



www.sgaofatlanta.org

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678-294-2363

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Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta

DEDICATED TO GOOD GOLF AND FINE FELLOWSHIP

Volume 70 Issue 2

February 2026

President

JJ Goldsack

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The 2026 SGAA season is off to a cold but enjoyable start. We begin the year with 222 members, up from 198 this time last year. This marks the first year since Covid that we have realized a net gain in membership. Mike Nobles should be congratulated for his efforts to increase membership.

If you have a son, brother, brother-in-law, son-in-law, or some friends you have been trying to get to join SGAA, have them read this before you give up on them. 2010 was the first year I had an opportunity to join SGAA. The membership was capped at 350, there was a waiting list and you were required to play a minimum of 17 rounds during the season, you could only join at the first of the year. I was still working and passed on applying. At the beginning of 2013 I took a package from the company I was working for. I may have had time to apply since the SGAA season had not started, but did not. I also did not apply for 2014. In February of 2014 I applied and had to wait until January 2015 to become a member. Since then the rules have change. One can join anytime during the year, there are no minimum rounds played requirements, membership to start 2026 is 222. I missed out on the opportunity of playing golf with my dad for 5 years or approximately 50-85 rounds. With the new rules, don't miss out on the opportunity to share time with your friends and loved ones.

Now on to SGAA business. There is a Board of Directors meeting on February 13th at the Country Club of Gwinnett. For those of you questioning why the organization operates as it does, this is an opportunity to see the board in action. The next week on February 19th is our annual Tee Off Banquet at Honey Creek Golf Club. Our first out of town event is April 13-15 at Little Ocmulgee. Next is our trip to Smokey Mountain Country Club June 15-17. Finally the Member Guest this year will be in Hiawassee, GA at the Lake Chatuge Lodge where we will play Chatuge Shores Golf Course and Mountain Harbour Golf Club. Information on the Tee Off Banquet is provided later in this newsletter.

Become more involved with SGAA, currently we have 20 committees on which you could participate. We are also in need of Table Workers, both fulltime and backups. The organization cannot survive without volunteers; why not put your expertise to work? You might find you enjoy it.

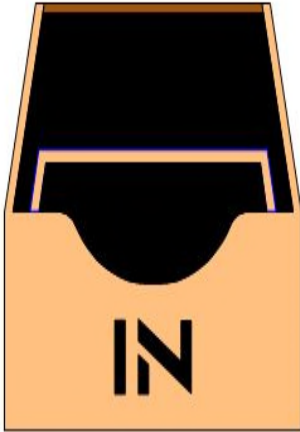
Finally, if you didn't know it, this is the 70th anniversary of the founding of Senior Golf Association of Atlanta. Started in 1956 by a group of gentlemen who met at North Fulton Golf Course (some refer to it as Chas-tain). We should all be proud to be a member of SGAA. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the golf course, having a fun and successful 2026

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Vice President

Dave Mueller

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Well it's a new month. January is half over (as I write this article) and we start the 2026 season by the time this is published. I hope all is well.

I have not been in the best shape this year. I am in the process of getting over type A Flu. I picked it up in Florida, taking the grandkids to Disney. Little to say golf has been on the back shelf for now. Since we will start play next week, I look forward to another great year. A lot of work has gone into this winter setting up for the new year. The drop areas is just one of the items we're looking at for this year.

I look forward to working with JJ on this year's activities. The out of town trips are just about firmed up.

If you have any idea's to make our new year better, please let us know. The only bad idea is the one you keep to yourself.

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

**Don't forget , your registration for the Tee Off Luncheon must
be received by Friday, February 13th**

**EVENTS FOR
FEBRUARY 2026**

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

February 2
MON: 10:00 a/m
Ashton Hills \$43

February 7
WED: 10:00 a/m
Dogwood \$40

February 9
MON: 10:00 a/m
Hard Labor Creek \$41

February 12
THUR: 10:00 a/m
Bear Creek \$45

**February 13
FRI: 10:00 a/m
Board of Directors Meeting**

February 16
MON: 10:00 a/m
Crystal Lake \$39

February 18
WED: 10:00 a/m
Georgia National \$37

**February 19
THUR: 11:00 a/m
TEE OFF LUNCHEON**

February 23
MON: 10:00 a/m
Southland \$41

February 25
WED: 10:00 a/m
Honey Creek \$35

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



SGAA Membership Update: FEBRUARY 2026 Membership Overview

As of the publication of this newsletter, the SGAA has welcomed two new members in 2026, bringing the total number of active members to 223. However, some members currently listed as active will be reclassified as inactive by the end of January. Notably, 2025 marks the first time in several years that our membership growth has outpaced member losses from the prior year. This positive trend reflects the continued commitment and enthusiasm of our members, who regularly invite friends and neighbors to join the SGAA. We encourage everyone to keep up these efforts so we can maintain and build on this momentum.

Membership Application Process

When inviting prospective members to join, please ensure that all application forms are filled out completely and legibly. Applications missing required information cannot be processed, so your careful attention to detail is essential. By helping with accurate and thorough submissions, you contribute to an efficient and effective membership process. Thank you for your ongoing support and diligence in this important matter.

Board Suggestions

If you have suggestions that could assist the board or enhance the enjoyment of SGAA activities, please feel free to share your ideas with me or any other board member. While not every suggestion can be implemented, all ideas will be carefully discussed at the next board meeting. Your input is valued and plays an important role in the ongoing improvement of 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. His presence and contributions to the SGAA will be deeply missed by all members.

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 that you receive timely updates about SGAA news and upcoming events.

2026 Dues Collection

As the dues collection process continues, our membership numbers will decrease. We will not be able to publish the updated figures until early-mid February 2026. Currently, there are 34 members who have not renewed their membership, and we are actively working to reduce that number. I will post a list of members who have not renewed their membership in next month's newsletter, and I hope the number will be much smaller by then.



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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

Have you checked the SGAA <https://sgaofatlanta.org/> website lately? No? That's like going about your day without checking the weather report too. Although it may not be necessary to check the website daily, at least once a week would be a good habit to cultivate. There's a lot of information posted to keep you abreast of what's happening with the Senior Golfers Association of Atlanta. We're a diverse and dynamic organization that takes a lot of effort and coordination to run as smoothly as we do; all the while trying to keep the membership aware of any changes. It's all on the website – you just have to check. The latest information is on the website. You can even subscribe to the web calendar and when a change happens it will show up on your calendar.

We currently have, at last report, some 223 active members. If we have an average of 35 players per in-town tournament, making a presumption that the same 35 players aren't the only ones playing, it's safe to say you're going to see a lot of different players throughout the coming year.

The Photo Directory, just one source of information on the SGGA website, was created out of a desire to be better familiar with members we see at the course but don't know who they are. Currently we have photos of 218 SGAA members in the Photo Directory; 2 of whom must be in Witness Protection as they have not responded to a request for their photo. There are long-time members who aren't included as well – probably for the same reason.

I ask you to check out the website, especially the Photo Directory. If your picture is not included – or you'd like to update your photo — take a couple of minutes and send a photo (preferably the picture should be from the waist up and close enough that you can be recognized) to steve.puster@gmail.com.



My longest drive
of the day
is usually home
from the course.

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In the
Spotlight



Greg Bender

Member since 2025

Greg Bender

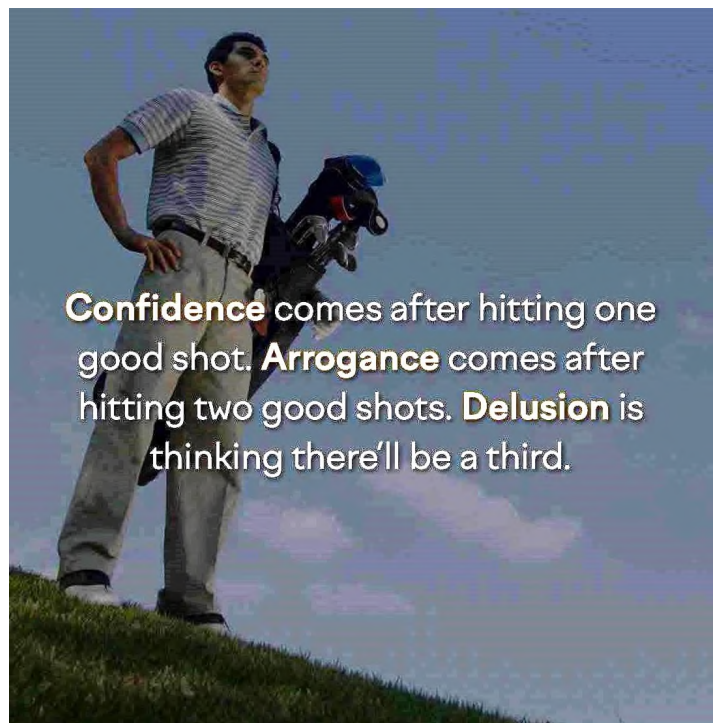
Originally from Chicago, Greg and his family moved to Snellville in the early 70's and have been here ever since! He graduated from South Gwinnett HS and attended Oglethorpe University on a basketball scholarship but graduated from Georgia Southern. Greg didn't start playing golf until Pat McMenomy convinced him to play Hard Labor Creek in the early 80's, and like most who play the game, got addicted and have played ever since.

Greg recently retired after 40+ years working in sales for companies such as Lawson Software, Oracle and Workday. During much of that time, since 1987, he was a member at Summit Chase in Snellville until they completely shut down a few years back (his wife Barbara is the current Mayor of Snellville). He has since joined Monroe G&CC and get to play there a couple of times a week along with a few charity events around the city, an annual pilgrimage to Pinehurst and with Pat to an annual event they started back in 1985.

Barb and Greg have 2 grown kids and 2 grand kids, so while he'll continue to play golf, the grands may take some course time away (but certainly worth it!). Greg looks forward to meeting/playing with many more SGAA members in the months ahead.



Isn't it crazy how you can hit the ball **500 yards** in 2 shots, but it takes **4 putts** to finish from **15 feet**.



Confidence comes after hitting one good shot. **Arrogance** comes after hitting two good shots. **Delusion** is thinking there'll be a third.



SGAA 2026 Tee Off Banquet

February 19, 2026

11:00 a/m — 2:00 p/m



Honey Creek Golf and Country Club

635 Clubhouse Drive SE
Conyers, Georgia 30094

\$25.00 PER PERSON

(includes tip and tax)

The menu details are being finalized as we go to print. Rest assured you will have a good meal along with some mighty fine fellowship

Reservations can be made by sending your check — made out to **SGAA** — for **\$25.00** annotated as "Tee Off Banquet" to:

Tom Vardase
3502 Johns Road
Tucker, GA 30084

Reservations MUST be received no later than **February 13, 2026**

This is not so much "going to lunch" as it is about the friends and fellowship we expect to enjoy this season.

Moving forward I encourage your feedback regarding any changes you'd offer. 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 February 19th.

Harry Matthews

February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Ashton Hills 10 a/m \$43	3	4 Dogwood 10 a/m \$40	5	6	7
8	9 Hard Labor Crk 10 a/m \$41	10	11	12 Bear Creek 10 a/m \$45	13 Board of Directors Meeting CC of Gwinnett	14
15	16 Crystal Lake 10 a/m \$39	17	18 Georgia National 10 a/m \$37	19 TEE OFF LUNCHEON Honey Creek 11:00 a/m	20	21
22	23 Southland 10 a/m \$41	24	25 Honey Creek 10 a/m \$35	26	27	28

Friday
February 13th
Final date registration for the
Tee Off Luncheon to be received

Steve Puster
122 Salem Ridge Drive
McDonough, GA 30253