

# DUGOUT CHATTER

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

## ***BUDGET BLUES: BOARD VOTES MEMBER FEE HIKE***

Faced with a \$15,900 club budget deficit between anticipated income and spending, the club's board of directors on Sept. 28 voted 7-0 to increase basic player fees by \$20 while cutting "non-essential" 2010 spending to the bone.

The board was to present the club's budget for the 2010 season (fiscal year starting Oct. 1) to members at the Oct. 5 general meeting (7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd.).

Club President Ray Mendonsa commented at the board's budget meeting that for the club to remain solvent, member dues must be increased from the 2009 level of \$95 for regular playing members, \$60 for life member players and \$70 for second (or third or fourth or fifth) league play. Each basic player fee, including life members, would be increased by \$20, or \$115 for a regular player for one league; \$80 for a one-league life member; \$90 for any type of member's second league. (***SEE PAGE 6***)

## **CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS: L1 TITLE IS SHARED BY MIMI'S CAFE AND NIELSEN REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL**

John Chatfield's Mimi's Cafe and Jerry Jodice's Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal are co-champions of the Monday League 1 following a 13-13 tie. League Commissioner Jim McNamara ruled that Nielsen's game-tying run was allowed to stand after the umpire initially ruled the runner out, ending the game, for violating the "no-run zone" between third base and home. The runner clearly would have scored if there had not been a rule misunderstanding.

L1, which plays its regular-season games at Howe Park, specifically exempts itself from the rule providing for an automatic out zone that has applied to GSSC games at the Sacramento Softball Complex. It also was noted that there was no throw home and no runner interference with the catcher.

Donald Winter went 4 for 4 at the plate for Mimi's Cafe, while Alan Auwae was perfect in four at-bats for Nielsen, the regular-season champion.

### **LEAGUE 2 CHAMPION: HARPER PROPERTIES**

Manager Curtis Holcomb's Harper Properties, the league leader with a 14-4 regular season, defeated third-place Sports Leisure Vacations, 15-9. Jules Morganstern went 4 for 4 and Bill Enos drove in three runs for the winners. Ed Caluza filled in for Sports Leisure Manager Bill Hooper. (***SEE PAGE 2***)

## CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF RESULTS (FROM PAGE 1)

### LEAGUE 3 CHAMPION: VINO CON BRIO

Vino Con Brio, managed by A.J. Petruzzi, pummeled sixth-seed underdog Old Hornets 18-9, as Bob Smartt filled in for the Old Hornet's manager, Ron Roach. Al Raydon, Norm Blackwell Jr. and Jim Taff were among top Vino sluggers.

### LEAGUE 4: CES #1

California Energy Services #1, managed by Bud deSouza, defeated Russ Barnes' Bradshaw Ranch Golf, 19-7, breaking open an exciting game in the fourth inning as errors contributed to much of the scoring. Kenny Poole had four hits for the winners, who also got three hits and five RBI from Don Jackson. Pete Ward and Jim Clark were a combined 7 for 8 with 4 RBI for the losers.

### LEAGUE 5: VISIONS OPTOMETRY

Demontro "De" Davis clouted an over-the-fence home run and two triples to lead Visions Optometry, managed by Bob Paese, over Manager Mark Cordell's NorCal Jackets, 16-4. Jesse Vasquez and Paese hit triples, while Bill Templeton went 3 for 3.

### LEAGUE 6: GSSA

Noel Maldonado's GSSA had three players (Bill Enos, Greg Leurgans and Vidal Franco) enjoy 4-for-4 games and romped 21-11 over Compass Strategies, managed by Larry Davis. The winners overcame a 9-0 deficit.

### LEAGUE 7 CHAMPIONSHIP AND ALL-STAR GAMES

Manager Al Tirapelli's Hooters, the last-place team, won the Sept. 15 championship game against Denny's Grand Slams, managed by Jules Morganstern. Four days later, on picnic day, L7 "all-star" teams squared off. Players from Better Softball Bats

& Equipment and Maita Chevrolet edged Denny's Grand Slams and Hooters, 9-8. Top hitters for the winners were John Blackwell, Bill Virgin, Chuck Short and Manager Louis Ve'Lez. The Hooters-Denny's team was paced by Bob Taylor, Les Harper, Roland Stairwalt, Tony Martini, Jules Morganstern, Don Doolittle and Dick Reisinger. The all-star teams were clad in the uniform jerseys of paying sponsors Better Softball Bats and Equipment and Denny's.

According to L7 Commissioner Larry Campbell, the closeness of the game reflected nearly identical batting performance statistics on each team. "President Ray Mendonsa was the umpire to check us out, and was favorably impressed, as were the players, with the good competition and positive relations between teams," said Campbell, raising the question of whether other leagues might propose or consider having picnic day All-Star games. L7 had its championship game earlier as a number of players were committed to tournament teams playing later in the week in Oregon. (Thanks to scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Sandy Begg, as well as Dave Vargo and Larry Campbell, for providing Picnic Day playoffs details.)#

### WINTER PRACTICE SCHEDULE

STARTING OCT. 1, THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR CARMICHAEL PARK IS 9 A.M. TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. ARRIVE EARLY FOR SIGNUPS.

FOR PLAYERS 70 AND OVER, THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR HOWE AVENUE PARK (FIELD #3) IS 9 A.M. TUESDAY AND FRIDAY ALL YEAR LONG. WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS, STARTING TIME GOES TO 1 P.M. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WARMER AFTERNOONS -- GEORGE HODSDON. #

## SUNSHINE & HEALTH

**Ken Styc**, whose pitching and managing skills produced championship results, passed away on Sept. 23. He was 62. Several years ago, Ken, who joined GSSC in 1999, achieved a rare, if not unprecedented, feat of managing championship teams in both League 4 and League 5. Due to failing health, Ken began 2009 on "only" two GSSC teams, managing in L4 and playing in L5. During 2008, Styc played in five leagues and on a traveling tournament team. Bill Christian: "He loved the game of softball, and sharing that love with others on the field. He was the one who pushed me to join Golden Seniors. ... Ken really struggled this last year off the field (health, etc.) It is such a tragedy. He will be missed." (Memorial services were pending as of this writing. Check the GSSC hotline for service details.)

Life Member **Harold Seufert**, 90, known as the "Bionic Man" as he overcame injuries to continue playing softball, passed away on Aug. 22. He joined the Golden Seniors 28 years ago and played and managed until just a few years ago. Teams he managed won seven championships. As a player, he was an excellent pitcher. The Sacramento Bee obituary noted that Harold was known to his teammates as the Bionic Man due to double knee and shoulder replacements. His wife of 68 years, Hannah, would keep score of his games. Harold and Hannah always hosted post-season parties for his teams. The family requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Golden Seniors Softball Club c/o Glen Cole, 8725 Lake Nimbus Dr., Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Mrs. Seufert called the Dugout Chatter to thank the (**SEE PAGE 4**)

## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

### NEW PAID SPONSORS FOR 2009

ARNOLD PROPERTIES  
 BETTER SOFTBALL BATS & EQUIPMENT  
 COMPASS STRATEGIES  
 DENNY'S GRAND SLAM  
 JERRY NEVIS REALTOR  
 NIELSEN REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL  
 VINO CON BRIO WINERY, LODI  
 VISIONS EYE CARE

### RETURNING PAID SPONSORS FOR 2009

ASAP SIGNING SERVICES  
 AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS  
 BERTOLUCCI'S BODY & FENDER  
 BRADSHAW RANCH GOLF  
 C&C PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL  
 CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #1  
 CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES #2  
 CIMINO CARE: ARDEN PARK VILLA &  
 CITRUS HEIGHTS TERRACE  
 DUMONT PEST CONTROL  
 EAST LAWN INC.  
 ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
 GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL  
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 HARPER PROPERTIES  
 I FORGOT  
 JOLLY ROGERS  
 L&S SURVEYS  
 LEHR AUTO ELECTRIC  
 LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE  
 MARK E. WHITE DDS  
 MIKE DAUGHERTY CHEVROLET  
 MIMI'S CAFE  
 NORCAL JACKETS  
 OLD HORNETS  
 OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF SACRAMENTO  
 RAMBIT (RAY MERRILL)  
 RE/MAX CENTRAL  
 RICHARD WILL ATTORNEY  
 SPORTS LEISURE VACATION  
 TEICHERT CONSTRUCTION  
 VFW POST 67  
 WION'S BODY SHOP  
 ZORRACE INC. #

**LEAGUE 1 ROUND 3 & FINAL STANDINGS**

	<b>W-L</b>	<b>Run Differential</b>	<b>Overall W-L</b>
1. Mimi's Cafe	4-1	+15	13-7
2. Teichert Construction	4-2	+5	7-14
3. Dumont Pest Control	4-2	+3	14-7
4. Merrill Bookkeeping & Tax	3-2	+11	14-6
5. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal	3-2	+7	15-5
6. L&S Survey	3-2	-15	9-11
7. Wion's Body Shop	3-2	-4	7-13
8. Daugherty Chevrolet	1-5	-15	7-14
9. I Forgot	0-5	-19	6-15

According to Tom Coe, the winner of the Sept. 14 game between Merrill's and Mimi's advanced to the championship game against Nielsen, winner of the first two regular season rounds. Mimi's made the playoffs by winning Round 3 and Merrill's advanced with the second-best regular-season record among teams that did win a round. Teichert edged Dumont, 8-7, on Aug. 3, so finished second in R3. That loss also kept Dumont from making the playoffs based on regular-season overall record. #

**SUNSHINE AND HEALTH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)**

many current or former Golden Seniors who attended the "party" for her husband. "We planned for 50," she said. "There were 150. It was a great party for Harold." (Information from George Hodsdon and The Bee (Aug. 26).

**Alvin Nielsen** passed away Sept. 1. The former Golden Senior was saved by the late Gil Mashburn while having a heart attack. In 2001, Al attended the club picnic to recognize the honoring of Gil as a recipient of the club's Award of Merit. Bill Turner noted that Al was not a long-time member and he dropped out after his heart attack, but he was very well-liked and was an outstanding patriot. Nielsen, 84, served 42 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a highly decorated lieutenant commander. He enlisted when he was 17. His published autobiography is entitled "Nine Lives and Then Some!" He survived the kamikaze attack on the USS Indianapolis in 1945. His obituary in The Sacramento Bee described Al as an "avid senior softball player."

**Father John Healy** was back on the L3 playing field for games of Aug. 18 and 25. He had surgery on Aug. 3 in connection with a kidney tumor and no cancer was found in the first biopsy of his right kidney. He also had a cyst removed from his left kidney. He returned to action on the day after he had the stint taken out of the right kidney. "If I am in any shape tomorrow evening I will come out .. I miss the fun," he wrote Aug. 17 in a card to Old Hornets teammates.

**Lei Chatfield**, wife of L1 Manager John Chatfield, passed away on Aug. 24.

**Marie Bloxson**, wife of Leonard Bloxson, died of leukemia a short while ago.

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*Denny Moore hustles down the first-base line for Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal in League 1 competition. (Lou Coppola photo)*

## **2010 GOLDEN SENIORS APPLICATIONS**

Returning members can expect renewal applications in the mail within a few weeks. Applications also will be available from the Web site ([www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org)). Questions? Call the player agent, Tom Sansone, at 686-1654.

## **SHORT HOPS**

### **TPA DINNER-DANCE -- NOV. 21**

All members of the Golden Seniors, wives and guests are invited to the 19th Annual Dinner-Dance of the Tournament Players Association (TPA). The price is \$12 per ticket for the Nov. 21 event at the VFW Post 97 Hall at 2764 Stockton Blvd.

Cocktails are at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 (three entrees are meat loaf, pork chops and BBQ chicken). Music and dancing from 7:30 to 11:30.

For tickets and reservations, call Al Morales (916 456-8602), Dick Seward (916 922-6028), or Bob Lowery (916 725-0134). The reservations deadline is Nov. 3. #

## **DUGOUT CHATTER PUBLISHING SCHEDULE**

AS WE HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS, ONE MORE ISSUE IS SCHEDULED FOR 2009, THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ISSUE COMING OUT IN EARLY DECEMBER. MONTHLY ISSUES RESUME IN JANUARY. DON'T FORGET THAT THE DUGOUT CHATTER ALSO IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)

-- RON ROACH, EDITOR . [Those who prefer to read the DC online and not have it mailed to them can save the club the postage cost. Contact Henry Low (391-3938) to have your name removed from the DC mailing list.]

**CHECK OUT THE GOLDEN SENIORS WEB SITE FOR MORE NEWS AND PHOTOS:**

**[WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)**

## BUDGET BLUES (FROM PAGE 1)

"If we don't have funds for operating expenses, we have to shut down," Mendonsa said. Board members generally agreed that they have been generous with spending decisions in the past, and this can no longer be the case.

(Editorial comment: By the way, board members are not compensated in any way and are only reimbursed for actual expenses, such as the considerable mailing chores of the Player Agent. All club officers indicated that they do not charge the club for some incidentals, such as printer paper. When the board occasionally meets at a team-sponsor restaurant, directors buy their own food and drink, according to a frustrated investigative reporter who used to wonder why anyone would devote such time and effort without getting something, even a discounted league fee, in return. -- Ron Roach.)

Among items potentially on the chopping block: The annual picnic cost more than \$6,000 this year, yet attendance was down to 206. More than 300 came out in 2008. The board would reduce funding to about \$4,000 or less. Team pictures, provided free in recent years, would no longer be available or league fees might be further increased to cover the \$1,800 cost (perhaps a few dollars per player) by those choosing to get a photograph.

Club Treasurer Glen Cole said that based on Player Agent Tom Sansone's estimate of membership (there were 505 members at the end of the 2009 season), income is projected to be \$47,000. But unbridled spending would amount to \$64,900. The club has a cash balance of \$18,000 but Cole said \$12,800 was owed for use of fields this year and he will pay those bills when the city Softball Complex and the Fulton-El Camino Park District produce formal billings in the weeks ahead. Revenues from 2010 member dues

will arrive in a timely fashion to maintain adequate cash flow, he said.

Mendonsa said no field fee increases are expected based on negotiations to date with the Complex and the park district's Howe Avenue fields. In recent years, the club, based on recommendations by an auditing team, spent down a surplus that was deemed too large. This kept member dues low even in the face of climbing field rental costs. There also have been additional club safety training and insurance expenses to consider for 2010. The budget calls for 2010 field rental costs of about \$25,000.

There was no discussion of increasing team sponsorship fees (\$300 for a new sponsor; \$250 for renewals). The board also showed no interest in playing without at least one umpire, particularly in the night leagues. There was talk of reducing the club's charitable donations, including the annual \$600 scholarship for women's softball at CSU-Sacramento. Are umpiring and scorekeeping services essential expenses? The board seemed to think they are, particularly umpiring in the highly competitive night leagues. Scorekeepers provide statistical data that is useful fodder for Dugout Chatter articles and for team managers when drafting players, it was noted. The DC budget (\$1,200) could be offset somewhat through sale of advertising space and more substantially impacted by increased Internet readership.

Sansone said each \$5 in dues increase across the board would result in \$2,800 added income for the club.

**Club Meeting Schedule:** The board approved the following meeting schedule. Board and general meeting Oct. 5, board meetings in November and December; board and general meetings on Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, July 12, Aug. 9 and in September, in conjunction with the annual picnic.

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# VARGO IS HONORED FOR SERVICE TO GOLDEN SENIORS CLUB

The 2009 Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement was bestowed on Dave Vargo for his invaluable service to the Golden Seniors Softball Club.

Daryl Cook presented the award at the Sept. 19 club picnic at the Sacramento Softball Complex. Formerly known as the Man of the Year award, it has been given since 1982. Vargo is the 43rd recipient of the honor, chosen by a committee of past honorees.

Vargo, known as an Iron Man for playing in so many of the Golden Seniors leagues, was sidelined this year for surgery on both knees. He also had to take a leave of absence from the club commissioner post this year because of the operations. As a valued member of the club's Board of Directors, Dave has used his polished communication skills to clearly explain various issues to the membership. He is retired from the federal Office of Emergency Services.

The award is not given to someone who is merely an outstanding softball player and team leader, which could describe Vargo. The award is for members who serve the club far above and beyond actions on the ball field. Cook noted that from the time Vargo joined the club, he has been a "tireless worker for the benefit of the club."

Vargo has served three years on the club's board, including two years as club commissioner (2007 and 2009), and one year as first vice president (2008). In 2006, he was assistant club commissioner and assistant player agent. He was the League 3 player representative for two years (2008-09). He was assistant team manager for two years in both League 3 and League 6. He also oversaw the club's questionnaire/survey work for three years (2006-2008).

Vargo has devoted countless hours to the club's operations, ranging from negotiations with the city Softball Complex for playing dates and pricing, as well as publishing playing rules. "His many hours of work behind the scenes for the officers of the club and the various committees have been invaluable," Cook said. "He has recently been slowed somewhat because of two knee operations but still has been as active as his body allows." # (Cook, who was the club's Man of the Year for 1994, retired this year after 29 years as an active Golden Senior player. "I would like to thank the Dumont Pest Control team of League 1" for his retirement event on Sept. 8 at Denny's Restaurant in Fair Oaks. "Most of the team was there and it was hosted by Jerry Moody. Thanks to all and good wishes on their future softball careers.")

**Previous honorees: 1982 -- Ted Larson\*, Charlie Lee\*, Deni Treaster\*; 1983 -- Jim Knoble\*; 1984 -- Bill Clark\*; 1985 -- Frank Bzik\*; 1986 -- Al Bianchi\*; 1987 -- Leroy Leonard\*; 1988 -- Fred Rainey\*; 1989 -- Hi Witt; 1990 -- Wreston Leslie\*; 1991 -- Bill Turner; 1992 -- Bud White\*; 1993 -- Ken Dumont, Jack Presley; 1994 -- Ralph Congdon, Daryl Cook; 1995 -- Dante Ciardella, Bill Sullivan; 1996 -- Babe Thomas\*, C.B. Brady\*; 1997 -- Benny Benson; 1998 -- George Hodsdon, Lou Coppola; 1999 -- Jim Mulholland\*, Earl Strom\*; 2000 -- "Rocky" Rockhill\*, Ernie Kidwell; 2001 -- Joe Mucciaccio, Gil Mashburn\*; 2002 -- Ken Wollenberg, Clyde Kennedy\*; 2003 -- Jim Lortz; 2004 -- Foster Maxwell, Bob Schwan; 2005 -- Ed Campini, Doug McCreary; 2006 -- Henry Fontes; 2007 -- Susan Tucker, James E. Powell; 2008 -- Richard Seward.**

Nineteen honorees are deceased. Their names above are followed by an asterisk. One of the 42 is a woman, hence the change in the name of the award from Man of the Year to Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement.

Past winners of the award comprise the committee that selects the recipient. #

**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 **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

Player Agent **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654  
(Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269  
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

**NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: OCT. 5, 7:30 P.M. AT VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD.**

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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