

# DUGOUT CHATTER

Golden Seniors Online: [www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org)

## CLUB LAUNCHES MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

**Recruiting more – and younger – players is a paramount goal of the Golden Seniors, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, senior softball club around. It’s great that the club has been in existence for 40 years. But the club needs more “younger” players.**

**At the March general meeting, Club President Bill Hill and the Board of Directors stressed that the club needs to find more players for the current season, as rosters could be increased or a team added to a five-team league. Members are urged to recruit their friends, noting that league fees are prorated.**

**A Recruitment Committee was formed to recommend strategies to attract more signups for 2019 as well as the 2020 season. Chuck Knutson agreed to chair the group that includes Lyman Rose, Ron Roach, Arnie Wilkerson, Deanna Sesso and Portia Slaton. Knutson said he welcomes other members who want to step up and help.**

**At the first committee meeting, discussion included allowing men as young as 48 to join the current 50-and-over night leagues. Also under consideration is a proposal to lower the night league minimum age for women from 45 to 40. Changes in age limits require a by-law amendment with membership approval.**

**The club also will produce fliers that can be handed out at various**

### **IN THIS SPRING 2019 ISSUE**

**Membership campaign; Sunshine & Health Report; Sports Leisure team manager presents sponsorship plaque; Club Sponsors; Club Contacts; Top hitters and league leaders. Next General Meeting: 7 p.m., June 10 at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd.**

**recreational softball league venues in the area. The club also will consider having information tables at various sites, including River Cats games. Members who belong to health clubs will be urged to help post fliers on bulletin boards. (SEE PAGE 2)**

## MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN, FROM PAGE 1

Business cards with club contacts were being prepared for members to give interested men and women. These cards will be available for members who attend the next general meeting, June 10, or via scorekeepers at games.

A club sponsor, Sports Leisure Vacations, has indicated interest in promoting the Golden Seniors in its newsletter and weekly radio program.

In other actions, the board announced that the club's league championship games and picnic are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Complex. The preferred date of Sept. 14 was unavailable. One or more night leagues may schedule their title games on their regularly scheduled nights so their players can compete in major tournaments with their travel teams.

Club 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson announced a new sponsor: Old Soul, which has opened a bakery-coffee restaurant on Broadway in Oak Park. New sponsors this year also include Hilltop Tavern and Club Raven, while La Rosa Sports Cafe has added a second team sponsorship.

Club 2nd VP Bob Smartt presented newly designed hats for the 2019 season. The gray hats are good looking, as are the white hats for managers. Members are encouraged to wear their Golden Seniors hats in public to help promote recruitment.

On the health front, Club Safety Coordinator Paul Rogers reported on the club-financed CPR-AED training through the American Heart Association. Members interested in such training should contact Rogers at 916 206-1605. Those who are certified are issued red hats to be readily recognized in the event of an emergency at ball games.

Hill and Club Commissioner Bob Ellison continue to stress the need for more volunteers to help run the club. For example, at least three or four people are needed to assist with sponsorships, as well as to pitch in on member recruitment.

The club's seven-member board of directors has been comprised essentially of the same people for multiple terms. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact a board member. Board officers are nominated in July and elected in August. #

NOTE: THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS MONDAY, JUNE 10 AT 7 P.M. IT WAS RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 13.

## SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

***Editor's Note: Collective moments of silence should reflect on what is a too-long list of Golden Seniors and spouses who have died since November: nine members and five spouses.***

Eighteen-year Golden Senior member **Bud "Carlton" DeSouza** passed away on March 31. He was 70. Club members attended his memorial service. Bud was a "great ball player and a gentleman of the game," Club President Bill Hill said in an email. Bud played and managed in the night leagues and on Tuesday mornings, was a sports enthusiast, avid golfer and perfect-game bowler.

Teammates with the Golden Seniors and the Muckrakers, a recreational league team he led for more than four decades, turned out on March 30 to celebrate the 71-year life of **Steve Lawrence**. While battling cancer, between treatments, Steve was able to play parts of the 2017 and 2018 seasons, although the disease sapped his strength and his voice. In his final softball game, last September, Steve helped Overhead Door win the L7 championship with a perfect day at the plate and in the field. He died on Feb. 22 after three weeks in intensive care. He was the longest-serving reporter for the Associated Press in California (37 years) when he retired in 2009. He then devoted even more time to softball and building houses with Habitat for Humanity.

**James Borden** was 83 when he died on April 14. He joined the Golden Seniors in 2005 and played Mondays and at Carmichael Park. An excellent athlete and teammate, who played linebacker at the University of Arizona, Jim had a knack for playing on championship softball teams and will be missed, said George Hodsdon.

Life Member **Peter Anagnoston's wife, Junko**, passed away on March 28. She and Pete traveled extensively and softball was a big part of her life. She was 71.

Life Member **Dante Ciardella's wife, Josie**, passed away on March 4. She was 92, and had been ill for about three years.

**Dave Vargo's wife, Mitaecha**, died unexpectedly in May. They were married 48 years.

The Winter Edition of the Dugout Chatter reported on the December passings of longtime members **Marino Del Chiaro, Jim Keenan and Perry O'Laughlin, and also spouses Joanna Kline and Dorothy Maciel**. In early February, the Dugout Chatter reported on the January-February deaths of **Joe Kline**, so soon after his wife's passing, and **Bill Riehl** and **Larry Lagomarsino**.

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On April 17, Mark Hoffmann, owner of Sports Leisure Vacations, was presented with a sponsorship plaque by John Long, manager of the 2018 team. Mark showed John other Golden Seniors Softball Club team pictures proudly displayed on an office wall. Mark told John how he started his business, taking busloads of fans to Giants games at Candlestick Park. Mark also is considering joining the club as a player (he's in his 60s) and expressed desire to promote the club and help recruit players with an item in his newsletter and mentions on his KFBK weekly radio program.

**SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!**

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

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TRI C MACHINE (2)

VFW POST 67

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## SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

**ANDERSON IS STILL COACHING HIGH SCHOOL BALL, HELPING CAPITAL CHRISTIAN CAPTURE DIVISION TITLE.** Guy Anderson for decades was the legendary baseball coach at Cordova High School, until being let go four years ago. He is still teaching prep baseball, at the age of 86, as the first-base coach for Coach Nelson Randolph's Capital Christian Cougars. On May 14, the Cougars beat Cordova for the Division III championship. The Sacramento Bee's Joe Davidson covered the game. He had written before how Anderson was unceremoniously canned by Cordova after a losing season. Guy was initially angry, after so many winning seasons, when he was told by Cordova that the program was moving in a different direction. Guy told Davidson he has moved on and repaired relationships with Cordova officials. Meantime, Guy also is back playing infield for Golden Seniors teams, having recovered from an emergency appendectomy.

**NEWS UPDATE.** On Dec. 12, 2016, veteran Golden Senior **Larry Windham**, 85, died of injuries suffered when he was beaten by Larry Ray Richey, then 21, during a gas station altercation. As the Sacramento Bee recently reported, Richey was sentenced to eight years in prison. Judge Shelleyanne Chang: "This is a tragic case. Both families have suffered a loss. One family has suffered the death of their patriarch. Another family has lost a son for a stupid act in which he lost control." Richey could have been sentenced to as many as 10 years for his conviction of elder abuse causing great bodily harm. He asked for forgiveness. "I have endless remorse and shame." In a statement read by her daughter, Nancy Windham told the court: "My husband was my companion for 63 years. My life collapsed when he killed him." #

**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).#

**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. #

## **FORTY-ONE PLAYERS HITTING .800 OR HIGHER – FOUR OVER .900**

As of games through the week of May 13, as many as eight games into the season, four batters were on a torrid .900-plus pace among 41 players pounding the ball at .800 or higher.

While it is early, and super high batting averages probably cannot be sustained, Darryl Watson was the club's top batsman at .938, 15 for 16 in L2. On his heels were Ted Hofmeister of L3 and L5's R. Van Landingham, both .933 (14x15). In L3, James Fleishman was hitting .905 (19x21).

The club had no undefeated teams in the nine leagues. The nine leagues' leading teams through mid-May:

Monday Morning — **L1 Nielsen Real Estate** (Norm Blackwell Sr. manager) 6-1, with a team batting average of .714. L7 Overhead Door (Russ Barnes) 5-3, batting .648.

Tuesday Morning — **L2 Sam's Hofbrau** (Ray Mendonsa) and **Yancey Co.** (Ernie Boston) both 5-1. Sam's team hit .654; Yancey .603. L6 Espanol Italian Restaurant (Jon Ellison) 5-1 and .622.

Wednesday Morning — **L8 Nielsen Real Estate** (Norm Blackwell Sr.) 5-2-1. **L9 ShowBiz Productions** (Ernie Shaffer) 5-2.

Tuesday night — **L3 Rapid Solutions** (Mel Tennyson) 5-1, batting .707 as a team.

Wednesday night — **L4 RDR Financial Services** (Mark Cardell) 6-1, team batting .687.

Thursday night — **L5 Bill Hill** (Lyman Rose) 5-1, .666 as a team.

Standings and batting averages are updated weekly on the club's website [www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org). Thanks to Russ Barnes and scorekeepers for their work, as well as web guru Bob Kunnmann. #