

# ORLEANS COUNTRY CLUB

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*"The best little golf club in the world where good folks get together and enjoy each other."*

January 2024

Greetings OCC Members and Supporters!

'Happy New Year!' Welcome to the **2024 OCC season!**

Here in the NEK we had over a foot of snow prior to the holidays, and then the "rains" and winds hit. It was a green and brown holiday season all the way around, challenging the locals and visitors alike. Some members actually got out to play a few holes over the holidays! Due to the impact of storms, significant amounts of branches fell on the course. We now have a minimal snow base to support outdoor winter activities and hopefully that base can withstand the off and on again rains and winds that seem to be hovering around. Hoping all of you around the country enjoyed your holidays and are enjoying the OCC off-season!

2023, our 95<sup>th</sup> year was another positive year for OCC! We ended the season with 405 members, and closed out the year in a positive financial position. 2023 brought about significant changes in our Board leadership and membership. We want to extend our sincerest appreciation to Bob Granfors for his leadership and dedication to OCC while serving as a board member and most recently Board President. Bob and his wife, Susan, a dedicated and supportive OCC member as well, moved to NY this past fall. With Bob's recent retirement, he and Susan were able to realize their dream of living in the Adirondacks, a place where they have a long history and strong ties. Bob stepped down from his position after being part of many improvements and projects at the club. His support and participation will be greatly missed along with both he and Susan's camaraderie. While we wish them the best we will greatly miss their presence at the club and their dedication to OCC. In addition to Bob's departure, in November, Gary Miller, board member, and his fiancé, Christina Favreau, moved to Florida. Gary has been a long time OCC member and supporter, who contributed in numerous ways to course improvements and activities at OCC. He was responsible for the fish in the pond between 17 and 18, a special feature all enjoy. Gary and Christina's presence and involvement at the club will be greatly missed and we wish them the best as they enjoy their new home and the golf opportunities year round in Florida.

With Bob's departure, Mark Faust, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, is now serving as Interim President. With a vacancy on the Board, Jim Rokuski stepped forward and is now serving the rest of Bob's term on the board. Jim is interested in serving on the Board and will be running for a Board position at our annual meeting on **Tuesday, April 23rd**. At the annual meeting, we will also be looking to fill Gary's spot on the Board, along with two other Board members who are seeking re-election, Bruce Moffat and Aaron Palmieri.

Everyone should be pleased to see the newly paved parking lot that was done right at the end of the season! What a positive difference it makes! Thank you to all the folks that donated to the paving project and helped to make it possible. We did not meet our fundraising target goal, and will continue to accept donations to this most worthy cause. Thanks to a long-standing OCC member, we were also able to get the new pavement lined for parking, which is an added upgrade. You will agree that the first impression of OCC is vastly improved, along with the elimination of safety concerns for our customers and staff.

2023 also brought several other significant course investments that include: 10 additional golf carts, surfacing of the cart paths with stay mat on #2, #4, #8, #9, #15, #18, and 'new to us' course equipment (rough mower, greens roller, fertilizer spreader). Several upgrades were also made in the kitchen.

Planned for 2024 are: installing fence posts and netting on the left side of the practice range, securing kitchen equipment upgrades through Efficiency VT grant funds, stabilizing and reinforcing the main building basement supports and ice room floor, and addressing electrical upgrades following a needs assessment for the clubhouse.

The Board of Directors extends their thanks and sincere appreciation to the outside and inside OCC staff for their efforts in 2023 to promote a welcoming environment and ensure the course offered the best play conditions and customer services, regardless of any challenges that arose. We are extremely fortunate to have dedicated, hardworking, and skilled professionals on staff in all departments. Despite the flooding and course

closures, the club saw increased play, increased use of the practice range, and increased volume inside. One positive impact of the rains was nicer fairways on the back nine, something we all enjoyed.

Josh Olney, our PGA Pro and General Manager continued to help lead OCC in building membership, increasing play, and securing staffing to further build on our success and future stability. He and his Pro Shop staff were attentive to supporting the membership, marketing the club and keeping the flow of daily play running smoothly.

Frank Barsalow, Course Superintendent, and his outside crew continued to take the utmost pride in their work and were committed to providing members and guests with top-notch conditions for play. They are always facing a challenge due to weather or equipment and attend to those with a positive attitude and desire to insure that the course is in optimum condition on a daily basis. Frank was especially pleased this year to have a full crew in place to manage the daily needs of the course.

Inside, Ann Barron, Restaurant & Bar Manager, and the wait staff continued to provide friendly, welcoming and professional customer service to all. We saw an increase in private events and seasoned staff in place to support them. The staff's attention to detail, service delivery, and customer satisfaction significantly supported the bottom line, while bringing in more visitors, further promoting OCC as a social gathering place for the entire community.

Paul Merrill, Kitchen Manager, continued to provide us with a tasty varied menu, timely meal preparation, and ongoing support in all of our daily food needs, club activities and events. He did it with minimal assistance and our goal in 2024 is to recruit additional staff to support him in the kitchen.

We are extremely pleased to announce our phenomenal staff of Josh, Frank, Ann, and Paul will be returning for the 2024 season! As each of them confirms their staff rosters, we will reach out to you for your support in helping with recruitment efforts for any potential staff vacancies.

In 2023 we did not increase our rates. This year for 2024 you will see some slight increases on the memberships and daily fees. Our rates remain below neighboring courses and we are confident you will not see the increases for 2024 prohibitive in any way. Attached are the [2024 Membership Application](#), the [2024 New Member Application](#), and the [Member Benefits for 2024](#). Our 'New Member' offer remains available to anyone who was not a member of OCC in 2023. We are also continuing the 30-Mile 'as the crow flies' membership (not included in this mailing). Please read the restrictions closely for details on this offer and contact the Pro Shop in the spring to apply. All this information & links to documents are available on our web site, [www.orchestrascc.com/membership/](http://www.orchestrascc.com/membership/).

Membership Fees can be paid by check or credit card in full, or in 2, 3, or 4 installments, with **early bird rates in effect until May 1st** for identified memberships. If you have questions, please call either 802-754-2370 (Irene) or 617-833-0258 (Carol) for clarification. Please take time to review the Member Benefits for 2024 to check out the numerous special offers and discounts for MEMBERS ONLY. *New* for '24 are cart rental discounts.

Thanks to Irene Farrar, our website, [www.orchestrascc.com](http://www.orchestrascc.com) continues to be an invaluable resource, offering a wealth of information about the course and our activities. Membership forms, a calendar of leagues/tournaments/events, along with special offerings, tournament results, historical information and updates for everyone can be found there. Irene also expertly manages our 'Holiday Sales', a task that she does with a professional flair, and one that gives the club a significant financial boost in the off-season. Thank you Irene!

Our focus remains on striving to provide everyone with a great place to work and play. Continuing to keep costs for members in check remains a goal, while acknowledging that it is imperative to support our course, clubhouse, facilities, and staff, thus insuring our success into the future. The generous donations of members' time, money, and resources all help to supplement unmet needs and we have been setting aside funds, whenever possible, to address ongoing equipment and facility needs over time. Please continue to promote OCC at every opportunity. Building our membership and creating memorable golf experiences contributes to our financial health and we are seeing our membership and daily play increasing as a result of our efforts together.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the success of OCC!

Sincerely,

Carol Boucher, (Secretary) on behalf of the OCC Board of Directors