



www.sgaofatlanta.org

Officers

President: Ron Wade
Vice-Pres: Mike Nobles
Secretary: Ted Pogue
Treasurer: Tom Vardase

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Ward Humphries	2025
Gary Nelson	2025
Jim Begnaud	2024
Ron Panter	2024
Cleve Shupe	2024

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

Tom Gryder 404-232-9741

Thursday

Bob Remich 404-822-1379

Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 68 Issue 12

December 2024



President

Ron Wade

Ron3392@aol.com

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As I write this article we are near the end of the 68th year of SGAA. It has been a successful year.

At the beginning of the year the board approved three priorities for 2024: Increase membership, increase participation in both play and administration, and increase the effectiveness of the committee structure.

We have been most successful in adding new members. Through October we added 33 new members, and 3 others have indicated that they plan to join in early 2025. All indications are that this momentum will continue into 2025.

Two major factors have contributed to our success. Most importantly, a number of incumbent members sponsored new members. Second, the link on our website enabling visitors to inquire about membership. Many inquired and most of those became members.

Participation is another matter. In-town rounds decreased by about 6% from 2023 despite the fact that fewer rounds were cancelled this year. This was influenced by the loss in 2023 of Cotton Fields, a popular venue. Out of town rounds decreased by about 17%. So participation must continue to be emphasized.

But there's some good news. After adjustment for date of membership, new members played almost 10% more rounds on average than incumbent members.

It has been my honor to serve as your president this year. While there have been some bumps in the road, it has been an enjoyable experience.

A long list of members made important contributions to our success this year. Larry Fauconnet, Mike Nobles and Dave Mueller head that list. They have offered invaluable advice and counsel and often saved me from myself. John Cyran responded immediately to my sometimes inchoate requests for information. The entire board has participated actively and has been a great support. Jeff Hyland worked tirelessly and effectively in making arrangements with the more than 20 courses we played. Larry Thomas, Dave Walters, Chris Curles and Rick Carrick arranged a great volunteer event. All of our committees worked very effectively. The table crews operated flawlessly. And I must apologize for not including many others who made important contributions.

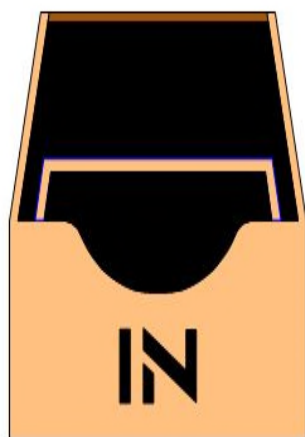
Enjoy a few weeks off and have a Happy Holiday season. Let's get off to a fast start in 2025.

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Vice President

Mike Nobles

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It's hard to believe that 2024 is almost behind us. It seems like it was just a week or two ago that we were bundled up in multiple layers of clothing and struggling to get any loft on our fairway shots because the grass was dormant. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, the temperature has already started dropping and our scores and handicaps have started rising. I am already looking forward to warm weather golf in 2025!

For those of you who were unable to join us in Clayton, GA for our final 2024 out-of-town tournament at Kingwood Resort and Winery, you missed a really good time. As always, Larry Fauconnet and Dave Mueller did an excellent job planning and coordinating the event. We had twenty SGAA members who made the trip and the weather cooperated with us for the most part. Although the restaurant at Kingwood was closed on Monday and Tuesday, Larry arranged for our breakfasts and dinners to be catered and the food was excellent. The course was in great shape and quite challenging. The thrill of the week for me came on hole #12 when I came within one foot of making a double eagle. Fortunately, I did make the tap-in for eagle (only my second in 170 SGAA rounds). If you have never gone on one of our out-of-town trips I would highly recommend them. The golf is great and the fellowship is even better.

We had a strong turnout of over sixty members for the SGAA End-of-Year Banquet on November 14. Many thanks to the Elks Lodge in Tucker for hosting the event and to Harry Matthews for all the work that went into coordinating it. Prior to lunch, Ron Wade recapped the 2024 golf season and presented plaques to the Club Champion (Pat Parisi) and the four flight winners. He also presented the "Claude Rhen Volunteer-of-the-Year Award" to John Cyran for his dedicated service as Tuesday table captain, webmaster and chairman of the election and computers/SGAA program committees. Congratulations John on a job well done! Next, the results of the SGAA elections were announced. Mike Nobles (President), JJ Goldsack (Vice President) and Ted Pogue (Secretary) were elected to serve as officers and Dave Mueller, John Cyran and Benny Russo were elected to serve on the board of directors through 2027. Congratulations to each of these men and thank you to each candidate for their willingness to step up and serve the organization!

Tom Vardase was next on the agenda with the financial report followed by myself with a preview of the 2025 season. I encouraged everyone who is able to save their pennies and plan to participate in the 2025 Member-Guest Tournament at Gulf Shores, AL. I will do everything in my power to make it one of the best ever. After a great lunch of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and cheesecake, we all enjoyed the raffle. I was able to secure over \$4,200 in purchased and donated prizes. With two exceptions, we received donations from every course that we play during the year plus a couple of twosomes from Kingwood. We also received major donations from Bridgestone Golf (golf bag and 6 dozen golf balls) and PXG (12 dozen golf balls). In total, 46 members

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walked away with at least one prize and we had six multiple prize winners. 60% of the members who purchased raffle tickets won at least one prize. I wish that everyone could have won a prize but 60% is not bad. The money made from raffle ticket purchases will go to great use in events during the 2025 season. Thanks for your support!

It was nice to see Norm Jaros (SGAA Chaplain) at the banquet. He mentioned that he would like to be notified if any of our members are seriously ill or in the hospital/rehab so he can send them a card and let them know that we are thinking about them and praying for them. Please contact Norm or myself if you are made aware of any situations like that.

Finally, I want to say thank you for trusting me to be your Vice President in 2024. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the other members of the leadership team and I appreciate all the support provided by our members. I am excited beyond measure to serve as your President in 2025.

I hope you and your family have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Get lots of rest and let's make the 2025 SGAA season a memorable one!



EVENTS FOR
DECEMBER 2024

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

December 2
MON: 10:00 a/m
Southland \$36.72

December 4
WED: 10:00 a/m
Honey Creek \$32

December 10
TUES: 10:00 a/m
Bear Creek \$42

December 11
WED: 10:00 a/m
Honey Creek \$32

December 12
THUR: 10:00 a/m
**FINAL BOARD MEETING of
the YEAR**
CC of GWINNETT

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

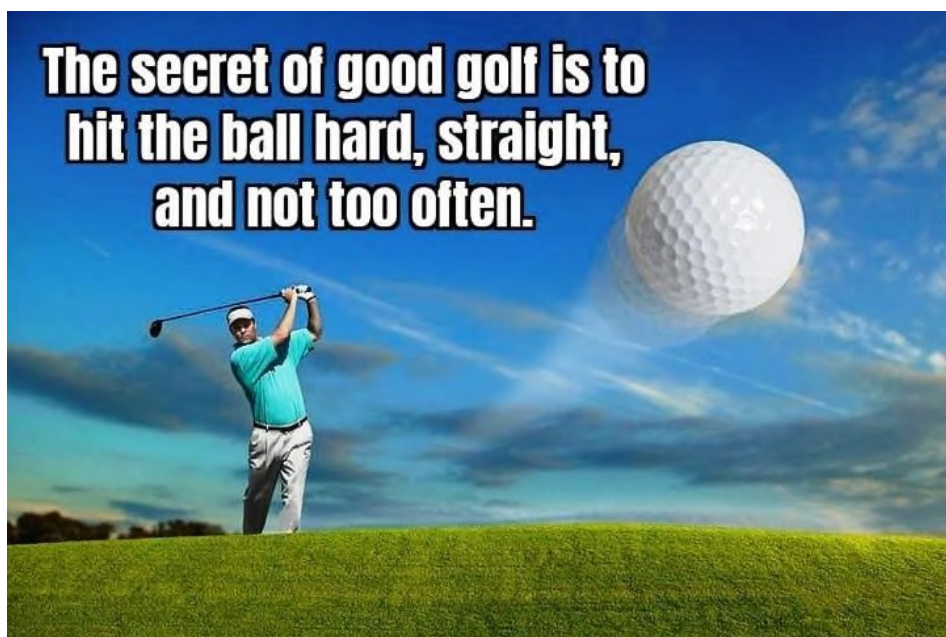


We begin December with 215 active members. Three members have passed in 2024 and five past members. Past members Bill Lewis, Bill Almand, Hubert Blanchard, Stan Shaw and Jim Richardson and present members Don Helm, Jimmy Phillips and Charles King. They will all be missed

Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group. Make sure the application is complete and readable. Please continue to ask your friends and neighbors to join our group. Make sure the application is **complete** and **readable**.

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.** Get your blank applications from the registration tables. New applicants must have two (2) sponsors. We have 28 new members this year, the most we've had in several years. Keep up the good work.

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





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Editor

Steve Puster

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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

Wear a mask! Don't wear a mask! Get the vaccine! Don't get the vaccine! Follow the science! There is no science! It's my life and my freedom! We've all heard the arguments and confusion, but here are a few tips that I know will make your life a bit safer.

A home alarm system is a pretty good thing to have, but not everyone has one for a variety of reasons. But what we do have is a vehicle that has a built-in security system on it, unless our vehicle qualifies for a historical vehicle tag.

Place your keys on the nightstand when you go to bed so that if something should happen that you need help with; just press the "alarm" button on your key fob and your vehicle's horn will begin to honk summoning help. In the middle of the night a honking horn can be heard for quite some distance and will wake your neighbors.

If you have a navigation system, don't program your actual address into the "home" designation. Put in your church, grocery store, corner convenience store; someplace close, but not your actual address. This is especially important if you have a garage door opener in your vehicle.

If your car was ever stolen, your navigation system will lead the thieves to your front door; entry to your garage with the garage door opener; and if your keys were stolen too, entry to your house.

This next tip was passed along to me by one of our long-time members. Ray Fruit. Ray will tell you he's not just a pretty face.

We all have a bag tag with our name and SGAA information on it and that's good. But how many of us have left our bag next to the green as we moved to the next hole?

But that "go to club" we use around the green can be left without a second thought. So it would be a good idea to put our name and address on each of our clubs.

Not everyone has a labeling system; but as Ray suggested, seems like everyone gets a solicitation from St. Jude's, Wounded Warriors, etc., and periodically they will send some personalized return address labels in their solicitation packet. Use 14 of those labels to identify each club in your bag. Don't worry if they wear out, you should have a new supply along any day now.

I agree, Ray's not just a pretty face; he a pretty smart fella too.

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MIKE TYRE



Mike Tyre

Member since 2024

Joining the Association has been a highlight of my year and continues to reinforce what I believe was a providential direction that connected me to the group.

I have played golf for years, but very infrequently. Selling my business of 17 years last summer, I started looking around for people and opportunities to play. My friends were either working, had physical issues, or not around. In short, they weren't available. I did some homework and sent a note to SGAA. Ron Wade responded and invited me to play with him. What a great introduction - Ron, Tom Gryder, Larry Fauconnet! Since then, I've had the privilege of playing with quite a few of you and am honored and entertained by being part of a regular group - thank you Tim and Bob.

My professional background has been in advertising. I founded and ran a marketing agency for 17 years - selling my equity interest last year. I currently work contract projects but have no desire to pursue another full-time job. I also have zero desire to "retire," so SGAA fits nicely.

I've been married for 46 years - my wife, Jacquie is a pastor of an apostolic church in Peachtree Corners. We have three grown sons. And four grandchildren that I do my best to help aggravate their parents. I also play tennis and pursuing a Level 3 Sommelier certification. I'm a Georgia Tech fan, and a Braves diehard. Trivia fact ... or just that I've got a lot of years on me ... I was at the first Braves game at Fulton County Stadium in 1966 and the last one there. Got lots of Braves stories as I had clients who were sponsors.

I have introduced SGAA to a few friends. I describe SGAA as a group of men who play serious golf, but don't take it or themselves seriously. To a man, everyone I've met has been welcoming and encouraging. I'm truly honored and blessed to be a part of the SGAA.

2025 SGAA OFFICERS & BOARD



**PRESIDENT
MIKE NOBLES**



**VICE PRESIDENT
JJ GOLDSACK**



**SECRETARY
TED POGUE**



**TREASURER
TOM VARDASE**



**PAST PRESIDENT
RON WADE**



**2027 DIRECTOR
JOHN CYRAN**



**2027 DIRECTOR
DAVE MUELLER**



**2027 DIRECTOR
BENNY RUSSO**



**2026 DIRECTOR
STEVE ALLEN**



**2026 DIRECTOR
BILL HERBERT**



**2026 DIRECTOR
JIM KNAPP**



**2025 DIRECTOR
DENNIS HANSON**



**2025 DIRECTOR
WARD HUMPHRIES**



**2025 DIRECTOR
GARY NELSON**

2025

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 2024 FINAL “ATTENDANCE AND POINTS” REPORT INDICATES YOU HAVE EARNED AT LEAST 25 AWARD POINTS, THOSE POINTS WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR DUES AND WILL OFFSET THIS REQUIREMENT FOR 2025.

IF YOU EARNED LESS THAN 25 AWARD POINTS. PLEASE MAIL IN A CHECK FOR \$25 TO COVER YOUR 2025 DUES.

THE TREASURE WILL ABSOLUTELY SEND YOU A CHECK FOR YOUR 2024 EARNED POINTS.

(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

2024 "Award Points" checks, minus \$25 for 2025 dues, will go out a few days after the end of our last 2024 tournament (DEC 11) 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

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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.



Bill Lewis



Don Helm



Charles King



Bill Almand



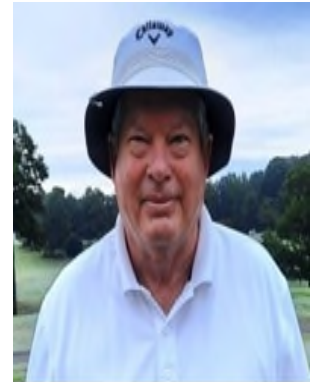
Jim Richardson



Stan Shaw



Hugh Blanchard



Jimmy Phillips

DECEMBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Southland 10:00 a/m \$36.72	3	4 Honey Creek 10:00 a/m \$32	5	6	7
8	9	10 Bear Creek 10:00 a/m \$42	11 Honey Creek 10:00 a/m \$32	12 Board of Directors Meeting CC of Gwinnett 10:00 a/m	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HANUKAH			

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253