

SCGA FOCUS GROUP REPORT

July 28, 2016 – Riverwalk

The primary topic was the SCGA's plan to introduce a change to the SCGA membership registration process, eliminating the fixed calendar year membership format.

This program will not go into effect until AFTER the 2017 renewal period.

The new program will enable new members to join at any time during the calendar year, and have a one year membership from that date. This eliminates any need to defer late year memberships or to pro-rate memberships. The new SCGA membership portal appears to have all the functionality necessary to manage this effectively, including an administrative portal for club officials to check membership status and payments between the club and the SCGA. (Note: this is NOT the GHP/GHIN site, but they are linked. It is the e-Commerce site. Currently only I have access to this portal, as it has been limited to a single user access per club, but see below for an update.)

Members will get renewal notices annually, with a 60 day renewal window. Club officials will receive monthly reports of renewal status. The reporting appears to be comprehensive.

Current member's renewal date will not be impacted unless they allow their membership to lapse.

SCGA will also change the process during the 'open enrollment' period in December. Currently we have to delete any member who has not paid his dues for the new year or get billed for the SCGA registration fee. Going forward, only those who have renewed will show up on our January invoice from SCGA. (Scott, much of what they are doing should make your bookkeeping much easier!)

There will be no change to the ability for a new member to join SCGA in October 2016, and for that membership to be valid through 2017. Their renewal date will be Dec. 31, 2017.

Additionally, beginning with the 2017 year, **SCGA dues will increase from \$33/member to \$36/member**. We need to discuss whether TOMGC should have an overall rate increase to offset this added cost.

Finally, the administrative portal for GHIN/SCGA Membership only allowed us to have one individual have access to the e-Commerce functions, specifically the notification of new members who sign up online. To date, that has been me, necessitating that I send out a follow up email to the BOD announcing the new member so that you could add him to your respective distribution lists.

(I would still send out the welcome note to the new member, copying the BOD, so that doesn't really change how I respond, but it does a nice job of keeping Scott and me on the same page.)

Effective immediately, we will be able to have as many BOD members notified as we choose. I would like to hear from each of you if you would like to get that notification.

(I will need to log on to the portal and just add your email address to the appropriate distribution list.)

We can discuss this at the next BOD meeting or via email. We will have two choices: Notification only OR Full Administrative Access.

My suggestion would be that Membership, Finance, President and VP should have Full Access. All others: your choice, as I'm undecided on that point.

I went in skeptical but got all my questions answered to my satisfaction. They have thought it through pretty thoroughly. I'm sure it will have some hiccups, but nothing major.

Their target launch date is shortly after the open enrollment period ends in January, subject to all project issues staying on time. They also have a number of items on a "Phase II" list, such as automatically managing players who are members of multiple clubs.

Paul McGurgan