



[www.sgaofatlanta.org](http://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

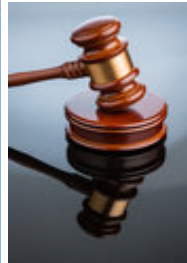
Bob Remich 404-822-1379

# Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

*DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP*

Volume 67 Issue 12

December 2023



**President**

**Larry Fauconnet**

**LHFauconnet@gmail.com**

**(678) 654-2594**



This will be my final article as President, and there is far too much to say – I can't possibly fit it all on the single page I'm allotted.

First, I want to thank every volunteer for all the work they've done over the course of the year to make the year successful, from the officers to the BOD to the table workers to committee chairs and members, it takes many hands to make our club work. And, I want to thank every member, for simply being a member, for participating, for making the club strong by your presence at events or by simply remaining a member.

We are in a period of transition in the club. Not too long ago we reached our maximum number of members. There was no need at that point to reach out to grow the club. We had a year-long waiting list. Those glory days are now in the past. Buffeted by economic and social headwinds, exacerbated by Covid, we've seen our membership drop to about 220 from their peak of 350. The good news is, we are apparently starting to turn the corner. Our rate of decline has slowed year-over-year, our play-per person decline has slowed even more. And, this year alone, we've had over 25 new members join us. Sadly, we lost seven along the way.

We have challenges ahead. Overall golf Playership is up (not just in our club) while clubs are closing and membership consolidating. This leads to less opportunity for us and, thanks to the law of supply and demand, higher rates. Further, we are challenged to return our club to growth in terms of both membership and participation. The good news is, your elected leadership is familiar with these challenges. I know most of the BOD members and officers well enough to know that their objectives align with finding ways to meet these challenges. Your job? Participate, enjoy, have fun, and be respectful of each other, our bylaws, and the courses we play.

The bylaws and constitution of our club, the rules we set forth, and the leadership we elect form the structure – the bones – of the organization. Without them we'd be a shapeless and directionless mass. The rules we have are there to ensure fair, fun and fast play to make

*Continued from page 1*

our time on the course enjoyable, while being responsible and thoughtful guests of the courses we play. Things such as failing to fix ball marks, fill divots, or play from the tees assigned, have in recent years been noted by courses we play and have made our continued use of some courses more challenging. What may seem to be a minor violation of course etiquette to an individual may have more serious second-order effects. So, fix the ball marks, fill the divots, don't drive too close to greens or tees – even with handicapped flags – if at all possible. Respect the rules and the courses.

The body of the organization is you, our members. We are grateful for each and every member, whether or not you still actively participate. The size of our club is one of the greatest bargaining levers we have when we engage with potential venues – and when those courses have to balance profit gained from us against irate members who might prefer we didn't take over their course on a given morning.

Finally, the life blood and breath of the club is participation and volunteerism. We absolutely need both to survive. The more the better. Embrace the challenge of all the opportunity we provide – all the different clubs – easy and hard. We can have fun and enjoy the comradery whether scoring low or high. We always have space for volunteers. We're currently looking for some new table workers so don't be shy, raise your hand and help keep the club strong.

This is a special club. I can't think of any other golf organization that offers as much opportunity and variety as we do. We play around 125 rounds per year – across 20 different local clubs and four out-of-town locations. And, we have 220 members, 75% of which are active players, and collectively we've played around 4,000 rounds this year. These are strong numbers! Let's continue to grow the club, be proud of it, bring in new members, participate, and volunteer. Many of those attending our end-of-year banquet were not active players – to me, that was a tribute to the organization and the fact that its value goes far beyond simply playing golf – they are proud to be part of the SGAA. We should all be that proud. Wear your SGAA shirts and caps with pride. You are members of a special group.

I've enjoyed my time as VP and President, and look forward to many more years as player, volunteer, and leader with the SGAA.

Thank you all! Have a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

See you on the course.

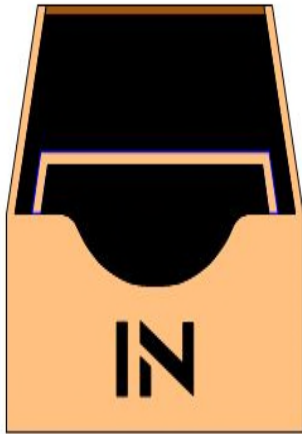


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**Vice President**

**Ron Wade**

**Ron3392@aol.com**

**(706) 318-2379**



First, let me thank you for honoring me by electing me President for 2024. I have some tough acts to follow, but am confident that we can have a great year with your help.

Congratulations to Mike Nobles, our new vice president, and to Bill Herbert, Steve Allen and Jim Knapp, new board members. We have a great team.

As I said at the banquet Thursday, with the board's approval, we will continue to emphasize membership and participation, both at outings and in operations.

A quick look at participation in operations. Including officers, positions on the board, committees and table crews we have over 80 volunteer positions available. Currently those positions are filled by about 30 members, and many of those serve in more than one capacity. We have vital needs for more participation, and especially for table workers. Please think about where you can help. Contact any officer or board member for more information.

In his October 22 report on the golf industry, Mark Padzur explained the origin of the 14 club rule. Before the rule was adopted in 1936 there was no limit to the number of clubs a player could carry. After steel shafts were approved in 1929, many players hedged their bets by carrying clubs with both steel and hickory shafts. The average number of clubs carried was around 18, but the winner of both the U.S. and British Amateurs in 1934 and 1935 carried 30 clubs! Pity his poor caddie. Of course, SGAA honors the 14 club limit.

Finally, I hope you have recovered from a happy Thanksgiving, and wish you a very Merry Christmas.





EVENTS FOR  
DECEMBER 2023

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

December 4  
MON: 10:00 a/m  
Bear Creek \$36

December 6  
WED: 10:00 a/m  
Southland \$32

December 11  
MON: 10:00 a/m  
Crystal Lake \$35

December 12  
TUES: 10:00 a/m  
Chimneys \$45

December 14  
THUR: 10:00 a/m  
Board of Directors Mtg  
Gwinnett CC

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



We begin December 2023 with 220 active members. Seven members have passed away in 2023, Jim Hood, Bob Smith, Jeff Burke, Earl Conine, Harley Thompson, Harold Varn and Jim Adams.

Keep up the good work on the new applications. We are accepting applications for 2024. 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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December 2023



Editor

Steve Puster

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(678) 262-7541



## *Rambling from Tee to Green*

It's hard to believe we're about to close the book on 2023 and open a new one for 2024. The pages are blank and await the stories we will write of our good rounds, our not so good rounds, and the rounds we'd really rather forget.

What will next year bring? Will it be like this year, one of transition, or will we see our membership grow, an increase in players per round, and more importantly the end to the decreasing number of courses available to play? I hope 2024 is all of the above.

For those of you that were unable to attend the Year End Banquet, you missed a lot. We had a new venue that was only open to SGAA, the food was good, and what can I say about the fellowship. But you also missed a quick recap of how SGAA has fared the last couple of years.

The pandemic did a number on our organization for sure. We're a group of "seniors" and with that title comes some inevitables, particularly our health. We hear about the devastation it caused in our education system, but we don't hear about how being cooped up for almost a year impacted our members. We couldn't get out and play golf so that meant we lost the exercise, the fresh air and sunshine, and yes the fellowship too – all factors that impact the health and well-being of anyone, but especially our membership.

It has taken some of us a little longer than others to feel good enough to make it out to play golf. But the numbers seem to indicate we're all feeling a lot better. We saw some old (no pun intended) faces we haven't seen in a while at the Year End Banquet.

If you pay any attention to the Secretary's Reports in each Newsletter you will have noticed our active membership had declined a bit. Somewhere along the middle of last year the numbers leveled off and then slowly began to increase. That increase is tied directly to **YOUR** efforts. As Larry mentioned, we've pretty much invited all of our friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us. Now we need to ask that old guy we see at the course if he'd like to enhance his opportunities to play different courses and make some new friends.

Speaking of opportunities; don't let 2024 slip away without looking around and asking yourself, "Is there anything I can do to help Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta continue to grow and thrive?"

This isn't the military; no one is going to tell you to do anything. We're an organization of volunteers which means you don't wait to be asked; you volunteer in whatever capacity you're able.

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## IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST THIS YEAR

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.*



**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 since 2016



**Jim Adams**  
Member since 2010



## 2024 SGAA OFFICERS



**PRESIDENT  
RON WADE**



**VICE PRESIDENT  
MIKE NOBLES**



**SECRETARY  
TED POGUE**



**TREASURER  
TOM VARDASE**

## 2024 SGAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**2026 DIRECTOR  
STEVE ALLEN**



**2026 DIRECTOR  
BILL HERBERT**



**2026 DIRECTOR  
JIM KNAPP**



**2025 DIRECTOR  
DENNIS HANSON**



**2025 DIRECTOR  
WARD HUMPHRIES**



**2025 DIRECTOR  
GARY NELSON**



**2024 DIRECTOR  
JIM BEGNAUD**



**2024 DIRECTOR  
RON PANTER**



**2024 DIRECTOR  
CLEVE SHUPE**



## 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](mailto:mvp-bestt@att.net)

**Be safe . . . Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah**

. . . Tom Vardase, Treasurer

## **ELECTION RESULTS**

After much ciphering, counting on fingers and toes as well as using a hand held calculator the Election Committee tabulated the ballots at the Year End Banquet on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Committee Chair, John Cyran announced the results.

The new officers who will be joining the Board of Directors on January 1, 2024 are President **Ron Wade**; Vice President **Mike Nobles**; Treasurer **Tom Vardase**; and new three-year Board Members **Steve Allen**; **Bill Herbert**; and **Jim Knapp**.



# **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

A man walks into a restaurant with an ostrich behind him, and as he sits, the waitress comes over and asks for their order. The man says, "I'll have a hamburger, fries and a coke," and turns to the ostrich. "What's yours?"

"I'll have the same," says the ostrich.

A short time later the waitress returns with the order. "That will be \$6.40 please," and the man reaches into his pocket and pulls out exact change for payment.

The next day, the man and the ostrich come again and the man says, "I'll have a hamburger, fries and a coke," and the ostrich says, "I'll have the same." Once again the man reaches into his pocket and pays with exact change.

This becomes a routine until late one evening, the two enter again, "The usual?" asks the waitress. "No, this is Friday night, so I will have a steak, baked potato and salad," says the man.

"Same for me," says the ostrich. A short time later the waitress comes with the order and says, "That will be \$12.62." Once again the man pulls exact change out of his pocket and places it on the table.

The waitress can't hold back her curiosity any longer. "Excuse me, sir. How do you manage to always come up with the exact change out of your pocket every time?"

"Well," says the man, "several years ago I was cleaning the attic and I found an old lamp. When I rubbed it a Genie appeared and offered me two wishes. My first wish was that if I ever had to pay for anything, just put my hand in my pocket, and the right amount of money would always be there."

"That's brilliant!" says the waitress. "Most people would wish for a million dollars or something, but you'll always be as rich as you want for as long as you live!"

"That's right! Whether it's a gallon of milk or a Rolls Royce, the exact money is always there," says the man.

The waitress asks, "One other thing, sir, what's with the ostrich?"

The man replies, "My second wish was for a chick with long legs."

**As you enjoy this holiday season with family  
and friends, please be careful and safe**

**We need you back with us next year!**

**December 2023**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Bear Creek 10:00a/m \$36	5	6 Southland 10:00a/m \$32	7	8	9
10	11 Crystal Lake 10:00a/m \$35	12 Chimneys 10:00a/m \$45	13	14 Board of Directors Meeting CC of Gwinnett 10:00 a/m	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HANUKAH</b>					



Steve Puster  
122 Salem Ridge Drive  
McDonough, GA 30253