

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF SINGLES GOLF IN AMERICA

CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF

Chicago, Illinois Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - January 2009

ICE SKATING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH

**January Mingle / Tuesday,
January 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

Giordano's, 815 W. Van Buren in Greek Town

ASGA returns to O-Town – Obama, Oprah, Olympics and, lest we forget, Blago . . . mix and mingle with your golf buddies at the circle interchange, located at the intersection of Van Buren and Halsted. Parking is available right in front of the door for \$4. We'll share pizza, pictures and stories while toasting to a new year of ASGA golf. No charge; you just pay for your food/drinks. No sign-up necessary; just show up and mingle. Guests are always welcome. Cash bar, prize drawings, chapter activity update.

NEW MEMBERS

Below are the new members for the Chicago chapter:

- Larry Nelligan

Welcome to our newest member!!

MESSAGE FROM DR. K O

As I attended a family Christmas party on what proved to be the coldest day in over a decade (30 degrees below with the wind chill), I was grateful to connect with

my Texan cousin. Since he retired from JCPenney a year ago, he has joined the ranks of one of the biggest addictions know to humans – GOLF. Indoors and safe from the elements, he lit up talking about his addiction, and I couldn't help chiming in with him. The stories kept us warm and smiling. What a great game! I am glad there is no rehab for this addiction, but to soothe those missing the "high," a great group of folks headed to Orlando for New Year's to meet with other addicts on a national level to enjoy the sun, fun, fellowship and fairways. We know that what happened in Orlando stays in Orlando, but we hope those who went will "play and tell" at our first mingle of the new year, as those left behind will want to hear all about it! In my last writing, I thanked the entire board and other volunteers, with special mention for two men rotating off the board, **Tom Ullsperger** and **Fred McEwen**. This time I would also like to thank the fabulous '08 volunteers – I cannot thank you all enough. And a special mention goes out to the three exceptional women who are rotating off the board, all of whom volunteered their efforts for three years. Standing ovation, please, for **Gretchen Oie**, outgoing social chair (it takes a

small army to replace her); **Mary Lou Newbold**, our membership ambassador; and **Marie Bush**, treasurer extraordinaire! When you see these gals (or anyone else on the incoming/outgoing board) take a moment to thank them or, better yet, give them a hug or buy them a drink. Selfless service is what they are all about, and their behind-the-scenes efforts assisted more than you know in having this past year run so well! THANK YOU!! By the time you read this, the reins will have been officially handed off to **Bill Forcade** and his amazing team of talent. He is already hosting winter golf dome events and has huge plans for 2009. Stay connected, stay involved and plan on joining us whenever you can for social and golf events. Spread the word and invite friends and family to join ASGA Chicago. Meanwhile, THANK YOU!! May 2009 be your best year ever!
~K O

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORCADE

Welcome to 2009. As the incoming President, I have a tremendous task in front of me trying to live up to the standards set by our previous officers. Our team has set some fantastic goals for both

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Meet members from other chapter at these exciting weekends:

- Wilmington's Winter Chill, Feb. 27-March 1
- Orlando & Hilton Head's Hilton Head Weekend, March 13-15

National Website: www.SinglesGolf.com

E-Mail: ASGANational@aol.com

New Office Hours: 8:00am to 4:00pm, M-F (Eastern)

National Office: 704-889-4600 or 1-888-GOLFMATE

To join ASGA or renew your dues, contact the National Office at above number or go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date: SECOND TUESDAY of each month

Next Mingle: January 13th, 2009 at 6:30 PM

Mingle Location: Giordano's of Greek Town, 815 West Van Buren, Chicago, IL

Our Website: www.ASGAChicago.org

(See next page for list of officers and board members.)

To join, renew dues, make a change of address, phone, etc., call National Hotline at left.

Chicago Chapter
of the
American Singles Golf Association



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Please check the Web Page for any
last minute changes
<http://www.asgachicago.org/>

the golf side and the social side. We have more golf outings scheduled this year than ever before. We have included a number of nine-hole events, and we will be trying to set up some multiple events on the same day to solve the problems associated with groups of more than 36 people (the first group finishing long before the last group and not wanting to stick around for dinner).

We plan on creating a number of short documents this year for your reference, including course etiquette, rules of golf and similar topics. We hope to post these in the e-mail blasts, the newsletters and on the web page. All documents will be written in an easy-to-understand format. We may also do another survey of the membership regarding our social activities and what the membership would like to see added or modified.

Don't forget that we have golf dome events scheduled on Sundays at 3:00 at Links & Tees (on Lake Street near I-355) in Addison for most of the winter. We typically have dinner nearby afterwards. And, finally, remember that it's only about 90 days until the kick-off dinner for the 2009 golf season!

PAST EVENTS

December Holiday Mingle

Tuesday, December 9 at The 8700

Club at Carriage Greens Country Club

The holidays are a time for giving, and ASGA members really came through this year supporting **The First Tee of Chicago**, whose mission is "To impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf." They focus on teaching young people the nine core values of golf, which include Responsibility, Perseverance, Courtesy, Judgment, Honesty, Sportsmanship, Integrity, Respect and Confidence. Their website is www.thefirstteechicago.org. The First Tee was the recipient of donations of old and new golf equipment, including clubs, bags, balls and other golf-related items. We also held a 50/50 raffle and accepted cash donations – all to benefit The First Tee. It was a fun and special evening!!

New Year's Eve / Orlando

Year after year, ASGA Chicago has always provided strong support for ASGA National's event. This year was no exception. More than 30 of our members made the trip to Orlando for warm sunshine and great golf. The event offers members from across the country the chance to renew acquaintances, forge new friendships and take a break from winter's fury.

With the previous two events held in Tampa, it very much was a welcome return to the Orlando area. The Omni Resort at ChampionsGate is a first-class vacation destination, offering outstanding amenities and service. Golf for the event was held on the property's two Greg Norman-designed courses. ASGA Chicago fared well in several of the competitions, with **Jane Leary, Tom Ullsperger, Brian Krauss** and **Tim Dowling** among the team and individual prizewinners.

The centerpiece of the event is ASGA's New Year's bash in the Omni's International Ballroom. More than 230 well-dressed party-goers rang in the New Year over dinner, drinks and dancing.

As for the Chicago chapter, it has become a tradition that additional golf opportunities are provided for those who arrive a few days early or extend their stay a few days longer. This year, blessed with temperatures in the upper 70's, extra rounds were played at World Woods, Orange County National, Forest Lake, Diamondback, Deltona Club and Providence Club.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Prepare for the Summer

Links & Tees Golf Dome, 880-950 W. Lake Street, Addison (630) 458-2660

Haven't swung a club in a long time? Worried about that first tee this spring? Now is your chance to polish your swing. **Bill Forcade** will be hosting practice sessions at the Links & Tees Golf Dome on Sundays starting January 11, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. until the golf season starts. The dome has been spiffed up – new fake grass, new tees, new fake putting surface, etc. We usually have dinner nearby afterwards. Come one, come all, no reservations needed. Check the e-mail blast each week to see if the event is cancelled for any reason. For example, there will be no golf dome event on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1.

Millennium Park Ice Skating Rink on Michigan Avenue -Downtown Chicago Sunday, January 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Chase away the winter doldrums . . . Chicago ASGA's version of the Winter Classic

Join us and try something new or something you enjoyed in your childhood; we promise we won't laugh. Skate rental is \$10. You may choose to warm up rinkside at The Park Grill bar. Afterwards (at 5:00), we will dine at Pizano's Pizza, 63 E. Madison, just two blocks away. Please RSVP for skating, dinner or both to echesler@rcn.com. Consult the Millennium Park website for parking and transportation options.

February Mingle / Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Reel Club, 272 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook

Stay connected through the winter with your ASGA pals at our monthly mingles. There is no charge or sign-up necessary; you just pay for your food/drinks. Guests are always welcome. Cash bar, prize drawings, chapter activity update.

New Date for TopGolf

Saturday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

TopGolf is located at 699 W. Thornedale Avenue in Wood Dale next to the Salt Creek Golf Club. The fee, which is \$40 for members and \$45 for guests, includes a one-year membership and two free games, plus hot appetizers and soft drinks. To learn more about TopGolf, check out www.topgolfusa.com. RSVP to **Tim Dowling** at timdowling00@yahoo.com by March 1.

ASGA Chicago 3rd Annual Alabama Trip

Friday, March 20 to Monday, March 23

Price is \$1059.00 for double occupancy and \$1199.00 for single occupancy and includes golf, lodging, airfare and vehicle rental. We will fly Southwest Airlines out of Midway on Friday the 20th at 6:45 a.m., arriving in Birmingham at 9:20 a.m. The return flight leaves Birmingham at 2:55 p.m. on Monday the 23rd and arrives at Midway at 4:45 p.m. We will stay at Hyatt Place, 4686 Highway 280 East, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Below are the golf courses:

- Friday, 1:00 p.m. / Oxmoor Valley (www.rtgolf.com/courses/oxmoor_valley)
- Saturday, 8:00 a.m. / Limestone Springs www.limestonesprings.com/ rate covers play for entire day
- Sunday, 8:00 a.m. / FarmLinks (www.farmlinksgolfclub.com) / rate covers play for entire day
- Monday, 8:00 a.m. / Ross Bridge (www.rtgolf.com/courses/ross_bridge)

Please note the following deadlines:

Send confirmation to **Tom Ullsperger** ASAP either via e-mail (tomu7@hotmail.com) or telephone (708-508-1045).

Send your deposit of \$500 by **Wednesday, January 21** to Tom Ullsperger, 16045 Forest Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452. Final payment is due by **Tuesday, February 17**.

Kick-off Dinner

Saturday, April 4

Details are still in the works, but be sure to mark this date on your calendar for a fun-filled way to kick off the golf season with friends. If this event is anything like the end-of-season dinner last November, it will be a night to remember!

UPDATE YOUR NATIONAL MEMBER PROFILE

If you want to update your membership information on the national website, get your ASGA membership number from your membership card or your copy of the monthly newsletter and go to the national website at <http://www.singlesgolf.com/roster.php>. If you don't have a password, you can request one from national. Enter your membership ID and password, and you can edit your membership information to include your cell phone number.

REMINDER

If you don't have an email address, call any of the Board Members listed in this newsletter for more information on any event. If you are not receiving e-mails, please contact **Will Hsiung** at whsiung@comcast.net. Please feel free to send (clean) golf jokes to Will, and he will include them in his e-mails.

PHOTOS

Anyone who takes photos at the events may send them to **Robert Geeve** (rgeeve@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion on the website. Please be sure to zip the file before sending; contact Robert if you need help with zipping the file.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Happy Birthday to these members:

Heather Aeschleman - 01/29
Dave Allen - 01/21
Nancy Bernhardt - 01/24
Hank Calzaretta - 01/05
Allen Chester - 01/31
Jennifer Connolly - 02/12
Julie Dana - 02/02
Tim Dowling - 02/08
John Edmonson - 01/16
Gloria Emalfarb - 02/08
Bill Forcade - 01/22
Beth Gemmill - 02/13
Peter Hague - 01/06
Stephen Kehr - 01/03
Mary Kozlov - 01/14
Penny Link - 02/12
Kathi Maraffino - 01/21
Fred McEwen - 02/09
Margaret Muller - 02/12
Amy Rybicki - 01/31
Haseena Shaheed - 01/13

These members are up for renewal:

(date shown is last day of membership)
Deborah Bradel - 01/31/2009
Paul Bryer - 01/31/2009
Dale Cadwalader - 01/31/2009
Melanie Davis - 01/31/2009
Arthur Garwin - 01/31/2009
Dee Giese - 01/31/2009
Peter Hague - 01/31/2009
Joanne Klumpp - 01/31/2009
Kerry Malm - 01/31/2009
Gretchen Oie - 01/31/2009

Welcome newest members:

Tracy Fioretti - Joined 11/26/2008
Pamela Schau - Joined 12/18/2008

These members recently renewed:

Kathi Brown
John Edmonson

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)
Margaret Bellock - 12/31/2008
Randall Schutz - 11/30/2008
Jean Steffens - 11/30/2008

Our chapter currently has 190 members

ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — JANUARY, 2009

Love on the Links

Valentine's Day: Saturday, February 14th, 2009

"*Love on the Links*" was a headline a reporter named his article which appeared in a newspaper years ago. It was a great article about ASGA but it was a great headline as well. Since then, the Charlotte chapter has borrowed the headline and created an annual golf outing with the same name. It initially was played on the Saturday on or around Valentine's Day each year as a way to interest new members and to get the season kicked-off. Since then, it's been moved into early Spring (gosh, it got cold in February!).

Let's take advantage of an upcoming date: Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year. ASGA National would like for all chapters to run a "Love on the Links" tournament with the goal to expose ASGA to more singles. It's a great way to start your new year and a great way to generate interest in your chapter. So watch for the link on our website (SinglesGolf.com) and we'll provide press releases and other information to help you get a new tradition going for your chapter for 2009 and beyond.

Welcome New Chapter Leaders!

Just as we turn the corner on the new year, we also turn the corner with new leadership in each of our seventy chapters nationwide. New leaders bring new ideas. Last year's chapter presidents become Board chairs and offer continuity to the leadership, but it's the new president that emerges as the team leader. This is our annual ritual and somehow it works.

It's been said that the greatest thing about being a chapter president is that one day you get to become a past president. Those who have served in that capacity this past year deserve your thanks as those of us at national headquarters thanks them as well. With or without your knowledge, chapter presidents are in contact with the national office many times throughout the year, looking after your concerns.

But the Number One job for a chapter president is to delegate. Delegate to the four key people know as committee chairs. Your chapter should have by now your four key committees organized for 2007: golf, social, membership and communication. Those committees do the detail work on the activities your chapter will be involved in over the next year. It's a great place to start if you want to volunteer for your chapter.

So we welcome the new chapter presidents, officers and committee members. Make the best of your year. Realize the potential of what your local chapter can mean to *you*. We're all about bringing happiness to your life, so just continue to remember the first word in our three-word slogan we adopted almost 15 years ago . . . fun,

fellowship, fairways . . . and all we ask is that you keep it fun first!

Keys to a Great Year Ahead

No doubt, everyone has their mental list of "what works" and "what doesn't". Here's our Top 10 Recommendations for new leaders:

- ◆ Regarding your meetings, remember the three E's: make them Entertaining, Educational and Enlightening
- ◆ Encourage every member to invite a guest to each meeting. That automatically doubles the attendance.
- ◆ Most people don't join because they were never asked to join.
- ◆ New people have their own circle of friends who will join as well.
- ◆ Display the free brochure stands at golf courses. They work!
- ◆ Remember to work as a team. You're not going to win every battle. Always keep the interest of the chapter as your priority.
- ◆ Follow your bylaws. They're on the national website if you've never read them. They provide the structure for your chapter.
- ◆ Submit guest names via our online "add-a-guest" form. One out of three guests become members!
- ◆ Encourage attendance at multi-chapter events in order to get the full experience of ASGA from members across the country.
- ◆ Read newsletters from other chapters (posted on the national website under "List of Chapters") to get additional ideas.

Dates: Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2009

Wilmington's Winter Chill

Our Wilmington chapter will again host their Winter Chill which will be in the Southern Pines / Pinehurst area of North Carolina. Check out all of the details on this and other upcoming multi-chapter weekend events at www.SinglesGolf.com/events

Who's Your Daddy?

Now that we've caught your attention, what we really want to know is "Who's Your Chapter President?"

Please make sure SOMEONE in your chapter has notified ASGA National of the names of your newly elected officers and board members. We need this information for the 2009 newsletters. Of utmost important is who your treasurer will be so we can issue the chapter portion of the dues to the right person. Email this info to our office manager, Irene Matthews at ASGANational@aol.com.

And remember to update your website with the new chapter leaders as well.

**- Tom Alsop, President / Founder
American Singles Golf Association
1-888-GOLFMATE (1-888-465-3628)**