

Midwest Deaf Golfers Association Newsletter

Spring 2007

Message from the Host

Welcome back to Springfield, Illinois!

It is with pride and excitement for me to welcome you all to Springfield, Illinois, the site of 60th Annual MDGA and 43rd Annual MDLGA tournaments on July 30- August 2, 2007. Springfield is Abraham Lincoln's hometown, the city that he left to assume the presidency in 1861 and then returned in death upon his assassination in 1865.

Springfield is located in Central Illinois, 90 miles northeast of St. Louis and 190 miles southwest of Chicago and is a hub of railroad and air transportation along with the interstate highways. The headquarters hotel and the two golf courses are just a hop away from I-55. Springfield has a population of 125,000 and is the center of state government.

Time really flew so fast, as I remember that night in Bloomington in 2001 when I bid for Springfield to host the 2007 MDGA tournament. And that's already been 6 years ago! I remember we all had a great time 13 years ago when Springfield hosted the 1994 MDGA tournament, chaired by my dad, Paul.

The Rail is a beautiful golf course and had been the "Home of the LPGA State Farm Classic" for 31 years. The Rail is one of the favorite golf courses for many of the local deaf duffers including myself. The golf course is conveniently close to the headquarters hotel, the Northfield Inn Suites & Conference Center, and it is an easy drive both ways without having to fight any traffic.

Thirteen deaf volunteers served as standard bearers at the LPGA State Farm Classic at the Rail last August 31-September 3, 2006 and witnessed LPGA's premier golfer Annika Sorenstam winning the championship.

My committee had been hard at work getting this tournament ready and there has been some fundraising to help swell the prize money for all the golfers. I am hoping this will be the best tournament ever and do Springfield proud!

Any one of you who might have some time to spare, can take in sights around Springfield as there are several historical sites including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Old State Capitol, the site of his famous speech "A house divided against itself cannot stand", his home, his final resting place, and not to be overlooked is the Dana-Lawrence House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

Please always feel free to contact me at bdramin@aol.com or (217) 243-7232 TTY or VP for any MDGA questions or comments. I will be very happy to hear from you.

Chairman Bob Dramin

Word from the Prez

As I write this, it is exactly one week before the final day of the Masters golf tournament. It is warm enough in Michigan for people to start playing golf. Unfortunately, my golf clubs are still in my basement. I hope to start hitting the little white ball soon, but have a lot of things to do around the house first. Hope you all are already out there trying to remember how to play golf again!

Usually, when I go to any deaf golf tournament, I spend almost all my time at the golf course, the hotel or restaurants. This year, I might take a side trip for the first time. Springfield is Abraham Lincoln country, I would love to see what they have there, but it depends if I have the time. I do recommend that you visit and learn the history of one of the great American Presidents.

I am sure as you participate in the 2007 MDGA tournament, you will realize how much hard work Bob Dramin and his committee have put in to prepare for this event. They even have a comedy show for you, I believe the first time a comedy show at the MDGA since 1999 in Minnesota.

I am glad to hear they will have the shootout again this year. It was much fun for the top golfers to participate in the shootout last year and it was also much fun for the rest of MDGA golfers to watch the shootout. This year, I believe more top golfers will be at the tournament than last year, so competition for the top 10 after 36 holes will be very interesting to watch.

For specific questions about the 2007 MDGA tournament, please contact the chairman Bob Dramin, he will be able to answer your questions much better than I can.

For general questions or comments about MDGA, you may contact me at deafgolfnut@comcast.net or 517 694 0833 (Sorenson VP).

See you in August!
Darrell

Multiple MDGA Champions

Last year, Curtis Blankenburg joined this list of fifteen multiple MDGA champions.

- 7 – Bill Roberts ('91–'96, '00)
- 6 – Michael Maxwell ('83, '85–'86, '88–'90)
- 5 – Herbert Deurmyer ('50–'53, '57)
- 5 – Norman Artz ('65, '68, '84, '87, '98)
- 4 – Jack Kunz ('56, '60–'61, '76)
- 3 – Clyde Heberlein ('49, '55, '58)
- 3 – Richard Opseth ('62, '64, '66)
- 3 – Robert Bouchillion ('67, '69–'70)
- 3 – Arthur Gendreau ('73, '77–'78)
- 2 – Ray Kessenich ('47, '54)
- 2 – George Dudas ('63, '75)
- 2 – William Tonigan ('74, '02)
- 2 – Robert Ritch ('03–'04)
- 2 – John Rush ('82, '05)
- 2 – Curtis Blankenburg ('01, '06)

Regional Deaf Golf Tournaments

The Central Texas Deaf Golf Association is hosting the 49th Annual SWDGA tournament June 11 - 13 in San Antonio. For more information, go to www.swdga.org.

The Tennessee Deaf Golfers Association is hosting this year's 38th Annual SEDGA tournament on June 26 - 28 in Knoxville. Go to www.sedga.org for more information.

The United States Deaf Golf Association is hosting the 2007 USDGC July 17 - 20 in the St. Louis metro area on the Illinois side of the river. For more information, see www.usdeafgolf.org.

The Wasatch Golf Association of the Deaf is hosting the 38th Annual FWGAD tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah on August 7 - 9. For more information, go to www.fwgad.org.

The Northeast Deaf Golfers Association is hosting their 10th Annual NEDGA tournament August 24 - 26 in New Hampshire. Contact Dee Clanton at hobertdee@comcast.net for more information.

50+ Years of Deaf Golfing

As the MDGA gets ready for their 60th Annual tournament, we would like to take the time to recognize other deaf golf organizations in business for at least 50 years.

Wisconsin Deaf Golfers Association will host their 56th Annual tournament July 14th.

Empire State Deaf Golfers Association (New York)

Wolverine Deaf Golfers of Michigan will host their 51st Annual tournament September 7th - 9th.

Next year, SWDGA will join this very short list. If anyone knows other deaf golf organizations belong on this list, please let Darrell Hovinen know (deafgolfnut@comcast.net).

Future MDGA Tournaments

- 2008 – Des Moines, Iowa
- 2009 – Lake Oshkosh, Wisconsin
- 2010 – South Bend, Indiana
- 2011 – Northern Illinois
- 2012 – Open for bid

60 Years Ago

A group of deaf golfers from Illinois and Wisconsin gathered together on August 9th, 1947 to play golf and build the foundation for the MDGA. What else happened that year?

Harry Truman was President.

Nolan Ryan was born January 31st.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was born April 16th.

O.J. Simpson was born July 9th.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was established July 26th.

Arnold Schwarzenegger was born July 30th.