

# DUGOUT CHATTER

**On the Internet:** [www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org) ... **GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info:** 491-1721

## SENIOR SOFTBALL-USA WOOS GSSCS; BOARD WILL SURVEY MEMBERS ON FUTURE GOVERNANCE ISSUE

Officials from Senior Softball-USA, a Sacramento-based national governance body, delivered a presentation at Golden Seniors board and general meetings on April 6. The discussion prompted a call by the board for a quick mini-survey of members to measure whether GSSCS members would choose the SSUSA over the more restrictive governance of the Amateur Softball Association.

(The mini-survey questions are below. A detailed questionnaire is to be circulated in the near future.) -- *See Page 2.*

### WANT TO SERVE ON THE GOLDEN SENIORS BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

If you are interested in running for a seat on the seven-member Board of Directors, indicate your preference below and give to your manager or league commissioner. Nominations are taken in July and the election is scheduled for the August general meeting. The positions are president, club commissioner, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, secretary and player agent. There is a brief description of duties on the back page of this newsletter. I am interested in running for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ . I am interested in becoming a team manager or league commissioner (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ .

### GOLDEN SENIORS SURVEY: SENIOR SOFTBALL-USA OR AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION?

I PREFER TO PLAY UNDER ASA RULES THAT ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE IN CHOICES OF BATS AND EQUIPMENT. (YES:\_\_\_; NO \_\_\_; NO OPINION \_\_\_ I NEED MORE INFORMATION \_\_\_ .

I PREFER TO PLAY UNDER MORE FLEXIBLE SSUSA RULES. (YES \_\_\_ . NO \_\_\_ . NO OPINION \_\_\_ . I NEED MORE INFORMATION \_\_\_ .)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip this out and give to your team manager. You may also reply via email to Club Commissioner Dave Vargo at [dvargo@frontiernet.net](mailto:dvargo@frontiernet.net).

### DAVE VARGO'S COMMISSIONER CORNER

Thanks to League 1 players Benny Benson and Sam Rispoli for taking on scorer duties on Tuesday mornings for Leagues 2/6/7.

After the first week of play, there have already been nine day- and 18 night-league replacement player assignments.

Select 70 League 7 Team #3 (Hooters) needed replacements for Manager Al Tirapelli and three other players, getting four replacements in one week. Thanks to Henry Low and Tony DiBernardo for serving as acting manager. Select 60 L6 defending champ GSSA lost its manager, Noel Maldonado, for seven games due to travel and assistant manager (the commish) for the year due to knee problems, **(See Page 5)**

### **SENIOR SOFTBALL USA WOOS GSSCS (From Page 1)**

GSSCS, which has had to raise its player fees to cover increases in field rentals at the Sacramento Softball Complex, has been denied permission to use non-ASA certified bats or better balls at the Sacramento Softball Complex, describing it as an insurance issue.

SSUSA President Terry Hennessy (a GSSCS member who plays in League 5) and Steve Simmons, clubs and leagues national director, briefed the board and the general membership on the advantages of their organization, including insurance coverage. Hennessy said the 21-year-old SSUSA is "a senior organization. That's our speciality. That's what we do." It is "dedicated to helping all senior clubs and leagues maintain their independence and grow."

SSUSA is the sanctioning body for the Northern California Senior Softball Association, supplying insurance and rules which allow use of high-performance bats and equipment that are banned at the Sacramento Softball Complex, based on ASA restrictions. Hennessy stated that the complex's ASA-related restrictions are driven by the dimensions of fields, not safety issues.

Meanwhile, the board authorized Club Commissioner Dave Vargo to solicit quotes from other softball venues in the area to compare with rates charged at the Sacramento Complex. Vargo reported that he expects to have rate quotes from at least three facilities within a month or so.

GSSCS President Ray Mendonsa said the board will not act on either a shift in facilities or a move away from ASA without surveying the feelings of members. "The bulk of the membership must support a move from the Complex to more reasonable-priced facilities and a switch in governance, such as USSSA versus ASA, that would give GSSCS freedom to play by its own equipment rules." Two surveys will be prepared, one for Tuesday day leagues and one for night leagues, Mendonsa said.

In other action, the board agreed to publish a notice in the Dugout Chatter to encourage members to step forward and declare interest in running for board positions and serving in appointive posts, such as league commissioner and team manager roles.

Player Agent Tom Sansone reported the club has 522 members, of whom 67 are new. Eight members have dues outstanding, but this number is down from 15 over two weeks.

All leagues except Tuesday nights need additional players for their waiting lists. Sansone said, "Any club member interested in playing in the day leagues or on nights (Wednesday and Thursday) is encouraged to contact me. We can get members onto teams in short order." #

### **CLUB LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2009**

League 1 -- Jim McNamara (424-1402), Asst. George Hodsdon (481-9304); League 2 -- Cloicec Wade (393-5809), Asst. Jim Wait (455-4440); League 3 -- Jerry Toenyas (354-4126), Asst. Bill Knoblauch (408-5501); League 4 -- Dick Mathews (530-672-2689); League 5 -- Monta Litle (606-4776); League 6 -- Victor Torres (784-7910); League 7 -- Larry Campbell (485-4843). #

**2009 General Meetings Schedule: May 4** VFW Hall, 2764 Stockton Blvd. -- (No June Meeting) -- **July 6** (Nominations for 2009-10 Board of Directors) VFW Hall, 2754 Stockton Blvd. -- **August 3** (Election of 2009-10 Board of Directors) VFW Hall, 2754 Stockton Blvd. -- **September 19** (in conjunction with the annual Picnic/Playoffs Saturday at the Sacramento Softball Complex) #

## SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Life Member **Walter King** passed away on March 20 in Concord. He was 91. Walt joined the Golden Seniors in 1981 and played for many years before moving to Nicholas. He was inducted as a life member in 1996.

He played and umpired for about 15 years before moving away from Sacramento but always stayed close to his friends in the Golden Seniors, according to Bill Turner. Walt and his wife, Adel, were frequent visitors to the Monday Day League Christmas luncheons.

Walt was one of five Golden Seniors in their nineties, including Norm Cady, who turned 90 on March 30. Harold Seufert and Harry Sutton will be 91 on Nov. 29 and Sept. 1, respectively.

The oldest Golden Senior, Russ Menke, turned 92 on Jan. 4.

Joe Moreno will celebrate his 90th on May 22.

Other sunshine and health news:

Club Commissioner **Dave Vargo** said he has to shut it down as his knees are so painful he can no longer run. He is having consultations with doctors and contemplating surgery for each knee later this year. He had reduced his former "iron man" multi-league status to one league (League 6) for 2009, and now will be serving as non-playing interim manager of defending champion GSSA.

Former GSSC President **Dan Norton**, sitting out 2009, had recent knee surgery and hopes to be back in 2010. He also wants to participate in the GSSC golf tournament on May 1.

Former GSSC President **Jerry Jodice** has taken leave from his L1 managerial duties with Nielsen Real Estate while he undergoes colon surgery. Joe Sugimoto serves as interim manager.

**Al Tirapelli** (L7 manager) was out of the hospital April 6 following a series of tests.

**Hal Johnson** of L4 had a heart attack and had one stint put in and will have another in a couple weeks.

Life Member **Arnold Disney** had knee surgery on March 3. Also sidelined by a knee operation is Bob Silvas.

Medical concerns have sidelined **Ken Styc** (L4-5) for awhile.

Three L1 players have had to drop out due to knee problems: **Chuck Forsman**, **Michael Votta** and **Charlie McNiff**.

On the brighter side, **Larry Davis** and **Pat Beck** became engaged on March 14 in Hawaii.

Contact Sunshine & Health Chairperson Trudy Smartt with news about GSSC players, past and present (973-8269). #

## ATTENTION SOFTBALL COACHES!!!

Our club needs several community service volunteers to teach softball at local parks to groups of seniors who sign up in a City Recreation program to stay active by playing softball. In addition to helping seniors, these volunteers could increase club membership by encouraging good players at their softball classes to join GSSCS. Interested volunteers for the hours 10 A.M. to noon during some weekdays at local parks, to be determined by enrollment, please contact Larry Campbell, 485-4843. #

### **SAFETY REPORT: ANOTHER TRAINING CLASS IS IN THE WORKS**

The Golden Seniors will have another safety training class for members seeking CPR/AED instruction for field emergencies. Trainees receive a Red Cross certification card and red cap, becoming part of our club's Emergency Trained Personnel crew on softball fields during the 2009 season. Five or more members have thus far indicated an interest in joining our next class in April or May (David Bristol, Ken Dempsey, Joe Kline, John Lack, Mervin Mill, Dick Seward, etc.). The exact date and time have as yet to be determined. Anita and John Lack are trying to set up a meeting place for a Saturday in Sacramento. Contact Ramon Soden (204-8506), Bob Smartt (973-8269) or Allen Riker (485-9567) if you wish to be considered for emergency training classes. -- Jerry Jodice, safety chairman. (Ramon Soden will be in charge of our safety program during my hospitalization.) #

### **GOLDEN SENIORS GOLF TOURNAMENT 2009**

**FRIDAY, MAY 1 (1 p.m. Shotgun Start)**

### **LINCOLN HILLS GOLF CLUB -- FORMAT: SCRAMBLE**

ENTRY FEE: \$75 (INCLUDES SACK LUNCH, GREEN FEES, CART  
REGISTER BY APRIL 15 OR CONTACT GOLF COMMITTEE FOR OPENINGS. MEMBERS  
AND GUESTS ARE ELIGIBLE.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BILL KNOBLAUCH AT 408-5501 OR  
[KNOBBY@ROCKETMAIL.COM](mailto:KNOBBY@ROCKETMAIL.COM); RON ROACH AT 422-2500 OR

[COACHRWR@COMCAST.NET](mailto:COACHRWR@COMCAST.NET); JERRY TOENYES 354-4126; DAN NORTON 689-4505.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ENTER AS A FOURSOME. YOU WILL BE PLACED WITH A GROUP  
NEEDING AN ADDITIONAL PLAYER OR PLAYERS. INDICATE YOUR PARTNERS WHO ARE  
ENTERING ON ANOTHER FORM, E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE TO BE USED TO CONFIRM  
ENTRIES AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS NECESSARY AND WILL NOT BE  
USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

PLAYER 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you donate prizes? \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with check, payable to Golden Seniors Softball or GSSC, to Bill Knoblauch at  
2044 Stonecrest Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 4  
AT 7:30 P.M. -- VFW POST 67 HALL,  
2764 STOCKTON BLVD., SACRAMENTO**

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**Commissioner's Corner -- From Page 1)**

and faces a showdown with Compass Strategies, the league's other 2-0 team, on April 14.

Wednesday night L4 has assigned six replacements to enable each team to reach full roster strength of 12. Long-time L4 Manager Ken Styc has been unable to play (health issues), and we hope Ken resumes play soon. Capable Jim Andres is acting manager. Thursday night L5 has added a 13th player to four of the six teams to bolster strength in the face of injuries, illnesses and other absences.

The commish is trying to arrange exhibition games during the third weeks of May and July, when play at the Complex isn't available due to tournaments. #

**CAUGHT ON THE FLY:**

Bobby Flink, who pound-for-pound may be the strongest Golden Senior even as he hits 69 in years, probably will be among the HR leaders again this year. But he actually whiffed in his first time at bat in the first game of the L2 season. He reportedly laughed it off. A note to those who don't always succeed at the dish: It happens even to the best of us. Don't bet on it happening again soon to Mr. Flink.

Scorekeeper Sandy Begg reports first-week action included homers by Doug Peterson (L6), Emilio "The Flash" Lobato and Steve Schuler (L3) and Ettore Minor (L5). Minor also tripled in the game for Avalon, as did newcomer Lymon Rose. Norm Blackwell Jr. hammered three doubles in his L3 opener. *(Reminder to scorekeepers: Please feed the Dugout Chatter with game highlights throughout the season.)*

Opening night for L3 was a coming out party of sorts for month-old Summer Ray Zierden and her very happy and proud grandparents, Linda McCollum and Bill Greene. #

**SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS****NEW PAID SPONSORS FOR 2009**

ARNOLD PROPERTIES  
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COMPASS STRATEGIES  
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**RETURNING PAID SPONSORS FOR 2009**

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CITRUS HEIGHTS TERRACE  
ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
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HARPER PROPERTIES  
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RICHARD WILL ATTORNEY  
SPORTS LEISURE VACATION  
TEICHERT CONSTRUCTION  
VFW POST 67  
WION'S BODY SHOP  
ZORRACE INC.

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**FOR NEWS AND INFO, CHECK OUT  
THE CLUB WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2008-2009**

President Ray Mendonsa ... 686-3894  
First Vice President Fred Fischer ... 685-5044  
(Responsible for team sponsorships.)  
Second Vice President Pete Ward ... 989-4722  
(Responsible for team uniforms.)  
Treasurer Glen Cole ... 966-4561  
Secretary Mickey Schleicher ... 239-9230  
Player Agent Tom Sansone ... 686-1654 (Responsible  
for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)  
Club Commissioner David Vargo ... 689-7061  
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league  
commissioners.)

***NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: MONDAY,  
MAY 4, 7:30 P.M. SITE: VFW HALL, 2764  
STOCKTON BLVD., SACRAMENTO***

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

**Club Answering Machine**

(managed by Don Shank):  
491-1721 for meeting news  
and field conditions.

**Phone or Address Changes:**

Henry Low 391-3938

**Player Applications:** Tom  
Sansone 686-1654

**Sunshine & Health:** Trudy  
Smartt 973-8269

**GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:**  
456-1500

**Safety:** Jerry Jodice  
349-8949

**Entertainment:** Lou Coppola  
444-6138

**Dugout Chatter:** Ron  
Roach, editor 422-2500  
([coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))

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Elk Grove, CA 95757

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