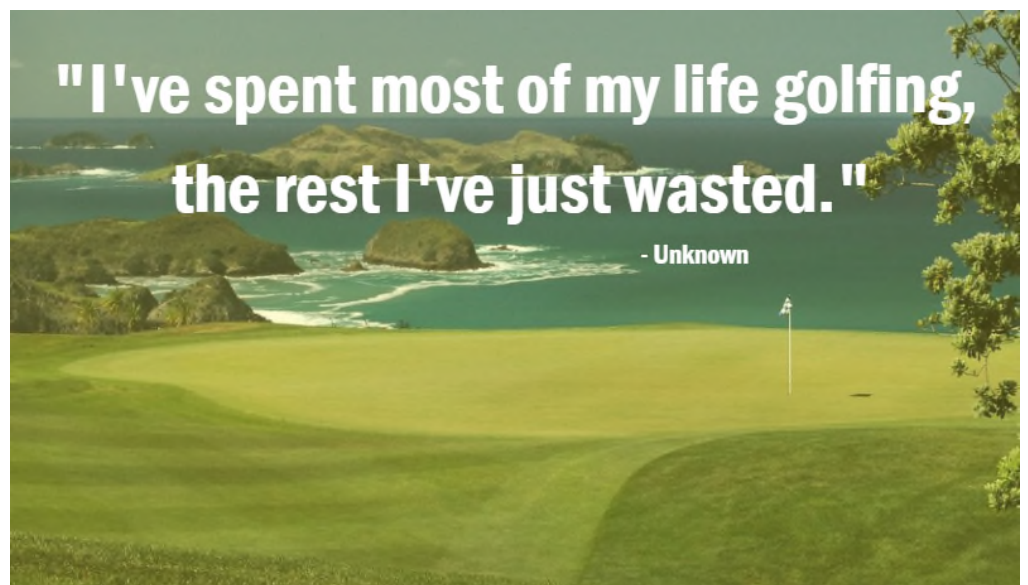
New applications should include a check for \$50 to insure membership.

**MAKE SURE THAT ALL THE BLANKS ON THE APPLICATION
FORM ARE FILLED OUT. MAKE SURE THEY ARE EASILY READ.**

Continue to ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to join us. Get your blank applications from the registration tables. New applicants must have two (2) sponsors.

SEE YOU ON THE COURSE!!!!!!!!!!!!

ENJOY THE FINE FELLOWSHIP AND GOOD GOLF!!!!!!!!!!



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Editor

Steve Puster

steve.puster@gmail.com

(678) 262-7541



Rambling from Tee to Green

Yogi Berra is supposed to have advised that "when you come to the fork in the road, take it." I wouldn't describe our situation as a fork, but more like a crossroads.

At the risk of mixing metaphors our crossroads are a changing of the guard. I'm sure this has occurred before in the history of the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta, but not when I have been a member.

Way back in 2015 we had a vanguard of "old timers" who had come through the ranks and served as Officers and Members of the Board of Directors and were very much a part of the day-to-day behind the scenes guidance of this organization. Those of you who have been around for a few years will know of whom I speak, Claude Rhen; Lamar Frazier; Jim Goldsack; Larry Thomas; and the Fruit brothers to name a few – and there are others as well. But time has taken a toll on this font of knowledge and tradition and we no longer see them every week on the course.

We have two very fine men vying for the Vice Presidency and I am sure whomever is elected will do their very best. One of the traditions is for our Vice President to ascend to the Presidency without any opposition; and I'm sure this has been good for SGAA.

I take nothing away from either of the gentlemen running, both have distinguished military careers which speaks of their leadership abilities, but neither has served on the Board of Directors. One of these men will be elected to the Vice Presidency without the safety net provided by these "old timers" and their knowledge.

When I accepted the job as Editor of the Newsletter I was provided a list of what should be included in each edition. But I ask the question is there any written guidance for incoming officers detailing what is needed and when during their term of office?

I don't believe there is; but I highly recommend an Officers Handbook, for lack of a better term, be formulated before we lose this font of knowledge.



TEE TIMES CHANGE TO 10:00 a/m THIS MONTH

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Doctor Steve Holbrook has agreed to conduct another CPR class for our membership. As the previous courses were held, these classes will take place either preceding or following a scheduled tournament. Time and place will be provided in the future.

"But I took the class the last time, why should I take it again?" To that, I ask why do you visit the driving range every time we play a tournament? So that the procedure is ingrained in your psyche and you don't have to waste precious time trying to remember how to save a life.



What steps would you take if your partner was bitten by a snake on the course? "Big ones" is NOT the answer. Seriously, what would you do if you, or your partner, were to be bitten by a snake? How do you react when your partner collapses from the heat in the middle of July? You're on the backside of a hill and the group behind you doesn't check first and a golf ball comes flying over the hill and hits someone in the head and he goes down like a sack of flour, what now?

It doesn't matter the age group, these are all things that *could* happen while on the course, or in your everyday life. But our age group is more susceptible to having a physical problem on the course and we should consider our responses to these situations. A general safety/first aid class is being considered, if you'd like to offer some input or insights into such a course, contact Harry Matthews — I have it on good authority Harry will be at the Year-End banquet on the 16th.

Several of the Officers, Board Members, and membership have bandied about ways to grow our organization. I heard one suggestion was to sponsor a golf tournament which seems appropriate, or to sponsor a hole at a charity tournament. We've got a tri-fold flyer that's been placed in the vicinity of the pro shop cash register at various courses that has seen some limited success.

What about offering a scholarship to a member of the high school golf team from the counties in which we play our weekly tournaments? A \$1,000 won't break our budget, but it will come in handy to a young student entering college. Consider the buzz it will create for SGAA, every golf coach will be encouraging their players to submit an application. Every application will expose at least one adult to our existence.

Hagar the Horrible



NEEDLES AND THREAD

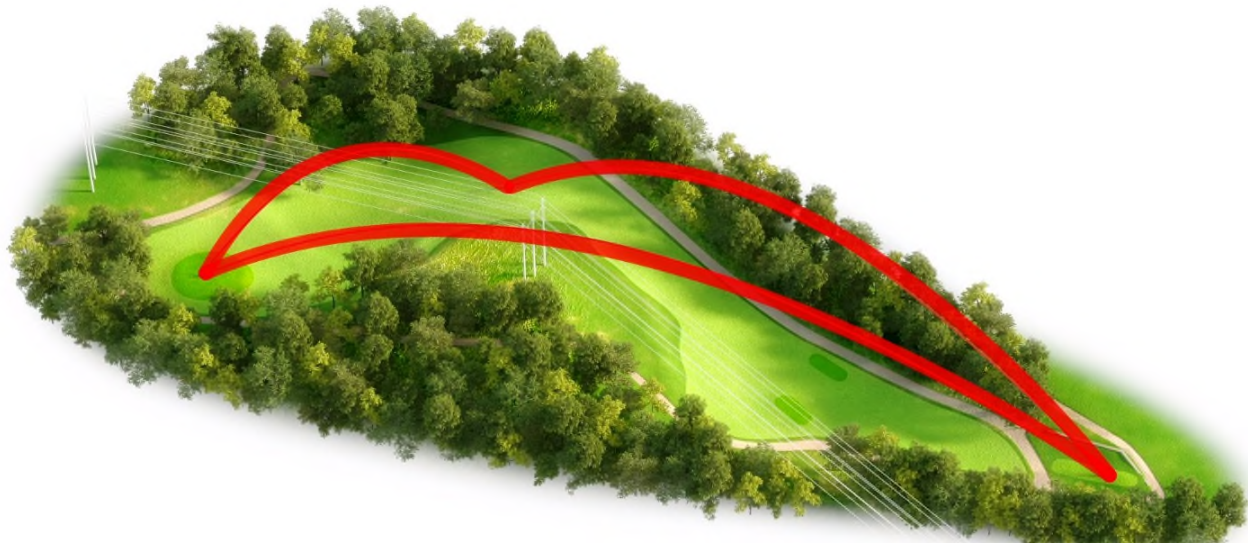
LAKE JUNALUSKA GOLF COURSE

Waynesville, N.C. Fourteenth hole, par 4, 295 yards

Short par 4s give everyone from the rabbit to the tiger a chance to make a good score. The best of them ask the player to hit some sort of bravado drive that flirts with danger to set up an easy approach, or even get all the way to the green. Lake Junaluska's short 14th can be played conventionally but unexcitingly with a 200-yard drive and short pitch, but the real fun is in cranking one 230 yards directly over the treelined hill standing between the tee and blind green. It would be a sporty little hole if overhead power lines didn't cross directly on the ideal trajectory, threatening to swat drives out of the sky. It still might be an interesting risk-reward hole, but a local rule grants an automatic re-tee if balls hit the power lines. In fairness, the lines didn't exist when the hole was built in 1919, but the company surveyors who later established the power-line easement obviously weren't golfers.

That's how *Golf Digest* described the sixth entry in their list of the "Worst Holes In Golf" in November 2022.

Those who attended the 2023 Member/Guest at Lake Junaluska "might" recall this as a very pretty golf course; but they will never forget the 14th hole. All of us played this hole three times that week, but only Lou Herrig and Wally Chambliss were able to mark a birdie "3" on their card.



This is the artist's rendering that accompanied the article.



This is what we were faced with from the blue tees. You can just see the second set of poles about 50 yards past the first set.

**SGAA 2023 Year End Banquet
And
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
November 16, 2023**

11:00 AM-2:00PM



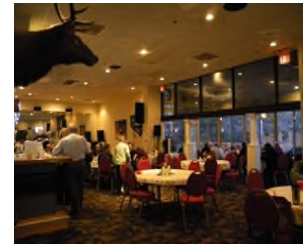
Tucker Elks Lodge

1775 Montreal Road
Tucker GA 30084



\$25.00 PER PERSON

(includes tip and tax)



This will be a buffet Luncheon featuring Bar-B-Que (Pulled Pork and Chicken) with baked beans and cole slaw
Sides with pasta and marinara — cash bar

Reservations can be made by sending your check — made out to **SGAA** — for **\$25.00**

annotated as "Year End Banquet" to:

**Tom Vardase
3502 Johns Road
Tucker, GA 30084**

Reservations MUST be received no later than **November 10, 2023**

This is not so much "going to lunch" as it is about the friends and fellowship we've enjoyed this season. We will be electing the 2024 slate of officers.

Moving forward I encourage your feedback regarding any changes you'd offer. Cost and location are probably the foremost, but the menu and other suggestions to attract better attendance is welcome.

You can't put a price on friendship. I look forward to seeing you on November 16th.

Harry Matthews

2024

DUES NOTICE

From Article 1 Paragraph D of the Bylaws

D. DUES: Each member is required to pay annual membership dues of \$25.00. New members applying for membership after October 1st in any year shall be granted membership and the dues collected shall include membership dues for the following year. A dues notice will be posted in the Newsletters at least 60 days prior to January 1. All dues and fees must be paid by January 1 or the member will be dropped from the membership rolls. Any member suspended for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by March 31st of the next year with a majority vote of the Board of Directors provided all monies (including a penalty of \$20) due SGAA are paid in full. (R13)

IF THE 2023 FINAL "ATTENDANCE AND POINTS" REPORT INDICATES YOU HAVE EARNED AT LEAST 30 POINTS; 25 OF THOSE POINTS WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR DUES AND WILL OFFSET THIS REQUIREMENT FOR 2024

(If Required) Mail your \$25.00 Dues Payment payable to — SGAA — to:

**TOM VARDASE
TREASURER SGAA
3502 JOHNS ROAD
TUCKER, GEORGIA 30084**



Get Ready For That Trip To Your Bank

2023 "Award Points" checks, minus \$25 for 2024 dues, will go out a few days after the end of our last 2023 tournament and should arrive before the end of the year.

If you have moved — please send me an email with your new address ASAP to: mvp-bestt@att.net

. . . Tom Vardase, Treasurer

2024 SGAA CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

RON WADE – After graduation from Mississippi State University in 1960 Ron joined Andersen LLC. He retired in 1995 as Regional Managing Partner.



Ron Wade
Member since 2017

Ron and his wife Dot, to whom he has been married (and has obeyed assiduously) for over 60 years, moved from Kansas City to Georgia in 2000.

At Dot's specific direction Ron took up golf soon after his retirement (there was mention of too much idle time in her house). After some initial resistance to the idea, he found, as others have, that the game can be addictive. He joined SGAA in 2017, served on a registration table for 5 years, and has served as Vice President for 2023.

Faith is an important influence in Ron and Dot's lives. Both are active in The Church on Main in Snellville.

FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Nobles -- My name is Mike Nobles and I have been nominated to serve as Vice President for SGAA. I've only been a member of SGAA since the beginning of April but I've made an attempt to meet and ride with as many of the members as I can. I have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship with other retired men and being a part of this organization has significantly improved my quality of life.



Mike Nobles
Member since 2023

I grew up in a military family and lived all over the United States and abroad. I attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY and graduated in the last all-male class in 1979. I married my sweetheart (Jamie) a few days after graduation and we celebrated our 44th anniversary in June. We have been blessed with two amazing kids and five precious grandchildren. When I'm not golfing, I enjoy woodworking (pen turning) and watching college football and the Braves. I currently attend Church on Main in Snellville.

My work history includes five years of active duty in the US Army followed by thirty-three years with Siemens in various leadership roles in product development, sales, marketing and project management.

If chosen to be Vice President, my primary goal will be to serve the needs of the members and help SGAA grow and thrive for many years to come. Since I joined our organization, I have taken the initiative to get an article about SGAA published in "Our Town – Gwinnett" magazine to get the word out to other senior golfers in the area and assisted on the Tuesday and Wednesday tables when regular table members had to be absent. I have the desire and the time to do a lot more. I would very much appreciate your vote.

CARL SAXON – I have been nominated for Vice President of the SGAA. I have met and / or played with many of you. I have been a member since 2004.



Carl Saxon
Member since 2004

I was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1945 and was raised in Long Beach on Long Island. I graduated from Stonybrook University in 1967 and the University of Chicago in 1974. In between, I served in the US Navy for four years of active duty and 17 more in the Naval Reserve, ultimately retiring as a Commander. I have been a corporate

officer in financial management. And since 1992 I have had my own CPA practice.

I just celebrated my 50th wedding anniversary with my first wife, Janet. We have three children and three grandchildren. We are members of Holy Cross Catholic Church in beautiful Chamblee, GA.

I have long admired the dedication of all the volunteers; which prompted me to say that it's my turn to give back. The SGAA has provided me with many happy moments, wonderful friendships and four putts. I hope that I can continue the SGAA tradition of service.

FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER

TOM VARDASE – After approximately six years as the SGAA Treasurer, all I can say is, “the check is in the mail.”



Tom Vardase
Member since 2014

I came south in '75 to work in minor league baseball for the Jacksonville Suns – a privately owned club affiliated with the KC Royals. I left after two seasons and in 1980, I got the opportunity to begin a career in broadcast television production for a new independent station. Came to Atlanta in '84 as the Production Manager for WATL, Channel 36, an independent station as well – you may have passed by the station on Ponce de Leon Avenue (an old bank building). In '88, I began to work for myself, incorporated as MVP Inc. In '92, we began working under contract with Georgia Public TV producing Prep Sports +, a high school sports and academics program. When it was all said and done, we completed 405 original half-hour programs as well as approximately 400 live high school football and boys & girls state basketball championship games

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STEVE ALLEN I graduated from Georgia Southern with a BS in Industry degree. I was a Founding Member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. It's Unbelievable, but I was also a College cheerleader. I retired from Hormel Foods after 28 years. I also worked for Proctor and Gamble for 3 years.



Steve Allen
Member since 2014

My wife and I celebrated our 50th anniversary on August 5 2023. My terrific wife kicked me out of the house, gave me the credit card and told me to go play golf. I love golf and meeting new friends. I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors

BILL HERBERT -- I have been a member of the SGAA since 2012. Retired from the newspaper industry after 40 years and currently reside in McDonough. I am a Past Grand Knight of Council 7601 Knights of Columbus in McDonough. I was Chair of the Building Committee for St. James the Apostle Catholic Church.



Bill Herbert
Member since 2012

I have been married to Christie for 42 years and enjoy family time with our son, Bill; daughter in law, Melissa; and our granddaughter, Emma. My favorite hobby is GOLF!

Jim Knapp -- I was born in Cleveland, Ohio. While attending Solon High school in Cleveland, I was a member of the golf team and served on the Student Council. I earned a degree in Business Administration from Clayton State College.



Jim Knapp
Member since 2022

I worked in the logistics industry for fifty years and was an active member of the Atlanta Air Cargo Association. In 2002 I was founder and owner of Pro Air Cargo Sales, Inc. I retired in November 2020.

I currently attend Community Bible Church in Stockbridge, Georgia.

George Shingler -- I was born at Emory University and have lived in metro Atlanta for all but 9 years of my life. I was raised in Buckhead and graduated from North Fulton High School. After college at Davidson College, I went to the University of Georgia Law School, where one of my most notable accomplishments was meeting and marrying Lois, in 1974. We moved to Savannah after graduation from law school in 1975 and returned to Atlanta in 1977. Over our 49 years of marriage, we have produced a son and a daughter (also a lawyer), and we have been blessed with 3 grandchildren.



I worked for the Georgia Attorney General's office for 20 years, handling employment discrimination cases, then criminal investigations and finally representing the Department of Transportation in the early 1990s. I left as a Deputy Attorney General to enter private practice in 1997. 15 years later my partner and I started our own law firm, where we represented FDIC as receiver for a number of Georgia and southeastern banks that failed during the Great Recession. In 2019 I opened my own practice in Decatur. Two months later, I tripped and fell outside the DeKalb County courthouse, suffering a traumatic brain injury and missing about 3 months of work. After that, I decided it was time to retire and work on my golf. Further motivated by the pandemic, I closed my practice in June 2020 and joined SGAA.

I have worked on the Wednesday Table for 2 years, attended as many out-of-town events as vacations and health issues permitted, and my golf game has definitely improved. I have enjoyed playing golf at least twice a week and getting to know the many fine golfers who are also members of SGAA.

These gentlemen comprise the official list of candidates for the 2023 Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta election and are the only names on the ballot.

The By-Laws, Article IV, Section C paragraph 4; specifically states:

" All names for nominees must be submitted by September 15. Any member desiring to run for office after that date must participate as a write-in candidate. (R15)"

BALLOTS and VOTING

A ballot follows with instructions for mailing your ballot or delivering it in person to the Election Committee.

The ballots will be counted and the results made public at the Year End Banquet on November 16, 2023.



Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

OFFICIAL 2023 SGAA OFFICIAL BALLOT

FOR PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

- RON WADE**
- WRITE-IN** _____

FOR VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

- MIKE NOBLES**
- CARL SAXON**
- WRITE-IN** _____

FOR TREASURER (Vote for One):

- TOM VARDASE**
- WRITE-IN** _____

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (3yr Term) (Vote for **three***):

- STEVE ALLEN**
- BILL HERBERT**
- JIM KNAPP**
- GEORGE SHINGLER**
- WRITE-IN** _____
- WRITE-IN** _____
- WRITE-IN** _____

****Voting for more than three candidates for the Board of Directors will make your ENTIRE ballot null and void***

If you choose to vote using this as an absentee ballot, mark your ballot and place in an envelope. Seal the envelope and print your name, SGAA membership ID number and "BALLOT" on the envelope. **Either bring your ballot envelope to the Year End banquet; or place your ballot envelope in another envelope and mail to:**

RAY FRUIT, Chairman, SGAA Elections Committee
673 Grassmeade Way.
Snellville, GA 30078

Your mailed ballot **MUST** be received prior to the Year End Banquet (*November 16th*)

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hickory Hills 10:00a/m \$30	2	3	4
5	6 Panola Mountain 10:00a/m \$30	7	8 CC of Gwinnett 10:00a/m \$40	9	10	11
12	13 OUT OF TOWN HICKORY KNOB, S.C.	14	15	16 YEAR END BANQUET TUCKER ELKS LODGE 11:00a/m	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Monroe CC 10:00a/m \$35	28	29 Honey Creek 10:00a/m \$30	30		

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE YEAR-END BANQUET by the 10th
And make sure your BALLOT is received by the Banquet

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253