

DUGOUT CHATTER

Golden Seniors Online: www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org

EMERGENCY CALL FOR TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

President Bill Hill has issued an urgent call for volunteers to fill the pending vacancies for club commissioner and first vice president. "This is really an emergency situation," he said, "and it needs to be addressed as soon as possible."

Normally, nominations for the seven board positions occur at the July general meeting. Five of the officers have agreed to serve another term if re-elected on Aug. 12. Nominations could be made from the floor at that general meeting, starting at 7 p.m. at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard.

Club Commissioner Bob Ellison and 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson have made it no secret that they do not want to serve another term, according to Hill, who notes each has served four terms.

"Four years are enough," he said, and other board members, including Hill, have served multiple terms. Hill believes it would be damaging to the club if board majority steps down at the same time.

Continuing in their positions would be Hill, 2nd VP Bob Smartt, Treasurer Don Wall, Secretary Deanna Sesso, and Player Agent Dave Tanner.

A year ago, Wilkerson had declared intent to serve just one more year. Ellison has said he was serving through 2019 as long as the board remained intact.

The 1st VP is responsible for recruiting and maintaining team sponsors, providing more than \$7,000 a year for the club and helping to keep dues or league fees as low as possible.

The club commissioner is responsible for recruiting league commissioners to appoint team managers, and enforcing playing rules. Disputes not settled by league commissioners and team managers are decided by the club commissioner.

Club growth, mainly additional day leagues, has added to the workload of the club commissioner. One concept under consideration is to have one club commissioner for night leagues; another for day leagues. (See Page 2)

IN THIS SUMMER 2019 ISSUE: Vote set on lowering night league age for membership; Bill Hill selected for NCSSA Hall of Fame; Sunshine & Health Report; Rose and Quenga among club's top batters while Watson flirts with Quenga's club record. Next General Meeting: 7 p.m., Aug. 12, at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd.

EMERGENCY NEED FOR BOARD MEMBERS (From Page 1)

Hill said that years ago, when he stepped down as president of the South Placer County senior club in Roseville, a successor could not be found. To this day, he said, the club presidency is vacant and a committee was formed to provide leadership.

Members interested in helping to manage the Golden Seniors should contact Hill or any board member. Contact information is elsewhere in this newsletter and on the club website. #

NIGHT LEAGUE LOWER MINIMUM AGE UP FOR VOTE

Club directors have placed a proposed by-law change for membership approval at the Aug. 12 general meeting that would help the club attract more members young enough to sustain the organization.

The proposal to lower the minimum age for 2020 season applicants was discussed at the July general meeting.

The club, now in its 40th year, must take steps to recruit more night leaguers, men as young as 48, and women as young as 40. Currently, in the night leagues, men can join during the year they turn 50 and women can belong in the year of their 45th birthday.

President Bill Hill said a committee appointed early this year found that the club needs more members in the night leagues who can form an ongoing, sustaining membership to benefit all leagues, night and day.

There is no plan to reduce the eligibility ages for the older day leagues, Hill stressed during discussion of the proposed by-law.

Over time, the goal is to return to the times when the night leagues all had six teams and waiting lists of newcomers, and eventually, as these players age, they provide a larger pool of players for the older day leagues.

The chronic shortage of night leaguers in their fifties prompted club directors to form a committee to consider courses of action, chief among them recruitment of younger players.

Hill said the club needs to be competitive with other softball clubs or leagues that allow younger players. Once they get established in another league, it is harder for the Golden Seniors to win them over when they turn 50, Hill explained.

Once the by-law is approved, the club can update 2020 season player applications and prepare fliers for a recruitment campaign. Plans include distributing fliers and applications to potential players at various recreational league venues and to have information at health clubs and RiverCats games.

CLUB BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED TO LOWER MINIMUM AGE FOR NIGHT LEAGUES (FROM PAGE 2)

Hill said the club's board will set league-by-league age limits, and stressed that there is no interest in reducing the day league age requirements of 60 for men and 55 for women in the Tuesday day L2 and L6 at the Sacramento Softball Complex, or for any of the day leagues at Howe Park, where women as young as 60 can play regardless of the minimum age for men (70 in L1 and L7) on Mondays. The Tuesday Howe Park L8 and L9 age requirements also remain the same.

The proposed amendment reads: "Article III, Section 1. Membership, would read: Any male who will be 48 years of age by Dec. 31 of the playing year and any female who will be 40 years of age by Dec. 31 of the playing year and resides in the greater Sacramento area may apply for membership in the club."

Hill noted that the GSSCS must compete with other senior softball clubs in the region that open their membership to younger players. "Woodland has been at 48 for years and Stanislaus is at 45. "We need to keep pace so we can compete." Just 10 more players would have enabled one of the club's night leagues to have an even number of teams.

"This will help us in recruiting for the night leagues. We only have two women on Thursday night and only four on Wednesday night," he said. Couples will sign up together if they can be on the same team, which is more likely when the husband is 48 and the woman is often a few years younger.

Player Agent Dave Tanner reported that new player applications have been trickling in and, except for the Tuesday day leagues, "we're still looking for players." Players can join during the 2019 season with pro-rated fees.

At least one member questioned whether 40-year-olds should be considered senior softball players, but Hill replied that players in their forties are considered seniors by national softball organizations.

Other news from the July meeting:

Safety. Club Safety Chairman Paul Rogers reported that safety classes have concluded for 2019 and plans will be made for 2020. He also urged team managers (and league commissioners) to inform him when a player is injured and when items, such as bandages or ice packs, are used from the club's supplies in the red "crash carts."

It was reiterated that it is the runner's responsibility to avoid collisions on the base paths and runners will be called out when the umpire judges that the runner could have avoided contact.

(See Page 4) .

MEETING NEWS, FROM PAGE 3

Equipment. Bob Smartt announced that he has ordered league championship shirts (white for 2019). He also said that he has acquired club logo patches that members can have attached to their own floppy brim hats that provide better sunburn protection. Contact Smartt for details.

Sponsorships. Rocky Wilkerson reported several additional sponsors — two teams by Bob Nielsen and another team by Bill Hill. This allows the club to meet its \$7,800 budgeted income from sponsorships.

Rules. Ellison said he is getting updated rules posted on the website, www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org.

Giants Game Trip. Hill said he is in contact with club sponsor Sports Leisure Vacations about a bus excursion to a San Francisco Giants game. Assuming a game date can be worked out, details will be forthcoming. #

BILL HILL IS HALL-OF-FAMER

Congratulations to Golden Seniors President Bill Hill for his selection to the Northern California Senior Softball Association's Hall of Fame.

NCSSA President Bob Fernandez informed Hill in May that he is a member of the Hall's Class of 2019. The induction ceremonies will be held during the NCSSA's annual Hall of Fame Tournament in August.

"Each year, the NCSSA selects for induction those individuals whose contributions both on and off the field over a significant period of time have been exceptional," according to Fernandez. They have "demonstrated strong character, outstanding leadership and dedication as a player, manager and /or volunteer in efforts to enhance NCSSA and senior softball."

Hill, who has served as president of the Golden Seniors for a number of years, also has been at the helm of a senior club in South Placer County and has stepped up to lead the Tournament Players Association. He is a sponsor, manager and player on multiple Golden Seniors club teams as well as travel teams. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

George Hodsdon reported the passing of Life Member Louis Cerutti, 83, on June 3. Lou joined the Golden Seniors in June 1989. He also played on travel teams, winning four world series championship rings.

Sunshine and Health Chair Trudy Smartt noted at the July 8 general meeting that the daughter of Frank Newcross has passed away. She was in her 40s. Condolences to Frank, who plays Mondays and Tuesdays, and his family. #

CLUB AWARD OF MERIT FOR 2019

Dante Ciardella announced at the July meeting that the committee of prior recipients of the annual Award of Merit will gather Friday, Sept. 6 to determine who will be honored this year for service to the club.

The 2019 awards, celebrating volunteer, unpaid efforts benefiting the club, will be unveiled at the club's season-ending picnic on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Sacramento Softball Complex. The picnic follows league championship playoff games. Past recipients who can attend the luncheon meeting at Espanol Italian Restaurant, 57th and Folsom Boulevard, need to RSVP to Ciardella at 916 453-1921. The lunch starts at noon but attendees are urged to arrive early enough to put in their orders.

Any club member may nominate someone for the award, and should do so by email to Ron Roach (coachrwr@comcast.net), including a note on why that member should be considered.

Dante also said he will volunteer to run the picnic raffle and will be looking for volunteers to help sell tickets. #

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).#

TELEPHONE HOTLINE 916 491-1721, managed by Deanna Sesso, has meeting news, playing field conditions.

NEW ADDRESS OR CONTACT INFO. Contact Player Agent Dave Tanner, who manages the club data base and also is the contact for player applications, both for new members and renewals.

UNIFORM HATS AND JERSEYS. Caps, including bucket style and visors with club logo and jerseys of team sponsors are provided by the club. Members who buy their own floppy hats for added protection from sunburn, can request club logo patches to attach. Pitchers must use face masks. Players use their own bats and should be aware of restrictions. Ask your team manager so you don't invest in a bat that cannot be used in leagues 1, 8 and 9. Senior Softball USA-approved 1.21 bats are generally allowed in leagues 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!

Paid sponsors for 2019. From Rocky Wilkerson, club first vice president:

AUTOMATED ELECTRIC

AVALON HEARING

JOHN BRENDEL CONSULTING

CLUB RAVEN

DIBO (TONY DiBERNARDO)

EG THREADS

ELK GROVE LOCK & SAFE

ESPANOL ITALIAN FAMILY RESTAURANT

GEORGE GROSS

GSSA (GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSN.)

HARPER PROPERTIES

BILL HILL (2)

HILLTOP TAVERN BAR

JERRY JODICE

JOLLY ROGERS (BOB ROGERS)

LARRY'S PLUMBING

LA ROSA'S SPORTS CAFE (2)

LIVINGSTON CONCRETE

MERRILL BOOKKEEPING

NIELSEN PROPERTIES & APPRAISAL (2)

OLD SOUL CO. @ 40 ACRES IN OAK PARK

OVERHEAD DOOR OF SACRAMENTO, INC

PHOTO FINISH

RAMBIT (RAY A. MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND TAX)

RDR FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

REINWALD INSURANCE

SAM'S HOFBRAU

SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

TANNER & ASSOCIATES

VFW POST 67

YANCEY CO.

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CLUB LEADERS THROUGH WEEK OF JULY 8-11

ROSE IS HAVING A MONSTER SEASON IN THREE LEAGUES

Lyman Rose sports the highest batting average in two of the three leagues in which he plays — .896 in L6, .784 in L5 — and he'd be ahead in L2 at .820, except for Darryl Watson's amazing .933 mark through games of July 8-11. Watson's 28 for 30 batting required two more plate appearances to qualify, which he achieved with two sacrifice flies. He currently is on a pace that would shatter the club record of .910 set last year by Jarvis Quenga in L4.

About 13 games into the season, the number of .800-plus batters has come back to earth, though 19 is still a large number. There were 41 through the week of May 13, when Watson was pacing the club at .938 as one of three hitters above .900.

In L6, Rose had 32 of his 43 hits go for extra bases, including 10 homers, four over the fence.

Quenga is in a tight battle for the Wednesday night batting lead. His .886 is closely followed by John Sissell's .884.

League Leaders: L1 — Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., led with a 9-3 record. L2 — Ray Mendonsa's Sam's Hofbrau led with an 8-4 record, just ahead of VFW and Yancey, both 7-4-1. L3 — Rapid Solutions, managed by Mel Tennyson, led by two games with an 8-3-1 mark. L4 — Rick Cady's RDR Financial Services was 12-2, enjoying a five-game lead. L5 — Bill Hill's team was at 7-4-1, with Automated Electric close behind at 7-5. L6 — Jon Ellison's Espanol (9-3) was one game ahead of Mark White. L7 — Overhead Door, managed by Russ Barnes, had a 2.5-game lead with an 8-4-1 mark; L-8 — Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., had a two-game lead at 10-3-1. L-9 — Ernie Shaffer's ShowBiz Productions led at 9-3, a two-game lead.

Standings for all nine leagues are available on the club website, www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org, as well as batting stats for the seven leagues that use scorekeepers. Updated standings and stats are usually posted online on Sundays. #

CLUB CONTACTS

President Bill Hill 916 804-2243. 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson 916 595-2941. 2nd VP Bob Smartt 916 973-8269. Treasurer Don Wall 916 434-8308. Secretary Deanna Sesso 916 955-8195. Player Agent Dave Tanner 916 216-1941. Club Commissioner Bob Ellison 916 212-7498. Club Safety Coordinator Paul Rogers 916-206-1605. Sunshine and Health Chairperson Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269. Newsletter Editor Ron Roach 916 422-2500.