

S.A.A. Golf Tournament Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Rip Van Winkle Country Club, in Palenville, was the site for the 20th Anniversary SAA Golf Gala and Tournament last weekend. To commemorate this milestone, an Anniversary Dinner Gala took place on Saturday evening, with the Golf Tourney taking place the following day on Sunday. Event sponsors, again this year, were Bob Siracusano of Sawyer Motors in Saugerties and Larry Siracusano of Sawyer Chevy in Catskill.

The Gala opened with Bobby Farris entertaining during the Cocktail Hour. Golfers, Guests, and Dignitaries were welcomed by Tourney Chairman and Master of Ceremonies Greg Chorvas who recognized the SAA Board of Directors along with committee members who comprised the eleven various committees that made this event possible. Dinner followed with the Hot Rod Band providing dinner music to the 180 in attendance.

The SAA is most appreciative to the many that have made this annual tournament one of the most popular and prestigious, along with a sold out golf event for twenty consecutive years. Through all 20 years the SAA has been fortunate to have an Event Sponsor each and each year and these Event Sponsors have been overly generous with their contributions, support and underwriting expenses. Twenty years ago it all started with the Late Ernie Fick and Eveready Beverage. On hand were Ernie's two daughters Erica Guerin and Christine Tomaino, who today still contribute heavily not only to the SAA, however, many of the sports programs and leagues. Recognition and Appreciation Plaques were presented to both Erica and Christine, along with an appreciation gift. As the years went on, Greg and Thomasine Helsmoortel, of Helsmoortel Insurance and Reality, became Event Sponsors and, just like Ernie's Girls, both Greg and Thomasine still contribute to the SAA and towards many of the Leagues, along with other Community endeavors. Then it became Bob Siracusano of Sawyer Motors and Larry Siracusano of Sawyer Chevy who currently continue as our event Sponsors. Similar Plaques and appreciation gifts were presented to Greg, Thomasine, Bob and Larry.

Alice Kirlauski, was presented with a 2012 Golf Membership, at Rip Van Winkle, for the huge undertaking with the Program Journal, along with overseeing many of the committees, along with many other roles Alice played leading to the overwhelming success of the anniversary gala.

Further, the SAA has been most fortunate in having the same great venue supporter and contributor for all twenty years, Rip Van Winkle Country Club and the Smith Family. Twenty years ago it was Ray sr. and Pat Smith, then Ray Jr. and Christine Smith and now, today, John and Sara Smith. In recognition of the Smith Family's overwhelming support, along with minimal costs and sizeable donations, John and Sara were, additionally, presented with Recognition and Appreciation Plaques. Additionally, past Eveready Representatives, Joe Tiano and Gardner Van Valkenburg were recognized for their past support, along with George Sisco of Sawyer Motors who puts forth a tremendous amount of work, time and dedicated efforts. The various levels of sponsorship were recognized starting with Golf Sponsor Rip Van Winkle CC.; Silver Sponsors, Markertek / Tower Products and Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill, CPA's, PC; Bronze Sponsor, Darmstadt Overhead Door, along with many other various sponsorship levels. Additionally, Ken Wamsley of Dutchess Beer for donating the beer and Dan Eichenhofer for their donation of soda and water. Finally, to all the players for their participation and support in making for 20 consecutive sold out years..