

CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF

Chicago, Illinois Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - January 2010

JANUARY 12TH MEETING AT CHAMPPS

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORCADE

One great year has ended, and another is just starting. As we send this newsletter off to National, 33 of us are heading south to Orlando for the New Year's event. Many great stories and a few hilarious photos will no doubt follow. But we are already planning the 2010 golf and social schedule, and it should be a banner year.

We will restart the Sunday dome events at Links & Tees in Addison on January 10, after returning from Orlando. We have had about 12 people at each of the last two sessions and expect that number to increase over time. Come on out for a little practice, a good dinner and excellent socializing.

The first Board meeting of the year will be on Sunday, January 31 at 1:30 p.m. at Links & Tees in Addison. You are all welcome to attend. The new Board of Directors is as follows:

President – **Bill Forcade**
Golf Chair – **Tim Dowling**
Social Chair – **Melanie Jones**
Membership Chair – **Marie Di Virgilio**
Communications Chair – **Will Hsiung**
Secretary – **Nancy Hill**

Treasurer – **Brian Krauss**
Website – **Robert Geeve**
Newsletter Editor – **Judy Johnson**
Legal Counsel – **Robin Rash**

I wish you all the best in the New Year!

MESSAGE FROM GOLF CHAIR DOWLING

Now that 2010 is here, it is time to start making those New Year's resolutions. Whether they are golf-related (as most of mine are) or to drop a few pounds (my "other" yearly resolution), it is now time to start thinking about our golf season.

While most of you are out playing in the snow, I am busy designing the 2010 golf schedule. With some of the events already in the books and many more to be finalized, I want to let everyone know of a few major changes to the schedule.

The "official" ASGA golf season will begin on May 1. This is a week later than in the past and, from all the input I have received, it is a better starting date. Of course, I am sure that many of you will check the weather and get out and play earlier if you can.

The Coordinators' meeting will be on April 14 at a site to be determined, so be

sure to mark it on your calendar. I expect a great turnout with lots of eager volunteers!

A great new addition to our roster, Wednesday golf, will start with an outing on June 12. If there is enough interest, I will add two outings in June and continue from there. The nine-hole outings need to be addressed. I think it is a great opportunity for beginner golfers, those who want to work in the morning and play nine in the afternoon and others who just enjoy two hours on the links. I will need a lot of help in running these events, so please be ready to volunteer.

The Scramble is going to be moved to August 28 this year. The site is almost confirmed, but I will wait until the contract is signed before making any announcements. Also, the Club Championship date will be changed so as not to conflict with Yom Kippur and will either be moved forward or back a week.

If you have any questions, you can either e-mail me or contact me through Facebook, which I'm just now learning so please have patience with me.

Have a great winter, and I look forward to seeing everyone in April!

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Upcoming Events Include:

- Wilmington's Winter Chill - February 26-28, 2010 - Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/WinterChill
- We're Going to Scotland - August, 2010 - Details at SinglesGolf.com/scotland

National Website: www.SinglesGolf.com

E-Mail: ASGANational@aol.com

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

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

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Regular Meeting Date: **SECOND TUESDAY** of each month

Next Mingle: January 12th, 2010

Mingle Location: Champps, 2301 Fountain Square Drive in Lombard. Phone: 630-627-3334

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 or go to www.SinglesGolf.com/join

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of the
American Singles Golf Association



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

PAST EVENTS

ASGA Holiday Party, 12/13

The 2009 Social Chair wasn't there to witness it, but she did a great job of ending the social year for ASGA Chicago on a real high! Thanks to Enid for this fun December Sunday afternoon at Molly Malone's! Plenty of ASGA members came out for the food, football game (does anyone know if the Bears won . . . does anyone really care???) and, most importantly, visiting with friends.

For those heading south to Florida for New Year's Eve, there was last-minute planning. For those who aren't going, just a little bit of envy. And the 2010 Social Committee held a brief meeting, where so many great ideas were exchanged for activities that will keep our minds off the winter weather until spring and the start of the Chicago golf season!

On behalf of everyone, many thanks to Enid for a great year and a really nice way to end the 2009 social activities!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Eskimo Open, Sunday, 1/3

For the truly fanatical golfer, pack up your red or black golf balls and come out for the Eskimo Open being held on Sunday, January 3 at Cog Hill in Lemont, rain, snow or shine. You can sign up for either nine or 18 holes on Courses 1 or 3. The \$42 greens fee includes 18 holes, chili and a drink afterward, plus prizes. In 2007, it was 63 degrees, and many ASGA'ers, including **Tim Dowling** and **Jane Leary**, were winners. In 2009, it will probably be around 10 degrees but still fun! Carts will be available.

Golf Dome Events, Sundays

Winter is the best time to make either big changes or minor tweaks to your golf swing. Golf dome practice will resume on Sunday, January 10 at Links & Tees from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The address is 880-950 W. Lake Street in Addison, and golfing will be followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. No need to sign up in advance; just show up and swing!

January Mingle, Tuesday, 1/12 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

It might be cold and there may be snow, but ASGA Chicago knows how to

keep fun on the agenda. Our first Mingle of the year promises to be unique! We are moving to Champps, 2301 Fountain Square Drive in Lombard, phone number 630-627-3334. Our private room will be available starting at 7:00 p.m., but those who want to come directly from work can unwind in the bar until then. Others can avoid rush hour traffic altogether with our later start time of 7:00. And to make the night unique, after mingling for a while, we will have a variety of activities in which to participate. Want to play a board game, poker, dice or charades? Just decide what you want to do, and we will have tables set up for each starting at 7:30. For those who don't want to play games, you can cheer on the others or just continue mingling over drinks and food.

Monthly Dance, Friday, 1/15

Put on your dancing shoes for the first ASGA monthly dance event, which will be held at the Diplomat West in Elmhurst on Friday, January 15. The band New Day will be playing excellent dance music – Latin, disco, country, rock, Motown, club and line dancing – and a DJ will play between sets. ASGA members and friends are invited to party with the Thunderbird Dance group and will receive the discounted price of \$5 (versus the \$8 cover). For more information and to sign up, e-mail **Kevin Berg** at kevinb6204@hotmail.com or call 847-826-0169. The Diplomat West is located at 681 W. North Avenue on the northwest corner of Route 83 and North Avenue. This is a singles dance party with about 300 to 500 other singles, so please sign up early so we can reserve tables for our group. The start time is 8:00 p.m., and you can contact singlesnet@comcast.net for more information.

February Mingle, Tuesday, 2/9 (7:00-9:00 p.m.)

In February, we are trying out another location with a private room at Stacy's Café & Bar, 845 Mannheim Road in Bellwood, phone number 708-544-6636. Again, ASGA members will have the option to simply socialize or play one of the games mentioned above. There is no cover charge, and drinks and food are totally optional. Fun and friendship, however, are mandatory!

Season Opening Dinner/Dance, Saturday, 4/24

More details will be available closer to the date, but for now, mark April 24 and the Diplomat West in Elmhurst on your calendar. With **Kevin Berg** and **Mari Lou McCann** planning our season opening celebration and room enough for everyone, you will certainly want to be there. Think open bar, great food, fun music and fabulous friends – and you will be thinking about this event!!

WEEKLY E-MAILS

If you are not receiving the weekly e-mail blasts from our Communications Chair, **Will Hsiung**, you may need to add his e-mail address (whsiung@comcast.net) to your address book or safe list. For help on this, go to images.ed4.net/images/htdocs/addressbook/. If you don't have an email address, call any of the Board Members listed in this newsletter for more information on any event.

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.

PHOTOS

Anyone who takes photos at the events may send them to **Robert Geeve** (rgeeve@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion on the website. A zip file of the photos is preferred, but individual photo attachments will also be acceptable. Or if you prefer to copy your photos to a CD and send it to Robert, that's okay too. Just please send them as soon as possible after the outing. Robert has changed the format on the website in which the photos are displayed, so please take a look and let him know of any comments you may have.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Happy Birthday to these members:

Nancy Bernhardt - 01/24
Brett Bradfield - 02/01
Hank Calzaretta - 01/05
Allen Chester - 01/31
Tim Dowling - 02/08
Linda Ewing - 01/11
Bill Forcade - 01/22
Marty Gangler - 02/09
Cathy Hill - 01/12
Stephen Kehr - 01/03
Mary Kozlov - 01/14
Penny Link - 02/12
Kathi Maraffino - 01/21
John McCarthy - 02/02
Fred McEwen - 02/09
Margaret Muller - 02/12
Joe O'Malley - 01/23
Amy Rybicki - 01/31
Haseena Shaheed - 01/13
William Terpstra - 02/07
Mary Ellen Tobin - 01/13

These members are up for renewal: (date shown is last day of membership)

Deborah Bradel - 01/31/2010
Arthur Garwin - 01/31/2010
Dee Giese - 01/31/2010
John Hanzel - 01/31/2010
Joanne Klumpp - 01/31/2010
Kerry Malm - 01/31/2010
Yvette Mulryan - 01/31/2010
Laurence Nelligan - 01/31/2010
Gretchen Oie - 01/31/2010
Delores Simon - 01/31/2010
Ted Zillmer - 01/31/2010

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)
Jennifer Connolly - 11/30/2009
John Edmonson - 11/30/2009
Tracy Fioretti - 11/30/2009

Our chapter currently has 212 members

Don't Let Your Membership Lapse. . .

Be sure to renew so you won't miss receiving a newsletter.

Call 1-888- GOLFMATE (1-888-465-3628)

Life in the Trap by Rick Newell



ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — JANUARY, 2010

Kicking-off Twenty Ten

Valentine's Day: Sunday, February 14th, 2010

"*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, some chapters have borrowed the headline and created an annual golf outing with the same name. It initially was played on a weekend day on or around Valentine's Day each year as a way to interest new members and to get the season kicked-off, but occasionally, chapters move it to a different month due to weather.

But think about the publicity! Whether it's cold or not, love is a year-round thing. So what if you "call it a day" after six-holes of golf? The crazier your event is, the more likely the article in the newspaper is going to attract more interested readers who'll hopefully join or pass along the message to friends who play golf and are single.

Do you want to let this date slide by and wait for a date of a mundane month to "kick-off" (yawn) an event that won't get any publicity? I could imagine the new headlines about this group of golfers who are crazy about each other enough (and the game of golf) to attempt to play golf when the ground is frozen.

So think about running your "*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.

If you need help writing your press release, contact us at the national headquarters. This event can get your other information to help you get a new tradition going for your chapter for 2010 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 thank 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 known as committee chairs. Your chapter should have by now your four key committees organized

for 2010: 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*. This organization is 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 every 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. 26-28, 2010

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. Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/WinterChill. For a list of all other upcoming multi-chapter weekend events, go to SinglesGolf.com/events

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