

DUGOUT CHATTER

Golden Seniors Online: www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org

NEW LIFE MEMBERS WILL BE INDUCTED FEB. 11

Eleven veteran ballplayers, whose skills and dedication to the sport have withstood the ravages of time, form the Golden Seniors Softball Club's Life Membership Class of 2019.

They will be inducted at the club's general meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monday Feb. 11 at the VFW Post 67 Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd. Families and friends are invited to attend.

These are the inductees, eligible with at least 15 years of continuous membership and 75 years of age, or 10 years and 80 years of age:

Russ Barnes, 75 and 24 years; Dave Bristol, 75 and 23 years; Michael Jordan, 75 and 25 years; Patrick Morrison, 75 and 16 years; Richard O'Brien 82 and 10 years; Bret Wangan, 76 and 15 years; Bob McGee, 80 and 10 years; Vincent Pisani, 89 and 10 years; Patton Schell, 80 and 10 years; Jim Stokes, 75 and 20 years, and Dan Tajbl, 80 and 10 years.

Share the moment with these club stalwarts, and have a slice of cake, too.

Club President Bill Hill announced the Life Member ceremony at the Jan. 14 general meeting. Other news from that meeting:

2019 Season Signups. Player Agent Dave Tanner said that compared to last year, "probably twice as many new players are contacting me this year" but there is the perennial problem of lagging signups for night leagues.

As usual, signups for the Monday and Tuesday day leagues are outpacing the night leagues, and Tanner urged members to "hustle" with renewal applications and recruitment efforts. The sooner the target numbers for four- or six-team leagues are achieved, the earlier league drafts can be scheduled for the 2019 season. Managers will select players during February with the season's first games the week of March 18.

"The older we get, the earlier we sign up," observed Tanner as the club's 70-and-over Leagues 1 and 7, which play Monday mornings at Howe Park, seem on track to reach targets of 52 for four 13-player teams. L1 had 45 signups as of mid-January, while L7 had 49. The 75-and-over L8 on Tuesday had 37 signups; the 80-and-over L9 had 32.

Also looking good for the target of 78 players (six teams of 13 players) were the Tuesday morning L2 and L6 at the Complex. L2 had 58 signups; L6 had 66.

(SEE PAGE 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

New Life Members; 16 Members Take Course in CPR, AED and First Aid; Sunshine & Health: Rest in Peace Marino Del Chiaro, Ed Keenan, Perry O'Laughlin; Club Sponsors; Club Contacts.

Next General Meetings: Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m. at VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd.

NEWS FROM JAN. 14 GENERAL MEETING, FROM PAGE 1

Signups for the three night leagues at the Complex were tracking about the same as last year, when the club had to step up recruiting efforts. The target is enough to field six teams, but as of mid-January, Tuesday night L3 had 19; L4 Wednesday night, 29, and L5 Thursday night, 20.

Tanner said player applications are available online at the club's new website, www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org, or he can be reached at 916 216-1941, and he will put one in the mail. Club dues and league fees can be paid via PayPal or by check.

Sponsors Needed. Rocky Wilkerson, club 1st vice president, said more sponsorships are needed as he prepared to send about 30 renewal letters for 2019. "We need to maintain sponsorships or have to increase dues and fees," he said. New team sponsorships are \$300, while returning sponsorships are \$250. Wilkerson said he offers discounts for sponsors opting to pay for two- or three-year commitments. He can be reached at 916 595-2941 for more sponsorship details.

Jerseys and Balls. Bob Smartt, 2nd VP, said hats with the club's new logo have been ordered, along with Stote microcell balls, which made their Golden Seniors debut in last September's league championship games and were well-received.

Smartt said 16 sets of new jerseys have been ordered as the club continues to replace those that are deemed too worn or to accommodate new sponsors.

Club Finances. Treasurer Don Wall said the club has increased league fees to maintain a prudent surplus and cautioned that more fee hikes may be considered, spread over two years. Club Secretary Deanna Sesso said she has been informed that the Softball Complex and Howe Park are not increasing league fees for the third straight year.

Playing Rules. Club Commissioner Bob Ellison said the meeting on playing rules "went real well" to clean-up and clarify language. There were no major changes and the club is getting ready to redo the rule book this or next year.

Golden Seniors on the Web. The new website has been up since December and will have news, schedules, standings and player statistics, as well as information about sponsors.

President Bill Hill said he is putting a website management group together for the site that includes links to past issues of the

Dugout Chatter. Members are reminded that the Fall 2018 edition of the DC covered September's league championship games and season batting leaders, including the club's overall batting champion.

Email Blasts. The club also communicates with the membership via email for those who have provided their email addresses. The club does not share email addresses.

Email blasts are opened by only 51% of those who get them, which is disappointingly low, Hill said. He urged people to open the email when they see it. For example, the Dec. 19 email blast noted the Fall Edition of the club newsletter was online and provided the date of the next general meeting. "If you don't get the club email, make sure the club has your correct email address. You might also check your 'junk' email," Hill said. #

SIXTEEN MEMBERS TAKE CLUB SAFETY COURSES

From Club Safety Coordinator Paul Rogers

Sixteen club members this winter completed the American Heart Association's comprehensive training and will join the ranks of members issued red hats so they are readily recognized as certified emergency responders.

These classes are a very good learning experience that showed us how to react in an emergency on and off the softball field. We learned basic first aid, CPR and AED procedures and skills to apply in the emergency.

They are taught how to react during the vital time before paramedics can arrive. The club-financed training has been credited with helping to save lives in recent years and the club Board of Directors has made it a priority.

These are the new or recertified Red Hat First Aid responders: J.C. Terry, Chuck Knutson, Mike Pouncy, Rocky Wilkerson, Arnold Wilkerson, Lyman Rose, Jack Warren, Ron Roach, Paul Rogers, Rose Gong, Rick Bingham, George Lamb, Gary Moreno, Tom Bussey, John Long and Dave Tanner.

The club provides a red "crash cart," containing a defibrillator, at Howe Park and the Sacramento Softball Complex. We will have very basic first aid supplies in our carts. If you use first aid supplies, you **MUST REPORT IT TO A RED HAT FIRST AID RESPONDER**. We will need to get the information on the incident that happened and replenish first aid supplies that are used.

It also is highly recommended that you, as a ballplayer, bring the needed items that you feel you may need for an incident that could happen while you are playing ball.

Members interested in this training can contact me at 916 206-1605. When we have enough interest, I will request more funding from the board and arrange for the day-long course. Certification is good for two years. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: MARINO DEL CHIARO, JIM KEENAN, PERRY O'LAUGHLIN, JOANNA KLINE, DOROTHY MACIEL

In the final weeks of 2018, the club lost three longtime Golden Seniors ballplayers: Life Member Marino Del Chiaro, Life Member Jim Keenan and Perry O'Laughlin.

The club sends condolences to the families of Marino, Jim and Perry, and also to survivors of the wives of two members: Joanna Reese Kline, wife of Joe, who died Dec. 7 at the age of 89, and Dorothy Maciel, wife of Don Maciel, who died on Nov. 16.

Del Chiaro, who was 88, passed away on Dec. 29. He was an early member of the club, dating back to 1987, and played through 2010. His son, Bob, played in the club and can still be seen umpiring tournaments in Northern California. Marino's nephew, Rich, has played in the Golden Seniors since 1998. Marino's survivors include Beverly, his wife of 69 years.

Keenan, a life member who joined the club in 1997, passed away on Dec. 28, reported his wife, Irma. James R. Keenan would have been 85 on Jan. 12.

O'Laughlin was 73 when he died of a heart attack suffered while duck hunting on Dec. 16. His passions were hunting, fishing, softball and building birdhouses, according to a life tribute in the Sacramento Bee. He was known for his "jokes, poems and outrageous personality." As a member of Tanner & Associates, he had key hits to help win the League 1 championship last September. "I really miss Perry. He was a great teammate and a lot of fun to be around," said his manager, Chuck Knutson. Perry joined the club in 2001.
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SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

ABOUT THE DUGOUT CHATTER. The club newsletter is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The online edition on the club's website generally contains photos and more articles than the print edition, which has limited space and is mailed to those who lack Internet access. Members who get the DC via regular mail and prefer the online version need to contact Dave Tanner (916-216-1941). #

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

Here are our paid sponsors as of mid-January for 2019, according to Rocky Wilkerson, club first vice president:

AUTOMATED ELECTRIC
AVALON HEARING
BERTOLUCCI'S AUTO BODY & REPAIR
JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTING
DIBO (TONY DiBERNARDO)
EG THREADS
EH LOCK & SAFE
ESPANOL ITALIAN FAMILY RESTAURANT
GEORGE GROSS
GEREMIA POOLS
GSSA (GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSN.)
HARPER PROPERTIES
BILL HILL (2)
JERRY JODICE
JOLLY ROGER (BOB ROGERS)
LARRY'S PLUMBING
LA ROSA'S SPORTS CAFE
LIVINGSTON CONCRETE
L&S SURVEY
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING
NIELSEN PROPERTIES & APPRAISAL (2)
OVERHEAD DOOR OF SACRAMENTO, INC
PHOTO FINISH
RAMBIT (RAY A. MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND TAX)
RDR FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.
REINWALD INSURANCE
SAM'S HOFBRAU
SHOWBIZ PRODUCTIONS
SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS
TANNER & ASSOCIATES
TRI C MACHINE (2)
VFW POST 67
MARK WHITE DDS
WURM & FRYE WEALTH MANAGEMENT
YANCEY CO.

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CLUB CONTACTS: BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2019 -- President: Bill Hill ... 916-804-2243. First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson .. 916-595-2941 (Responsible for team sponsorships.) Second Vice President: Bob Smartt ... 916-973-8269 (Responsible for team uniforms, balls.) Treasurer: Don Wall ... 916-434-8308. Secretary: Deanna Sesso ... 916-955-8195. Player Agent: Dave Tanner ... 916-216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists). Club Commissioner: Bob Ellison ... 916-212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, appoints and oversees league commissioners). Club Safety Coordinator: Paul Rogers ... 916-206-1605 (Responsible for club safety equipment (AED-equipped Crash Carts) and organizing member training in first aid, CPR, AED to be members of the Club's Red Hat Emergency Responders).

TELEPHONE HOTLINE Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso): 916-491-1721 for meeting dates and field conditions. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269. GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 916-422-2500. #