

# Off The Fringe

## Odds on Vegas



### STILL ONE MONTH AWAY, 2012 GIS ALREADY SURPASSING 2011 IN ATTENDEES, VENDORS

By Seth Jones

**T**he GCSAA Conference and Show hasn't made an appearance in Las Vegas since 1997. Early figures on the show seem to be pointing to the GCSAA walking away from Vegas as so few are able to do — as a winner.

"We're already above (our numbers) from Orlando, and that's never happened before," says Julia Ozark, senior manager, tradeshow and activation, for the GCSAA and a 12-year veteran of the association. "We're above on both goals of total qualified

buyers (6,000) and square footage (180,000 square feet)."

Ozark said the goals for the 2012 Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas were set at the same levels as the 2011 show in Orlando. Though last year's show in Orlando was almost 40 percent smaller than it was when the show was there in 2008, Orlando is typically known as the best attended show for the GCSAA.

"Everyone is really excited for Las Vegas — it's been 15 years," Ozark says.

"I think the positive vibe on the show floor last year helped us out. It wasn't doom and gloom last year. People were ready to get back to business."

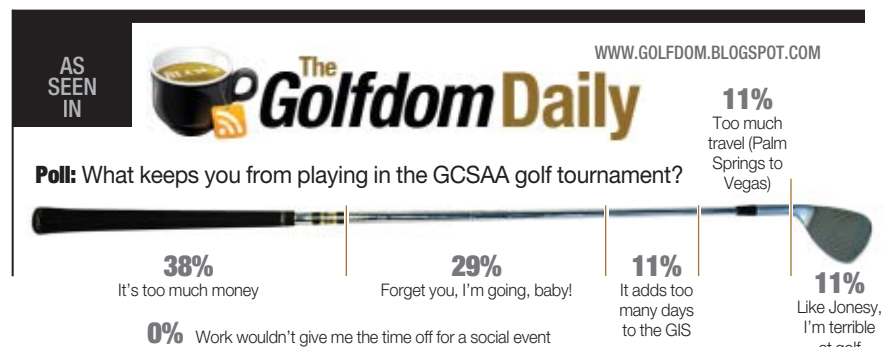
Why Las Vegas has been out of the rotation for the last 15 years has always been a popular topic of gossip among attendees. Is it because GCSAA members party too much in Sin City? Or maybe *not enough*?

"There's nothing specific that's kept us from Las Vegas," says GCSAA president Robert Randquist, CGCS. "We've been there numerous times before. You're always curious how the attractions will affect attendance, but we're not worried — our members are committed to being there for the right reasons."

But that doesn't mean the GCSAA will be back in Las Vegas any time soon. And that information is coming from Las Vegas, not the GCSAA.

"It would be difficult but not impossible (to return soon)," Ozark tells *Golfdom*. "They have shows that return to Las Vegas every year. January through March is their busy time. From what they tell us, the dates we want aren't available."

But one thing is for sure: Go all-in on a better-attended and bigger Golf Industry Show in 2012 in Las Vegas than what was held in 2011 in Orlando.



# Lyon Hit by Truck

**O**n Dec. 20th, Dennis Lyon, CGCS-Retired, was hit by a small pickup truck while he was walking his dog.

Lyon suffered serious injuries. He remains in serious but stable condition at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora.

According to the family, the majority of his injuries are bone fractures, some of which will have to heal on their own over time. Lyon suffered fractures in his back, collar bone, upper left arm, pelvis, ribs and tail bone.

“Needless to say this accident came as a shock to all of us,” Michael Osley, CGCS at Saddle Rock Golf Course



in Aurora, Colo., told *Golfdom*. “Dennis has had such a huge impact on so many people here in Colorado and within the golf industry. Dennis had just retired last December to enjoy what he described as the ‘2G network’ — golf and grandkids. My thoughts and daily prayers will be for Dennis and his family for the strength, support and love he will need during his recovery.”

A Caring Bridge website has been set up to keep friends and colleagues of Lyon apprised of his condition. Visit <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/dennislyon1> to visit the site. There is

## Quotable

“But they might be working for us!”

— Paul Davids, CGCS, Sycamore Ridge Golf Course, Spring Hill, Kan., after a speaker declared that more than half of retirees today have less than \$25,000 in savings and won't be golfing much.

also a guest book to sign for visitors wanting to wish him well.

Lyon, who worked 37 years for the city of Aurora, was the president of GCSAA in 1989.

### FRIENDS OF GOLFDOM

Our hat is off to Harold Baldwin, Georgia GCSA President 1963-64, who passed away last October at the age of 91. Baldwin was elected to the inaugural Georgia GCSA Hall of Fame class (along with Palmer Maples Jr., CGCS, Randy Nichols, CGCS, and Charlie Underwood). Baldwin passed away days after learning of his election.

Baldwin was a veteran of World War II, having fought in the Battle of the Bulge. We're thrilled to see that Baldwin, a 50-year veteran of the turf industry, was a proud reader of *Golfdom*, as evidenced by the copy on his desk.



World War II veteran, 50-year turf veteran, Georgia GCSA hall of famer...and *Golfdom* reader.

## Sharp Park Golf Course Stays Alive

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted recently not to close Sharp Park Golf Course, much to the dismay of environmentalists who claim the course endangers frogs and

snakes on the course.

The board's vote upheld San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee's December veto of an ordinance that would have closed the course and made it national parkland, meaning golf would be forbidden.

Supervisor John Avalos, who wrote

the ordinance, garnered 6 votes in support of closing the course; he needed 8. Though the course gets a reprieve for now, it's not home free entirely; the case is headed for trial in federal district court this July. Until then, however, golfers know for certain they can tee off all they want.