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Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 70 Issue 9

September 2026

President

JJ Goldsack

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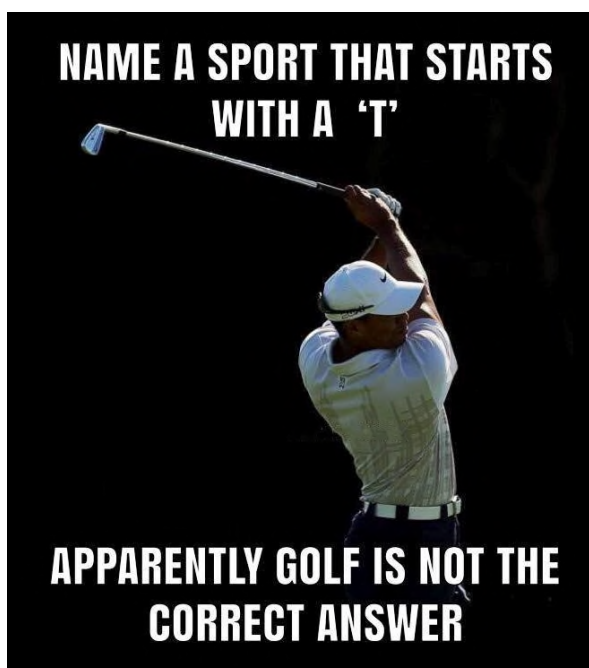


The annual tournament starts Tuesday September 8th at Country Club of Gwinnett. This year we will have 6 opportunities to post 3 rounds. The overall Champion will earn \$100. There will be payouts to the top 50% of each division. If you choose not to enter the tournament, you are still welcome to play. All scores will be used to calculate October handicaps.

Currently there are 28 players registered for the Member Guest outing in Hiawassee, GA. If you are still interested, we may be able to secure you a room, contact Larry Thomas at 770-596-4432.

Mike Nobles and Mike Tyre have compiled the results from their membership survey. The information is available in this newsletter.

Hoping for good weather for our Annual Tournament and the Member Guest.

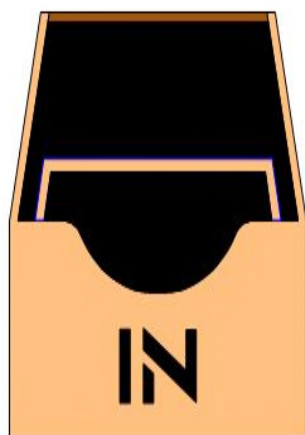


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Vice President

Dave Mueller

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(770) 298-2829



Let's get serious for a moment. This past week we had two golf cart accidents. The first involved an injury from flipping the cart on its side. The other accident was backing a cart into a sign. We kind of forget about safety when we are riding in a golf cart. Always go up and down on a hill. Never ride side to side going up or down a hill or too fast.

We had a very informative Board meeting. We talked about the responses from the survey conducted this past month. I was reminded of the survey Jim Ruiz conducted several years ago. A lot of boo's and hisses at the time; but a lot of those survey items were used in time.

I felt the same with this report. I liked a lot of the ideas such as the four man scramble, and maybe playing a great course every now and then. The only thing I really disagreed with was that Collins Hill was the overall favorite course. Great job to all those involved in the survey. Remember the Member Guest is just around the corner. Hope you have signed up.

In Memory

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."

Gene Bryant member 1998 – 2022

Harry Chapman member 2017 – 2021

David Mason member since 2008

Gene Latham member since 2007

Jesse Dooley member 2002 – 2026

EVENTS FOR
SEPTEMBER 2026

September 1
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Bear Creek

September 3
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Providence

**ANNUAL TOURNAMENT
BEGINS**

September 8
TUES: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

September 9
WED: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

September 10
THUR: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

September 14
MON: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

September 15
TUES: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett

September 17
THUR: 8:30 a/m
CC of Gwinnett
TOURNAMENT COMPLETED

September 21
MON: 8:30 a/m
Sugar Creek

September 23
WED: 8:30 a/m
Crystal Lake

September 24
THUR: 8:30 a/m
Ashton Hills

September 28
MON: 8:30 a/m
Mystery Valley

September 29
TUES: 8:30 a/m
Dogwood

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Secretary
Ted Pogue
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Membership Overview

As of September 1, 2026, the SGAA welcomed several new members, bringing the total active membership to 217. This year, we have added thirteen (13) new members, continuing the positive trend of growth. Our ongoing efforts to encourage friends and neighbors to join are making a difference, and it would be beneficial to maintain last year's momentum in membership additions.

Membership Application Process

When inviting prospective members to join, it is essential to ensure that all application forms are completed fully and legibly. Applications that are missing required information cannot be processed, so careful attention to detail is crucial. By assisting with accurate and thorough submissions, you help promote an efficient and effective membership process. Thank you for your continued support and diligence in this important matter.

Board Suggestions

If you have ideas to help the board or make SGAA activities more enjoyable, please share them with me or any board member. While not every suggestion can be put into action, each one will be discussed at the next board meeting. Your input is appreciated and helps us continue improving our group.

In Memoriam

We honor and remember Gene Bryant, who passed away in January. Gene was a member for over 20 years and was actively involved in the operation of SGAA until he could no longer participate. Gene Latham passed away on 02/09/2026. Gene was a member from 2007 through 2026 and was known for being a likable person and enjoyable golf companion. David Mason, a member for 18 years and well-liked by the membership, and Harry Chapman, who passed away this year after moving away from the Atlanta area, are also remembered. Harry enjoyed his family and time outdoors. Jesse Dooley was a member from 2002 to 2026. He was an ex-president and involved in all aspects of SGAA. He moved to Carrollton a few years ago. Many of you may not have had the privilege of knowing him. All these gentlemen will be greatly missed.

Contact Information Updates

If you change your address, phone number, or email, please notify me at tandgpogue@att.net. Keeping your contact information current ensures you receive timely updates about SGAA news and upcoming events.



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Editor

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The opinions expressed on this page are purely the Editor's and may or may not coincide with those of the Board of Directors.



Rambling from Tee to Green

Ah, September the twilight of the SGAA season and there are 3 very important activities; besides playing our weekly tournaments, left in this year.

The first of these is our Annual Tournament to determine the Club Champion as well as the Champions of all the flights. The format in determining the various Champions is the same, but starting this year instead of having three weeks and nine rounds the schedule has been pared to two weeks and six rounds. As in the past, to be considered eligible for the Club, or any Flight; Champion you must play at least 3 of the 6 rounds. But if you don't want to compete in the Annual Tournament and still just play golf you are free to do that as well.

The second big event left for this year is the Member-Guest scheduled for October 4-7 in Hiawassee, Georgia. The deadline for registration (August 15th) has come and gone, but if you didn't register and decide within the next week you'd like to attend this event you need to contact Larry Thomas (770-596-4432) as soon as possible – he "might" be able to work with the hotel to find you a room.

And last, but definitely not least, is our Year End Luncheon scheduled for Thursday November 19th at 11:00 a/m at Honey Creek Golf and Country Club. This is the event that winds our season down and shapes what happens next season. This is when the Officers and Board of Directors is elected for 2027. Along with the election all of the individual awards such as Hole-in-One plaques; Volunteer of the Year; Club Champion and all Flight Champions are announced and recognized. As well as having the opportunity to catch up with friends and members who can no longer play but remain a part of this Association.

SPEAKING OF THE ELECTION:

This year we're electing a President; a Vice President; Secretary; and three Directors. The deadline for nominees is September 15th; so time is of the essence to fill the slate of candidates. If you're interested and willing to serve, contact Mike Nobles (678-294-2363) Chairman of the Nominating Committee and get your hat in the ring.

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I am baffled. When I joined the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta eleven years ago I was under the impression the organization was an outlet for good golf and fine fellowship. And for all intent and practical purposes that is what it has appeared to be all these years.

I am privy to some of the behind the scenes activities of SGAA as the Newsletter editor. I say some because no one has let it slip that this organization has actually become a part of the Witness Protection System. It *must* be... How else can you explain why our new members are so reluctant to send in a short biographical sketch for the Member Spotlight?

We started this feature as a way of introducing our newer members to the rest of the membership to enhance the "fine fellowship" of our organization in the April 2024 issue of the Newsletter and have shined the Spotlight on 35 of our new members.

However we have some 31 members who have joined since the first quarter of last year and were sent a request to submit a short bio for this feature. Of those 31, 3 submitted a bio and have been introduced to the membership at large. Just 10%!

So I have to presume the other 90% must be in the Witness Protection System and don't want us to know anything about them. Who knows, some of them might have interests outside of golf that align with another member – Heaven forbid they become friends; that could make their next round of golf more enjoyable.

Fortunately we have some diligent members of the Photo Directory committee who have been able to provide the waist-up photos for the Directory when they see someone they don't recognize at one of our events. Thanks to their efforts we have photos of all but 1 of those 31 members.





SGAA 2026 Year End Luncheon

November 19, 2026

11:00 a/m — 2:00 p/m



Honey Creek Golf and Country Club

635 Clubhouse Drive SE
Conyers, Georgia 30094

IMPORTANT REASONS TO ATTEND

- 1 The ELECTION of the 2027 Officers
- 2 A chance to see old friends
- 3 The ELECTION of the 2027 Officers
- 4 Good Food at a reasonable price (\$25)
- 5 The ELECTION of the 2027 Officers
- 6 The Year End Raffle
- 7 The ELECTION of the 2027 Officers
- 8 Presentation of Awards
- 9 Did I mention the ELECTION of Officers

2027 SGAA CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

DAVE MUELLER -- I am once again running for the office of President of SGAA.



Dave Mueller
Member since 2013

I joined the SGAA in 2013, after retiring from 27yrs at Georgia Power. I have held the office of Vice President in 2021 and 2026. I was President of the SGAA in 2022. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for several years. I am also working the Tuesday table and am on the Out of Town Committee. I was in charge of booking the courses we play for five years.

I have two grown kids, and have been married for 58 years. I was a Corpsman in the Navy, serving with the Sea Bees, and Marines in Vietnam.

I am active member for of the VFW, Am-Vets and a member of the American Legion.

I thank you for your vote.

FOR THE OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT

LARRY FAUCONNET – Awaiting Larry's information.



Larry Fauconnet
Member since 2015

FOR THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

JOHN CYRAN — I am a retired Information Technology professional with a 40+ year career in IT systems and administration, currently residing in Grayson, Georgia. I have been a member of the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta since 2017, and I currently serve as the organization's **Webmaster** and the **Tuesday Table Captain**.



John Cyran
Member since 2017

Over the years, my involvement with the SGAA has centered on supporting the group's operations—from modernizing tournament registration and software tools to leading the recent consolidation of the association's bylaws and daily operational rules. Having previously served on the SGAA Board of Directors, I remain deeply committed to regular play, tournament organization, and the camaraderie that makes the SGAA special.

Why I Want to Serve as Your Secretary

*"I am honored to accept the nomination for SGAA Secretary. My motivation for running comes down to two simple goals: **service** and **stewardship**."*

- **Leveraging Administrative & IT Experience:** Having spent four decades managing complex IT systems and data—and recently working closely with our bylaws and web platforms—I want to bring that same detail-oriented organization to the Secretary role. Accurate record-keeping, clear documentation and efficient communication are essential to keeping our association running seamlessly.
- **Giving Back to the Membership:** The SGAA has provided me with incredible friendships, memorable golf trips, and great weekly play. Serving as Secretary is my way of giving back to the organization and ensuring our operations remain strong, transparent, and structured for every member.
- **Fostering Communication & Community:** As Webmaster, I strive to keep everyone informed and connected. As Secretary, I will build on that foundation to ensure every member's voice is represented, our meetings are well-documented, and our administrative operations run smoothly behind the scenes so we can all focus on enjoying the game.

MIKE TYRE — As a nominee, I promise to cut taxes, put criminals in jail ... wait ... that's another office.



Mike Tyre
Member since 2024

I am putting my name in for the Secretary position of the SGAA. Primary reasons for this:

- a) Give back to the organization and people that have become a valued part of my life
- b) Extend the terrific work done to date by Ted Pogue!
- c) Engage new members at the outset to convert them to encourage them "fitting in" and being regular participants
- d) Develop analytics on new member participation for Board and Officer benefit

This is the third year I have been a member of SGAA. I have been enriched by the relationships developed. The officers and table captains have made playing easy and enjoyable. I believe a primary duty of the Secretary position as outlined to me by Ted is to acquaint those joining with

rules, expectations and “how to” sign up for events. The mechanics of the job; straight forward and they certainly make sense.

In thinking about this role, I think one additional role that would benefit both the new person and all members is to personally walk them through the process, expectations of play, etc. One key component of this would be personally meeting with them prior to the first few events to ensure their comfort and acclimation. In the hustle of getting checked in, paying greens fees and hitting the practice range, it is easy for a new person to feel a bit separated. Hosting that new member is a way to ease them into the group and encourage their regular participation. This is a potential big win for the SGAA!

Onboarding new members, actually plays into my career of managing clients and staff at ad agencies. A key aspect of what I did was to transition that “new account win” into a steady and loyal client. While the execution is certainly different, the outcome is the same. We all benefit from loyal and active members of SGAA. That simply adds to the value of the organization and helps others in their duties and roles.

I’ve served on the board of four non-profit organizations. My objective would be similar to those experiences: to help create a lasting benefit for SGAA in concert with the other leaders. Build on the incredible tenure of SGAA and leave the organization in a better place.

Thanks for your consideration. Now, if you are willing to place yard signs ...

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MIKE NOBLES – My name is Mike Nobles and I have been nominated to serve a three-year term on the SGAA Board of Directors starting in 2027. I’ve been an SGAA member since April 2023 and have proudly served as Vice President (2024), President (2025) and Past President (2026). I have served on the Tuesday table and multiple SGAA committees in the past three years. I make it a point to play in as many of our local tournaments as I can because I love the game of golf and I thoroughly enjoy the fellowship with our members and guests before, during and after our rounds.



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 47th anniversary in June. We have been blessed with two amazing kids and five precious grandchildren plus another on the way in November. 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.

Continued on next page

I'm very focused on growing SGAA's membership rolls and marketing our organization to seniors in the Atlanta area. I also want to be involved in exploring new courses for us to play in the future to help us stay relevant and thrive for many years to come. Even though I'm retired from "working life", I still have a lot of drive and determination and I promise you that I will work hard for our organization. I would greatly appreciate your vote!

Still looking for a few good men
to help guide this organization
into the future and beyond

Contact Mike Nobles
(678) 294-2363
to add your name to
this list of candidates
before September 15th

If you're not able to make it to the SGAA Member Guest...

...and still want to play golf that Monday, why not make your play a round for a good cause?

Contact Ward Humphreys (404-444-1786) ward.humphreys@gmail.com for additional information on registration.



Assistance League 9TH Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Helping Children and Adults in Need



Assistance League of Atlanta is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization helping children and adults in need rebuild their lives and become more self-sufficient. We assist a network of 250 community partners to provide weekend food, new clothing, household goods, hygiene kits, comfort items and educational aid to those affected by homelessness, abuse and poverty.

Monday, October 5, 2026
Bear's Best Atlanta
5342 Aldeburgh Drive, Suwanee, GA 30024

Includes: Championship Golf plus
breakfast, snacks, and buffet lunch

Silent Auction and 50/50 drawing

Prizes for:

Winning teams, Closest to the Pin, Long Drive, & other contests

SGAA Survey Results (2026)

1. What is your favorite local course on SGAA's schedule (top 5 responses)?

- Providence (22 votes)
- Honey Creek (11 votes)
- Heron Bay (10 votes)
- Cherokee Run (8 votes)
- Georgia National (7 votes)

2. What is your least favorite local course on SGAA's schedule (top 5 responses)?

- Pine Hills (14 votes)
- Bear Creek (10 votes)
- Southland (9 votes)
- Hard Labor Creek (8 votes)
- Sugar Creek (7 votes)

3. Would you be open to playing at adjusted start times (if that would allow SGAA to secure some additional course locations)?

- No (6 votes)
- Yes, late morning (70 votes)
- Yes, early afternoon (5 votes)

4. Would you be interested in occasionally playing courses that may have slightly higher green fees (and perhaps a bit more variety and quality) than we are currently playing?

- Yes (75 votes)
- No (6 votes)

5. What is the maximum price that you would be willing to pay to occasionally play a higher end course?

- \$50 to \$70 (33 votes)
- \$70 to \$90 (11 votes)
- Above \$90 (3 votes)
- It depends on the golf course (31 votes)
- Not interested in playing other courses (3 votes)

6. Would you be interested in seeing courses added in any of the following areas? (Recognizing greens fee costs may be different than some of our current courses. We might only play these courses once or twice per season.)

- NE Georgia/Cumming area (Yes – 64.5%, No – 35.5%)
- NW Georgia/Marietta area (Yes – 38.8%, No – 61.2%)
- West Georgia/Douglasville area (Yes – 27.4%, No – 72.6%)
- Peachtree City/Fayetteville area (Yes – 50.7%, No – 49.3%)

7. Are there any local courses that you would like to see SGAA add to our schedule in the future?

- Members provided a list of 37 public and private courses for consideration. The list included some courses that were previously on our circuit and others that SGAA has never played. Those that were suggested by at least three members included:
 - Lane Creek Golf Club (7 votes)
 - Heritage Golf Links (5 votes)
 - Stone Mountain Golf Club (4 votes)
 - The Chimneys Golf Course (4 votes)
 - City Club – Marietta (3 votes)
 - The Frog Golf Club (3 votes)
 - The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farms (3 votes)
 - Monroe Country Club (3 votes)
- The full list has been provided to the SGAA Schedulers for evaluation.

8. Would you like to see SGAA have an occasional 2-man or 4-man team event in one or more of the following formats?

- Scramble (Yes - 74.6%, No – 25.4%)
- Shamble (Yes – 60.7%, No – 39.3%)
- Best Ball (Yes – 78.4%, No – 21.6%)
- Ryder Cup (Yes – 63.2%, No – 36.8%)
- Member/Member (Yes – 59.6%, No – 40.4%)

9. Any additional feedback for future SGAA event/tournament planning?

- Members provided a number of ideas and suggestions that will help improve time of play, new member recruitment, member retention, fellowship, etc.

Key Survey Findings

- **Maintenance > Location/Difficulty:** Members prioritize course condition above all else—preferring well-maintained facilities over easier play or closer proximity.
- **Flexibility on Tee Times:** Overwhelmingly open to playing later in the morning (or early afternoon in cooler seasons) to secure better courses; only **6%** were opposed.
- **Willingness to Pay More:** **92%** are open to higher fees, with **\$50–\$70** being the sweet spot (conditional on course quality). Members will also drive farther for higher-quality venues.
- **Geographic Preferences:** Courses in West Georgia and Northwest (Marietta) received the most negative feedback due to member concentration in the eastern metro area. Popular suggested courses include *Heritage (Tucker)*, *Lane Creek*, *City Club Marietta*, and *Stone Mountain* (36 holes).
- **Format Variety:** Members strongly support alternate formats—especially **Scrambles**, **Best Ball**, and **Par 3** events. ABCD pairings are also suggested to break up routine groups and boost social interaction.

Actionable Recommendations for SGAA Committees & Board

- **Course Selection Committee:** Focus on well-maintained venues in the east/central metro area; consider testing Stone Mountain, Heritage, and Lane Creek.
- **Marketing Committee:** Strongly promote new potential venues ahead of time to secure at least a 20% turnout, which is enough for a well-attended event.
- **Pace of Play Committee:** Form a dedicated subcommittee to develop recommendations for board review.
- **Event Operations:** Evaluate 1-night/2-day trips (e.g., North GA or Alabama Golf Trail) and scheduling multiple geographic locations within the same week.
- **Future Research:** Run follow-up micro-surveys targeting **under-65 members** and **new members (past 3 years)** to ensure long-term retention strategies align with their preferences.

September 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Mark your calendar for the Year End Luncheon...	1 Bear Creek 8:30 a/m	2	3 Providence 8:30 a/m	4	5
6	7	8 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	9 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	10 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	11	12
13	14 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	15 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	16	17 Annual Tourney CC of Gwinnett 8:30 a/m	18	19
20	21 Sugar Creek 8:30 a/m	22	23 Crystal Lake 8:30 a/m	24 Ashton Hills 8:30 a/m	25	26
27	28 Mystery Valley 8:30 a/m	29 Dogwood 8:30 a/m	30	... November 19th at 11:00 a/m Honey Creek Golf & Country Club		

Steve Puster
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