

CHICAGO SINGLES GOLF

Chicago, Illinois Chapter - American Singles Golf Association - February 2012

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE SPRING (WELL, ALMOST)!

A Letter From Our President, Christine (Chris) E. Coyne:

We certainly have been blessed by a mild January. Hopefully, I haven't put a jinx on the weather! I decided to take some lessons during the winter months. There is so much to think about in so little time before you hit that darn ball! What's been a bonus is that I have had the chance to practice what I have learned at my lesson with our ASGA group at the Links and Tees Dome in Addison on Sundays. Think about coming out on Sundays. Check out the email blasts for the dates and times that we will be at the Dome.

The new 2012 ASGA Board had its first meeting at the Dome in Addison on Sunday, January 15. Treasurer, **Michael Daugherty**, presented income statements and balance sheets for the beginning of this year. Golf Chair, **Bill Forcade**, led a discussion with the board which pertained to the type, location and cost of courses that we want to offer to our members. Social Chair, **Penny Link**, presented some great social activities for our group. By the time you get this newsletter, one of the events will have taken place which is Bunco Night at **JoAnn Graske's** home. It

will be one multi-tasking affair! We'll be eating, drinking, talking and rolling dice! Make sure that you read the weekly blasts sent out by **Ken Kusimoto** for updates on other social outings. **Tim Ryan, Nancy Hill** and **Nancy Pierz** participated in our talks to find ways to make your ASGA Chapter a viable group and a group that you look forward to spending time with in the upcoming months. The board will be meeting in February at the Dome in Addison so you have the opportunity to share your thoughts with us, if you care to do so. If you cannot make it to the meeting, consider coming after the meeting and working on your golf game.

Let's think spring, think green and future good times with our fellow ASGAs!!

A Report from Golf Chair, Bill Forcade:

We are in the process of scheduling courses for the 2012 season. Originally, I began negotiations with the four major course management companies (who manage over 40 courses in the Chicago-land area), hoping that agreeing to sign up for multiple courses might result in a discount. That has not proven success-

ful. The 2 smaller management companies have declined to return my repeated calls. The two larger management companies have explained that course costs have risen significantly in the last few years, but the economy has required them to keep costs essentially the same. Therefore, discounts are highly unlikely. Essentially, we must pay their asking price or go to another course. We probably could get a discount for a large outing on a weekday, but not weekends.

I also pursued discounts if we held our after golf dinner at the course. They will allow some discounts on the cost of dinner but only if we agree to their catering for a set number of people and on a set menu. If we book 40 we would need to feed 40 with the same meal for all. I do not see these options as favorable.

Therefore I intend to simply book courses at the stated cost for outings, without dinner. Coordinators can choose local restaurants (or the golf course dining room) as they see fit.

Another issue came to light. Several courses require a written contract specifically stating that ASGA will be financially responsible for any and all damage on the course and the conduct of any member of the ASGA outing. Past contracts may have

NATIONAL OFFICE INFORMATION

Upcoming Events Include (see SinglesGolf.com/events)

- Golf Cruise to the Caribbean - Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/Cruise - February 25, 2012 for 7 nights
- Orlando & Ft. Lauderdale's Sunshine Fling Weekend in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Feb. 17-19, 2012. Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/SunshineFling
- Wilmington's Beach Blast - Wilmington, NC - March 16-18, 2012. Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/BeachBlast

Office Hours: 9:00am to 2:00pm, M-F (Eastern)

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

LOCAL CHAPTER INFORMATION

Next Mingle: TBD

Mingle Location: TBD

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/>

included such language but it was not discussed by prior Boards. The Board directed that I attempt to negotiate any such clause out of the contracts, and approve all contracts before signing. Some courses have responded favorably, some have not.

Finally, we are trying to schedule most regular events with a starting time around noon. Some of the feedback from the survey was that a noon starting time would allow those who live far away to get to the course with a reasonable departure time. Also, earlier tee times inhibit the traditional after golf dinner.

The Coordinator's meeting will be scheduled for a Saturday in April. Stay tuned for further details.

What fun we've been having!

Thanks to all the ASGA folks who came out to play Bunco at **Joanne Graskes** this past Saturday night. A great time was had by all and we believe this is the beginning of many Bunco nights to come. A special thanks to **Deb Brice** and **Joanne Graskes** for the the golf themed decorations that gave us a feel of golf even though there was snow on the ground! **Chris Coyne** was the Bunco Winner and took home a dozen Pro VI Golf Balls. She certainly knows how to throw the dice! A great time!

Chili Cook Off

Bring your best pot of Chili and compete with the rest of the gang at our Chili Cook Off!

Come Join your fellow ASGA members for a Winter Chili Cook Off and Beer Tasting on Saturday, February 25th at **Cathy Hill's** home in St Charles, IL.

All participants can bring their chili in a crock pot. There is room for 4 pots on the kitchen stove, but crock pots will make it easier. Prizes will be awarded. Those who are not participating in the chili cook off are requested to bring beverages, appetizers or dessert.

The festivities will begin at 6:00PM. Cathy lives about 4 blocks from Mill Creek Golf Course. Her address is:

Cathy Hill
39W037 Herrington Blvd S
Geneva, IL 60134
[630-546-1564](tel:630-546-1564)

Please RSVP to cathyllhill@gmail.com and let us know what you will be bringing to the party!

Fondue Fest

Dust off your Fondue Pots and head out to Hinsdale where we will have a **Fondue Fest** on Saturday March 24th.

Chris Coyne is hosting this first time event at her home. If you have the fondue pot, we have the recipe.

We will have cheesy fondue offerings and fondues for fresh vegetables, meats, seafoods and even dessert fondues.

Be on the lookout for updates and be certain to save the date for Saturday, March 24th.

Cinco de Mayo

Come celebrate the start of the 2012 golf season and Cinco de Mayo on the same day.

The **2012 ASGA kick off** event will be on May 5th, when we will celebrate with a Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Save the date and we will follow up with lot's of great information in the next newsletter.

2012 SPRING GOLF TRIP— APRIL 11-15:

It is sad but true. . . **Tom U.** is unable to organize our spring golf trip this year. **Robin Rash** agreed to do her best to put something together that will keep up Tom's long tradition of great trips. This year, we've selected sunny Tucson as our destination. Weather at this time is around 80* during the day, cooler at night due to high altitude, but never any rain!

What we have planned is:

- **Wednesday, April 11:** arrival day; golf at Ventana (Canyon Course) \$79. www.ventanacanyongolf.com The times start at 1:00 p.m.; dinner TBD.
- **Thursday, April 12:** golf at Ventana (Mountain Course) \$99 in the morning www.ventanacanyongolf.com; afternoon free for sightseeing; dinner at Casa Molina www.casamolina.com
- **Friday, April 13:** Golf Club at Vistoso (\$70) in the morning www.vistosogolf.com; afternoon free for sightseeing; dinner at Lil Abners Steakhouse www.yelp.com/biz/lil-abners-steakhouse-tucson

- **Friday, April 14:** Golf at Ritz Carlton Dove Mountain; tee times start at noon (\$119) www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/DoveMountain. This is the home of the Accenture Match Play held every February. Since I realize this may be a little steep for some, I can offer as an alternative Arizona National Golf Course (home of the U. of A. golf team) by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. for \$70 in the morning or \$60 after 1:30 pm. www.arizonanationalgolfclub.com. Dinner TBD.

All air and ground transportation is on your own. American and Southwest have good, direct flights that will get you in to Tucson in plenty of time for a 1:00 tee time on Wednesday. Southwest also has a good air/car deal if you want to plan your trip with a few friends. Hotel is planned to be Fairfield Inn in Oro Valley, \$89 per night, includes hot breakfast. I am looking for location that is a little more central to Tucson's night life, but at approximately that same rate, and so this might change. There is so much to see and do in Tucson!

Since time is short, please let **Robin** know as soon as you can whether you are able to be part of this trip. Email her at robinrash@aol.com if you have comments or questions. Thanks to **Tom** and **Tim** for their help and support.

From Tim Dowling, Handicap Chairman

The golf season is just around the corner so now is the time to renew your CDGA membership. Didn't have one in 2011... then now is the time to join and start tracking your game.

The renewal process is quick and easy. Just go to "your caddie" at www.CDGA.org and click "renew". The cost is \$20 for membership and a \$2.50 Internet processing fee. At that time you can also upgrade to Gold membership for an additional \$19.50. The Gold membership provides you additional benefits including discounted green fees at Member Day events, magazine discounts and you will also earn "Loyalty Points" every time you play a Member course. The loyalty points can be used to purchase CDGA logo wear and more.

If you were registered with another

CDGA club in 2011 or have gone more than a year without renewing I can transfer you to the ASGA Chicago Golf Club for just \$20. This is a savings of 30% over most "green grass" member courses.

If you have never had a handicap, now is the time to start. The benefits of having a certified handicap include being able to play in the ASGA Chicago Ryder Cup, the Michigan Challenge and the Club Championships. Also, there are local CDGA competitions and of course, travel destinations that require a certified handicap to play their courses. The cost is only \$20.

To get a registration form, go to www.asgachicago.org click on "Event Organizers" in the tool bar and click on HandicapRegistrationForm.doc, download the form, print it, fill it out and mail it, along with a \$20 check made out to ASGA Chicago, to me at the address on the form. I will register you and send you directions to get yourself up and running.

Also, the CDGA has developed a great app so you can post scores, look up golf courses, and see and print your Handicap Label. More information is available at www.CDGA.org

About Our Members

Happy Birthday to these members:

Debora Braun - 03/12
 Kathy Braun - 02/17
 Jennifer Connolly - 02/12
 Elizabeth Cummings - 02/14
 Lyn Dickinson - 03/14
 Tim Dowling - 02/08
 Martell Gangler - 02/09
 Susan Herman - 02/28
 Penny Link - 02/12
 Douglas MacFarlane - 03/13
 Louise Malmin - 02/04
 Fred McEwen - 02/09
 Stephen Mueller - 03/02
 Margaret Muller - 02/12
 Janet Nigrelli - 03/06
 Margaret Onken - 02/10
 Nancy Pierz - 03/03
 Judy Reinhardt - 02/14
 Tim Ryan - 03/08
 Richelle Schneider - 02/19
 Madelon Silgalis - 03/02
 Jay Thompson - 03/07
 Sandra Trilli - 02/01

Tom Ullsperger - 02/20
 Stephanie Whitman - 03/15
 Peter Wisniewski - 03/04

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

Carol Browne - 02/29/2012
 Dennis Cowhey - 02/29/2012
 Sue Cronin - 02/29/2012
 Nancy Ellis - 02/29/2012
 Margaret Quinn - 02/29/2012
 Carol Reichart - 02/29/2012
 Joe Torcivia - 02/29/2012
 Jim Voinovich - 02/29/2012

Welcome newest members:

Lori-Jo Fergle - Joined 01/17/2012
 Donna Freeland - Joined 01/02/2012
 Frank Hollesen - Joined 12/22/2011
 Elyse Stuart - Joined 01/24/2012

These members recently renewed:

Pam Baldwin
 Christine Coyne
 Marcy Dub
 Bill Forcade
 Arthur Garwin
 Gretchen Oie
 Scott Wilson
 Ted Zillmer

These members did not renew their dues:

(date shown is date membership expired)
 Michele McKinney - 12/31/2011

Our chapter currently has 185 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)**

ASGA NATIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SINGLES GOLF ASSOCIATION — FEBRUARY, 2012

Meet More Singles: Grow Your Chapter!

Declining Membership: We Can Talk About It, or . . . do something about it.

Membership in the national association has remained in the same place for the past three years, about 3300 members. In the past 19 years, right at 35,000 people have joined our 75 chapters around the country.

But the point of this article is not the national picture, but your local one. I've said many times that "singles want to meet other quality singles . . . in quantity." You don't want to go to a general membership meeting and see the same 11 people you saw last month. You want to see new faces. As with all organizations, this doesn't happen automatically.

We're all consumers. Look at how and why you go about making decisions. Look at the reasons why, when you first heard of the American Singles Golf Association, you joined. You had an image in your mind that this just might be a good fit for your life. Golfers seem to be nice people. They're not bowlers. There's etiquette in the game and there's social etiquette in the game of meeting other singles.

People ask me: How can you help our chapter grow. Membership is down. People have gotten "married-off." (Is that the same thing as getting married?) I usually reply by asking them to go to our online "grow" page: www.SinglesGolf.com/grow

"Great idea," you think. The next time I'm on the computer, I'll go there. But if you don't, and if you're seriously interested in seeing growth in your chapter, here's what I have found actually works.

But First . . .

Each chapter has a Membership Chairperson. The assigned duties of that person is to **head a committee** to do the following:

- a) **activate a new member** when he or she joins. Don't just collect the check. See that they get involved right away. If your chapter has a weakness, get them involved in joining a committee to fix the problem;
- b) **retain existing members.** ASGA National bills existing members one month prior to their dues period ending. But you won't get someone to renew their dues if you haven't seen them in six months. Watch for who's coming up for renewal in 3-4 months and make sure they are participating and benefiting from their membership; and
- c) **create membership growth.** Without new people joining, your chapter is dying. Don't wait until you're on your last breath before you head to the fitness center.

Our Tampa Bay chapter recently requested a spreadsheet of all

prior members so they could contact them and get them to join again. The list contained almost 700 names of former members, of which over 400 had email addresses. Divide the work-load up and make a concerted effort to get these "lost souls" involved in your chapter again. To get a list for your chapter, simply email Irene@SinglesGolf.com.

Growth

Over the past years, two things stand out which created a large amount of members in a short period of time. Timing is everything. If you're going to do something, make it happen at the **beginning of the golf season**, not the end. Some chapters have done this around Valentine's Day, although it may be a bit chilly for our northern chapters. So maybe April Fool's may be appropriate!

1) **Involve your local newspaper in your chapter.** They're looking for fun things to write about, things that their readers would enjoy reading about. At the beginning of your golf season, have a big turnout. Invite former members. Find out who writes feature articles for your local paper and get them to join your threesome for a round of golf. Make sure he brings a photographer and the photographer has his own golf cart. Your goal is to see a "Love on the Links" or a "Birdies and the Bees" type article to appear in your Sunday features section. This has happened before and the national office has received 100-400 calls over the next week. More details on this approach at www.SinglesGolf.com/Valentine

2) **Grow quickly from a golf show booth.** Last year, Denver signed-up 25 members in two days. It was amazing what one of our newest chapters could do. For details, head over to www.SinglesGolf.com/GolfShow to see how they did it and how you can get ASGA National to pay for a large portion of this booth.

Our Cruise and Other Great Events

We still have room for more on our Caribbean cruise. Go to www.SinglesGolf.com/cruise for details. 65 already signed-up.

Our Orlando & Ft. Lauderdale chapters are hosting the Sunshine Fling, February 17-18. Our Wilmington, NC chapter is hosting their Beach Blast Weekend, March 16-18. We hope to have our Ireland website up by February 10 and Sacramento's doing their Gold Country Classic May 4-5. Memorial Day survey out soon. Details at www.SinglesGolf.com/events

Finally, welcome to our new Chapter Presidents and Board members! Let's have a great year ahead!

- Tom Alsop, President / Founder
American Singles Golf Association
GolfASGA@aol.com