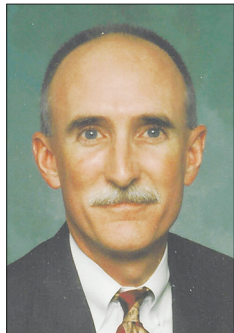


Vernon set to take reins as USGA President

By CARR McCALLA

On February 9, Jim Vernon of Pasadena, California, will begin his term as President of the United States Golf Association. Vernon will be installed at the USGA's Annual meeting in Houston. Having served with Mr. Vernon on the USGA Rules of Golf Committee, I applaud his nomination.

He is a former President of both the Southern California Golf Association and California Golf Association and understands the challenges that state and regional golf associations face. Vernon succeeds Atlanta's Walter Driver in leading the 15-member Executive Committee and nearly 1,400 volunteers that serve the game on more than 30 committees. The other nominated officers include: Jim Hyler of Raleigh, N.C., and Jay Rains of San Diego, as vice presidents; Missy Crisp of Mill Neck, N.Y., as secretary, and Fred Nelson of San Francisco, as treasurer.



McCalla

Roberta Bolduc has been re-appointed to serve a second one-year term as chairman of the USGA's Women's Committee. The Women's Committee, appointed by the USGA Executive Committee, represents the Association in matters relating to women's golf. Its principal responsibilities include overseeing the administration of the women's championships conducted by the

USGA, making recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding key policies and strategies to enhance the game, and supporting the development and promotion of women's golf.

Louisiana has been well represented over the years on this committee. Mary Capouch of Mandeville served as Women's Committee chair in 1999-2000, and long-time Louisiana resident Martha Lang is a current member of the Committee. Lang, now living in Birmingham, also played on the 1992 Curtis Cup team and served as Curtis Cup Captain in 1996.

The USGA's by-laws require that at least six of the candidates nominated as officers or for the Executive Committee be selected from present or past officers or governing boards of state, district, or regional golf associations in the United States. It is apparent that the founding fathers of the USGA recognized the important role that state and regional golf associations, such as the Louisiana Golf Association, play in the health of our game.

BUSH TO RECEIVE 2008 USGA BOB JONES AWARD

George H. W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States, has been chosen to receive the USGA's 2008 Bob Jones Award. Presented every year since 1955, the USGA's highest honor is given in recognition of distinguished sportsmanship in golf. The Award seeks to recognize a person who emulates Jones' spirit, his

personal qualities, and his attitude toward the game and its players. Bush is linked to the history of the game through his grandfather,

1920 USGA President George Herbert Walker, whose leadership and donation of a trophy inspired the Walker Cup Matches, the biennial amateur competition between players from Great Britain and Ireland and the United States. Bush's father, Prescott Bush, also served the USGA as its President in 1935 and was instrumental in establishing the USGA Museum and Archives. Bob Jones credited Bush's grandfather with helping get his hot temper on the course under control. During his presidency, Walker admonished the teenaged Jones during a USGA championship, but then encouraged him by telling him he had the talent to be one of the game's greats if he learned more self-control. A tribute to his interest in the sport, Bush is only the second non-golfer or golf administrator to be chosen for the Award. The Award will be presented to Bush, 83, on February 9 at the USGA's Annual Meeting in Houston.



REGISTRATION FOR 2008

LGA CHAMPIONSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Registration opened on February 1 for the first three LGA Championships of the 2008 golf season. Entry forms for the Club Team, Net Amateur, and Amateur Championships have been mailed to all LGA Member Clubs, 2007 LGA Championship participants, and LGA Gold and Silver Sponsors, and may also be printed from the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org.

To enter a LGA Championship, simply forward your completed application to our offices prior to the deadline date.

In addition to paper entries, the LGA will be offering online registration once again this year. For those of you that have not taken advantage of online registration in the past, we would encourage you to give it a try in 2008. To register online, please visit the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org and click on the link for "Online Tournament Registration."

From there, simply follow the instructions to complete your entry. Online registration is currently available for the Net Amateur and Amateur Championships. Registration (online and paper entries) for the Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships will begin on April 1. The Senior Amateur and Senior Four-Ball Championships will open on June 1. As I took a commercial break from one of the NFL playoff games a couple of weeks ago, I heard the unmistakable melody of the Masters promo. With Augusta right around the corner, our Louisiana golf season can't be far behind!

See you next month.....Inside the Ropes!

Carr McCalla is the Executive Director of the LGA. He can be reached by e-mail (cmccalla@lgagolf.org) or by phone (337-265-3938).