



2024 Membership Letter

Welcome to the 91st season of the Sheridan Park Golf Club. Club dues will remain at \$150, in spite of yet another increase in the cost of the USGA's GHIN system and the rising costs of everything else. The Board of Directors is very focused on keeping Annual Dues affordable and thus voted to absorb the \$5 GHIN increase along with other rising costs to keep the Annual Dues at \$150.

There are some significant changes this year. The popularity of the 2-day Ryder Cup tournament we added in 2023 really overcrowded our Tournament schedule which further hurt the dwindling participation in the Stableford Tournament, so the Board of Directors voted unanimously to drop the Stableford Tournament from our schedule.

Similarly, dwindling attendance and rising costs has led us to rethink the Steak Roast/Summer Party. Attendance at this event has been dropping for years and we tried adding a non-Steak menu option and renaming the event from the Steak Roast to the Summer Party to increase attendance but that effort failed. The cost and labor involved in shopping for the event, preparing the food, and cleaning up afterwards makes this a very difficult event to put on. We are looking at several options for a new 'Summer Party' and more details will be revealed during the season.

One very significant change in 2024 is how the Club will run parties and after-tournament gatherings. The legal liability of serving alcohol at Club events was brought to the Board's attention and we have done extensive research with attorneys and insurance companies and have concluded that there could be very significant legal liability for both the Club and for individual Board Members if a Club member has an accident after being overserved, or overserving themselves, at a Club event.

Because of this, after several spirited debates, the Board voted unanimously at our March meeting to change the way we do parties and post-tournament events to eliminate liability for the Club and the individuals on the Board of Directors. The Club will still purchase and serve food and non-alcoholic beverages, but will no longer purchase alcohol for the Spring and Fall Parties or any post-tournament picnics that we have in the Park. Members who want to consume alcohol at those events will need to bring their own and will assume all legal liability of consuming that alcohol.

We expect to have fewer post-tournament picnics in the Park and plan to replace those with post-tournament food and beverage in the Clubhouse with the new Concession vendor the Town has selected. This transfers the legal responsibility for serving alcohol to that vendor.

The number of post-tournament events we hold in the Clubhouse and how those will work depends on the cost of doing those events. The Town is in final negotiations with the owners of Mike's Subs to take over the concessions and the Club's Board is scheduling a meeting with them to negotiate the best deal possible to do some post tournament events in the Clubhouse. Many members have told us they much prefer doing post-tournament events in the Clubhouse rather than doing them in Sheridan Park and we are working to make that happen.

It is important to note that the Club intends to spend the same amount of money on parties and post-tournament gatherings as we did in 2023, we are just changing the way alcohol is purchased and served to eliminate the legal liability for the Club and for the individuals on the Board of Directors.

We understand this is a very significant change to the way the Club has previously operated. We hope our members can appreciate the potential gravity of individual Board Members being held personally liable and potentially losing significant amounts of money or even their homes because of the actions of others. We're sure you wouldn't want to be held financially liable for the actions of others either. We fully realize that some Club members will not be happy about this change, so we want to communicate this new policy before members decide whether to rejoin the Club this season.

Another change is how we will handle the timing of Membership Dues. 2023 Members will remain active in the GHIN system until Dues are due on April 30th. On May 1st, we will remove members from the GHIN system who have not yet paid their Club Dues and we will reinstate them when their Dues are received. At the request of many of our younger members, we are adding the ability to pay Dues and Tournament Registration fees by VENMO. Details on how to pay by VENMO will be released shortly. Also, note that the address you mail anything to (including Dues checks) has changed as the Club now has a PO Box to send mail to.

We are also working on a new Tournament Registration process. We intend to allow members to sign up both electronically and by using paper forms and/or signup sheets in the Clubhouse. Stay tuned for details on that process which will be announced prior to the Spring Party.

Lastly, we intend to create a series of new Plaques for our Tournament winners that will hang on the Clubhouse wall right below the Television. If you win a tournament, you'll win both some very significant prizes and you will also have your name proudly inscribed on a plaque in the Clubhouse forever more.

Questions and comments can be sent by email to sheridanparkgolfclub@gmail.com