



Sun City Softball Club

Club Chronology

Originated by Hank Gureck, Historian
Updated by Succeeding Executive Board

Then

In **1997**, Nat Shapiro and Frank Giglinto petitioned Del Webb, Inc., for a softball field and started the Sun City Men's Softball Club.

Play was informal and the league consisted of 2 "teams" of approximately 13 players each.

The Executive Board consisted of a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Decisions were made by majority vote of the Executive Board and "team" managers.

Field conditions were "austere". Del Webb, Inc., provided a playing surface with a 200' fence where Magnolia Hall now stands. The Club added golf cart parking and a storage shed. Field grooming equipment and a scoreboard were purchased with Club funds and sponsor contributions. Club volunteers constructed dugouts and made other improvements.

Now

The Sun City Softball Club has grown to over almost 400 male and female members and is governed by an executive board of four elected officers and the most recent past President.

The Club organizes a Tuesday/Thursday league and a co-ed weekend league. The leagues play a fall and spring season. Teams are selected by draft prior to each season under the auspices of their respective Competition Committee. The Club provides additional opportunities to play softball with select tournament teams, regularly scheduled practices, instructional clinics, social teams that play similar teams from nearby communities, and 'choose-up' games during the off season.

League games are played at the Sun City Sports Park field with 65-foot bases and 275-foot fences. Play abides by ASA Official Rules of Softball (Seniors Division), except as modified by the Club's Rules Committee. Games are officiated by volunteers from the membership who receive regular training.

The Club's goal remains unchanged: To provide a social forum for members to engage in the game of softball with an emphasis on fair, balanced and safe competition.

Following is a chronology of the Club's evolution:

1997 Club is Chartered

Nat Shapiro and Frank Giglinto petitioned Del Webb, Inc., to construct a softball field. The Club is chartered as a result of their effort. Nat served as the first league president.

Game play was strictly informal. There were 2 "teams" consisting of approximately 13 players per team for a total club membership of about 26 active players.

Umpiring was done by whoever was available.

1998 Frank Giglinto elected President.

The league expanded to four teams consisting of 15 players each for league strength of 60 members. The playing season was separated into a spring and a fall season of 12 games, each with games played on Tuesday and Thursday.

A player draft system was initiated in an effort to achieve league parity and team balance. Managers chose player's names out of a hat to form the four teams. Also during the season, if a team was short players, they were permitted to use players from other teams.

As the club was concentrating on Tuesday and Thursday league play, an independent competition team was formed: Sun City Islanders Travel & Tournament team. Del Webb, Inc sponsored the team. The team was selected by invitation only from the Sun City Men's Softball Club. Team membership dues were used for tournament entry fees as well as compensation to the Softball Club for field & equipment use.

Travel & Tournament team wins South Carolina Senior Olympic State Championship.

1999 Frank Giglinto elected President for a second term.

The league expanded the team rosters to 18 players per each. A season ending "all star" game and picnic was instituted

2000 Jack Wiler – President
Dick Swader – Vice President
Len Kieny – Secretary
Mike Coyne – Treasurer

Team rosters were again expanded to 20 players each for league strength of 80 members.

Team game rosters were frozen i.e. no players except those on the initial roster were used during a game.

The outfield fence was moved from the initial 215' distance to 235'.

Field prep equipment was purchased from Del Webb, Inc. from Softball Club funds. The first equipment shed was built. Softball Club funds were used to purchase the materials.

Travel & Tournament team enters Bluffton PALS League and hosts several charity benefit games on our home field.

Field enhancements included a public address system and an electronic scoreboard. Club funds were augmented by the sponsorship of Del Webb, Inc., Coca Cola, Palmetto Electric, and additional donations.

A partial redistribution of players was initiated at the beginning of the year in an attempt to re-establish league parity which was constantly changing due to the “retiring” of players and the influx of new/younger residents. Wellington Lewis retires from league play at 84 years young.

An additional team independent of the club was formed to provide an expanded format for the Monday games. The structure and operational practices of this team was similar to the Okatie Swingers competition team. The main function of the new team was to provide more competitive play on a continuing Monday schedule.

The third “Softball Ball” was held in Pinckney Hall at the end of the fall season and was another huge success. Dancing to “Gus D’Oldie” was the evening feature.

2003 **Mike Nicoletti** – **President**
 Jim Cacciola – Vice President
 Selig Galter – Secretary
 Mike Coyne – Treasurer

The league expands to 5 teams with membership growing in direct proportion to new residents. League membership grows to 92 players.

The general membership votes to require complete player redistribution annually.

A By-laws Committee was established. The bylaws were updated to reflect current practice and anticipate future expansion and to provide the membership with more responsibility in the decision making process. Included were:

(1) A Rules Committee. This committee was formed to balance competitive play with player safety. The Sun City Softball Club was called upon to face the fact that we have 55 year olds playing alongside and/or against 70 year olds. This complex and important situation required well thought out action.

(2) A Competition Committee. The purpose was to ensure team parity by the assignment of new players by skill level and specific team needs.

(3) An Audit Committee. This committee was established to check the books. This is a formal yearly activity required by CAM.

(4) The outgoing President was retained on the Executive Board to assist the new administration by providing continuity based upon his previous experiences.

An Umpire Training Committee was established. The purpose of this committee was to enhance the skills of the umpiring staff via formal training sessions conducted by our own resident ASA umpires.

Field improvements included installing a flagpole in the outfield and water coolers in the dugouts. The Club subsidized the new water coolers with a significant contribution to

CAM. The Club purchased a new tractor. The Club also purchased the necessary material and members built a new equipment shed. The old shed was donated to the Okatie Farmers.

The year ending “Softball Ball” was held for the fourth year. The community response was overwhelming (350 attendees) making it the hottest ticket in town.

The Sun City “Kids Camp” week program was augmented by members of the Softball Club. Volunteers assisted in daily games and instruction.

The Softball Club reached out to the Bluffton community by holding instruction sessions for members of the Bluffton Dixie League (a youth program). The six 2 hour weekly practices were used to demonstrate and reinforce fundamental baseball techniques.

2004 **Hank Gureck** – **President**
Bob Temme – Vice President
Ken Anderson – Secretary
Larry Solomone – Treasurer

The club membership has grown to over 145 members.

Under the advisement of the Competition Committee, the league was again expanded to a total of 7 teams. The committee also recommended the adoption of a “no forfeit” rule.

The playing schedule is expanded to 4 games per week for 12 weeks in the spring and again in the fall to accommodate the expansion.

Field utilization time now includes Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for formal games and a 5-day a week individual team practice schedule. In addition, the coed baseball is available on Wednesday afternoons. The competition team continues to use the field on Saturday for charitable fund raising games involving off site teams such as the Bluffton Fire & EMS, Hilton Head Fire Co., Bluffton Eagles, and a series with teams from Clemson, SC. However, formal tournaments cannot be held on our field due to the “short fence”.

A Vision & Growth Committee was established to plan for future expansion and formal league operation. It was proposed and accepted by the general membership that all Sun City softball teams be placed under the control of the Softball Club. This enabled consistent organizational practices to be utilized for the Coed team, Tuesday/Thursday Men’s League, the Monday League, and the Competition Team. These changes were incorporated into the Bylaws and the name of the club was officially changed to: The Sun City Softball Club.

An informal summer league was established to provide games on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for those players remaining here for the summer months.

A league web site (suncitysoftball.org) was initiated.

The leagues were deemed for senior players only – 50 and above – which was approved by CAM.

A New Field Advisory Committee was established to work in concert with Pulte in the development of a plan for the new field to be located at the intersection of Red Dam Road & Sun City Blvd.

The spring picnic and the fifth fall “Softball Dance” continued to be outstanding successes.

2005 **Bob Temme** – **President**
Hank Gureck – Vice President
Jerry Pierce – Secretary
Dom Alfieri – Treasurer

The golf cart parking area was increased by about 40%. Volunteer club members assisted Pulte by providing manual labor for the project.

The Tuesday/Thursday league was expanded to eight teams with 3 games being played each day reflecting that club membership has reached 180.

The New Field Advisory Committee continued to meet with Pulte about the new field.

An Equipment Manager position was established to manage the assets of the club (e.g. bats, balls, uniforms, field equipment).

The spring picnic and the sixth fall “Softball Dance” were social highlights.

2006 **Dom Alfieri** – **President**
Mike Brown – Vice President
Jerry Pierce – Secretary
Hank Gureck – Treasurer

CPR program established with a representative from each team trained.

The Tuesday/Thursday League expanded to ten (10) teams in the spring and twelve (12) teams in the fall.

Hot Dog Days were initiated on a trial basis four (4) times during the year.

Certificates of Deposit were purchased for the first time to increase the assets of the club. The club also received \$1,500 from the Pulte Home Sales program.

Playoffs were instituted in the Tuesday/Thursday League with various formats. A Softball Club Golf Outing was initiated in the fall and was successful.

Plaques were purchased for the team sponsors as a token of the club’s appreciation. Tee-shirts were purchased for the Tuesday/Thursday spring and fall winners.

The 1-1 count was tested during the spring season and was not recommended for continuance by the Rules Committee.

A Newsletter was used to promote the club’s banner/team sponsors.

The New Field Advisory Committee continued to meet with Pulte to determine the criteria and help oversee construction, which is scheduled by year-end. Pulte rejected our perennial request for two fields.

Individual pictures of the club's membership were taken so that they could be used for identification at team selections.

The new Sun City web site was used to promote the club and to house rules, by-laws, schedules and other documents.

By-laws were amended to meet the requirements of CAM management.

Jackets and wind breakers were offered for purchase by club members and were well received.

Two workshops were conducted with a cross-section of the membership attending. The agenda consisted of the make-up, composition, vision and growth of the club for the present as well as for the future.

The spring picnic and the seventh fall "Softball Dance" continued to be social favorites.

2007

Dom Alfieri	–	President
Mike Brown	–	Vice President
Bob Lippmann	–	Secretary
Jerry Pierce	–	Treasurer

The Hot Dog Days were continued on a once a week basis and continued to be successful. Thursday was the day of choice. Two refrigerators, a freezer and a grill were added. A retractable awning was affixed to the roof of the service building to provide shade for the volunteers.

The Tuesday/Thursday League was expanded to 14 teams with a 15-member roster. The membership of club exceeded 300 for the first time.

The new field at Red Dam Road and Sun City Boulevard was available for the first time in February. The distance to the outfield was 275 feet, a challenge to all considering the old field was a mere 235 feet. The field had all the amenities of the old field and many of the items from the old field such as scoreboard and shed were transferred to the new site.

The coed league was expanded to include instruction and became know as the Coed/Instructional League.

A separate ladies team was established with its own practice schedule. Several games were played against other communities.

A select team program was inaugurated with two (2) teams. The teams were to play outside competition on behalf of the club. Games were played primarily on the weekends.

All teams participating in the Club were uniformed for the first time.

An MVP and Most Improved Player award were established in honor of Len Kieny (deceased) and Odell Brown, charter members of the club.

The spring picnic and the eighth fall “Softball Dance” were once again very successful.

2008 **Dave Sauer** – **President**
Aldo Notargiacomo – Vice President
Bob Lippmann – Secretary
Regis Dornick – Treasurer

The Tuesday/Thursday League remained at fourteen (14) teams in the spring but with fourteen (14) on the roster. A player pool was developed and administered by the Competition Committee to replace injured players and respond to emergency situations. The two (2) most improved players from each team were invited to play in extra games in the Spring and Fall.

The Monday League had a successful Spring, Summer and Fall Season.

A new format for the Instructional/COED Wednesday program was adopted. In order to encourage more women to participate, the men were rated and divided into two groups and an additional practice session on Friday was held during the Tues/Thurs League’s off-season. Also, a committee was established to recruit more women. Women’s play continued on Saturday morning. Shirts and hats were purchased for the women. Players rated 5 were assigned to the Wednesday program so that they could improve their skills before playing in the Tues/Thurs League.

Four (4) age specific teams qualified for the Senior Olympics at the South Carolina Games in Mount Pleasant. The 70’s team was active also in several tournaments.

The Travel Team (formerly the Select Team) played in approximately 24 games against outside competition. The Board formalized the selection process for the team.

AED/CPR training was provided to twenty club members.

The third annual golf outing was held in the Fall at the Oldfield Golf Club.

Hot Dog Days held on Thursdays and on special occasions such as the playoffs continued to be popular. A record of 980 hot dogs was set.

The Spring Picnic and the ninth annual Softball Dance was well attended. At the dance, the Most Improved Players (Don Sbrocco-Spring and Randy Reid-Fall) and the Most Valuable Players (Dean Waters-Spring and Bob Foulks-Fall) were recognized.

The banner committee filled all 46 available spots on the outfield fence, a first in club history.

Many improvements were made at the field. A new scoreboard donated by JDH Capital, developer of Okatie Village and Food Lion was added. The infield was replenished by four truckloads of material that was laser leveled. Jox boxes were installed at home plate to stabilize the batter’s boxes. The tractor motor was replaced in the Fall. A batting cage proposal was rejected by CAM. The grass in foul territory on the first base and third base side was skinned and material added. The sprinkler system behind home plate was repaired and drains added along the first base side.

2009 **Scott Madison** – **President**
Glenn Ahlum – Vice President
Ken Abshier – Secretary (Jan – Apr)

Carl Bolno – Secretary (Apr – Dec)
Bob Lippman – Treasurer

Club membership continues to grow. It reached 375 despite a downturn in the economy, especially in the housing market, affecting growth in Sun City.

The Tues/Thurs League had 14 teams in the Spring and Fall Seasons with 13 players on the roster. Several changes: players were required to wear black shorts or pants as part of the uniform projecting a better image; The Fall Season had 19 games instead of the normal 13 and players began their at bat with a one ball one strike count to speed up the games. These changes were successful and will continue into 2010.

The Monday League had another successful year with four (4) teams competing, including the Travel Team. The COED/Instructional Group had steady and improved attendance. The women met on Fridays for practice and many played in the newly formed COED League on Saturday mornings. The new venture was popular and there were five (5) teams by the end of the year.

The Travel Team had a very successful year traveling to tournaments and winning one in Manassas, Virginia.

The Spring Picnic and the 10th annual Dance in the Fall were again “Sell Outs”. At the picnic and Dance, the MVP (Rich Matera – Spring and Ed Schumacher – Fall) and the MIP Player (Phil Lombardo-Spring and Lee Sell – Fall) were congratulated.

The fourth annual Golf Tournament was held at Oldfield in November.

The primary income of the club comes from team sponsors and banner sponsors. All the teams had sponsors and 46 (the maximum) banners hung from the outfield fence. There are waiting lists in both categories, which is remarkable considering the economy.

Another source of income, is the ever popular Thursday Hot Dog Day. It takes a lot of volunteers and the people still keep coming even though we had to raise the price to \$1.50/hot dog to cover the rising cost of supplies and state taxes.

The most important improvement at the field was the resurfacing of the outfield to correct the unevenness. The outfield was stripped, leveled and re-sod with a new type of hybrid grass (Celebration). The work was approved by CAM and cost the club \$28,720.

2010 **Scott Madison** – **President**
Glenn Ahlum – Vice President
Carl Bolno – Secretary
Bob Lippman – Treasurer

With fewer people moving into Sun City because of the poor housing market, Club membership fell for the first time in 12 years to 364 members.

The Tuesday/Thursday League still managed to have 14 teams. The managers voted to have only 12 players per team. This number keeps the level of play that is desired in this League. A 19 game schedule and one and one count were approved by the membership and used during the Spring and Fall Seasons.

The popularity of the CO-ED League continues to grow and had 6 teams this year. The Travel Team had another successful year competing in several tournaments in several different states. The Monday League continued with 4 teams this year. The Instructional Group, on Wednesday, continues to be very successful with a growing number of players. The over 70's Travel Team participated in a couple of tournaments this year also.

The 5th annual Golf Outing was held at Oldfield Golf Club in November and had a good turnout. Our thanks to Bob Temme and Hank Sieban.

The Spring Picnic and 11th annual dance were once again sellouts. The seasonal awards were presented to MVP (Artie Smallwood-Spring & Butch Fleming-Fall). MIP (Tom Abruzzo-Spring and Ken Swickard-Fall).

In March, the Club was told it could not accept any monies from the banner sponsors. After 8 plus months of meeting with the Sun City Board of Directors, a compromise was reached and the Club was allowed to continue to sell the banners with restrictions on size and color with CAM retaining 20% of any monies collected. In return, CAM leased a new tractor for the Club and paid for the infield to be restored with 4 truckloads of clay mix and laser leveled.

The Club paid for the new second shed (\$3,468) to house the new tractor and had drains installed in front of each dugout (\$1,746) to help prevent the clay mix from running off the field during heavy rainstorms.

We were able to maintain the hot dogs (\$1.50) and soda (\$1.00) this year. Hot Dog Thursday continues to grow and benefits the entire community.

2011	Glenn Ahlum	–	President (Jan – May)
	Art Smallwood	–	President (May – Dec)
	Dominick Alfieri	–	Vice President
	Carl Bolno	–	Secretary
	Bob Lippman	–	Treasurer

The Scoreboard was relocated from right field to center field for aesthetic reasons. This was a major undertaking and a huge accomplishment for the Club.

A new shed was put in place and our tractor had a new home. New benches were built by volunteers and allow fans to sit along the fence and be comfortable when they cheer for their favorite team and yell at the ump's. Again, our annual picnic and dance were well received and sold-out. The Spring MVP was Tom DaParma and the Spring MIP was Virgil Howard.

The club invested in an ice machine to make it easier to sell soda and water on Hot Dog Days.

An Industrial fan was purchased to cool the hot dog work area.

2012	Art Smallwood	–	President
	Dominick Alfieri	–	Vice President
	Carl Bolno	–	Secretary
	Bob Lippman	–	Treasurer

Air/water misters were installed in both dugouts. This was a welcome relief on very hot days. 8 additional benches were installed to accommodate fans during games. Benches were placed along the 3rd base fence for the greater numbers of fans viewing our games.

The windscreens behind home plate were replaced.

Yellow piping was placed on the fences for safety – all along the first base side extending to the right field line. Installed the “Curb Your Pet” signs in the parking lot and bleacher area.

Bats, balls, and uniform shirts were contributed to a youth group in Croatia.

The Club hosted a Memorial Day Weekend Softball Fundraiser tournament.

Picnic tables were replaced with tables made of a long lasting composite.

2013 **Art Smallwood** – **President**
Dominick Alfieri – Vice President
Carl Bolno – Secretary
Bob Lippman – Treasurer

Replaced grass in picnic area with pavers to enhance the overall look.

Purchased new umbrellas.

Replaced loudspeakers above the dugouts.

Replaced another 15 banners on the field fence.

Installed pavers next to the first base dugout.

Created the 65+ Travel Team

Created the Wednesday Group “Travel“ Team

2014 **Tom DaParma** – **President**
Dennis Jackson – Vice President
Mary McQueen – Secretary
Jack Gaffney – Treasurer
Art Smallwood – Past President

1st time in the Club’s history a woman was elected to the Executive Board. The Club’s membership was approx 370. Dues remained \$25 for players and \$10 for associate members.

For the first time, local businesses paid \$250 to sponsor one of six Weekend League teams.

Having sponsors raised the bar and gave a sense of belonging to this League as it continues to grow and improve. For the first time, the Weekend League MIP Award was given to a woman and to a man: Ann Randler and Rick Kaplan were the Spring recipients.

The Club’s email list was transferred to Internet Services of the Low Country (ISLC). Most Sun City clubs use this commercial list-server. No longer will every member’s email address appear in every email. The email list is now stored offsite and updated by the Club secretary.

The elevated pitcher’s mound became a safety concern. A poll of the pitchers overwhelmingly supported flattening the mound area and removing the pitcher’s rubber, which was done prior to the Spring Season.

The Weekday League had 12 teams with 13 players per team and played a 16 game schedule with a modified playoff format. The schedule omitted one Thursday game so the Travel team could attend a tournament and the other playing members got a break.

The playing field remained in pristine shape. Pavers were installed from the picnic area to the bleacher area. The Club subsidized the installation with a \$10k donation to CAM.

CAM insisted that BBQ gas tanks be stored outside. As such, a new exterior cage was purchased and placed near the sheds at a cost of \$425.

The Weekday League trophy, which lists every spring and fall team winner, was filled so another tier was added making the trophy even more impressive. Team sponsors were replaced with team manager names. The Weekend League plaque was similarly revised.

Tuesday was designated 'Hot Dog Day' so it could be pushed to Thursday in case of a rainout. Hot Dog set-up was moved to the south side of the building away from the bathrooms. Hot Dog Day continues to be a huge draw from the community. Raising the price of a Hot Dog to \$2 was strongly suggested. However, it was agreed the price remain \$1.50 with the Club absorbing any cost overage.

The Bat Policy was simplified and new bat holders were added to the playing field. A ring of colored tape indicates the weight of the bat.

The Spring picnic at the Pavilion was sold out. A "Recognition Award" was bestowed for the 1st time to a deserving member: Dominick Alfieri. The Spring MVP award was given jointly to Bob Pentico and Lou Fasano. The MIP award went to Larry Corwin.

The Club web site was updated to serve as a tool to inform club members in a timely manner. Field use schedule, glove and bat exchange info, the Club history, photos, and policies are now posted to the web site and updated regularly. A listing of past winning teams and managers was also added. An external link allows more Club pictures to be shown, including aerial shots of the field. An expense form to facilitate reimbursement to members authorized to spend money on the Club's behalf was posted. The website started the year with 5k visits and surpassed 31k by year-end. Members are going to the site for up-to-date information and to use the new Document and Photo areas.

For the first time, members had the option of paying their dues and picnic, dance and golf outing tickets on-line.

Shelving was installed in the storage rooms. A trash receptacle specifically for aluminum cans was provided. Collected cans are donated to a local firehouse to raise funds for Burn Victims.

CAM approved extending the pavers around the bleachers and they were installed in January 2015. CAM also raised the fence behind 1st base to 8 feet for safety reasons. At the August general meeting, the membership approved \$10k to construct a new Scorer's Box behind home plate.

In the Fall, the spectator aluminum bench seating was replaced with 104 molded seats with backs and armrests. The new seats were salvaged from old Camden Yard. As a result, fan attendance substantially increased compared to past seasons.

The Fall Golf Outing returned to Sun City. The party was at the Pavilion. Almost 100 golfers, mostly Club members, attended.

In October, in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month, many players wore pink shoelaces. Proceeds from sale of the laces (over \$500 dollars) were donated to the American Cancer Society during a mid-day game presentation.

During the Fall season, the leagues went from 44/375 balls to the newer 52/300 balls. The Club decided to return to the 44/375 balls for the Spring 2015 season.

The Field Crew was outfitted with bright green “DIAMOND DAWG” tee shirts. The Fall season ended on Nov 4th & playoffs started on Thur. Nov 6th.

Estimates to resurface the scoreboard were received and 25 banners were replaced for normal wear and tear.

The Weekday MVP was Bruce Clement & MIP was Ray Charnews.
The Weekend League MIP’s were Barbara Pearson & Craig McCall.

The annual dance (Thursday, Nov 13th at Pinckney Hall) was a sellout (240 members). Bobby Ryder entertained and the Golden Corral catered. In a post-event survey, 182 attendees gave the event highly favorable ratings.

Plans for the Scorer’s Box were approved and contracts were let. A new gate was installed in the backstop fence as the first part of this project.

After an open meeting to discuss bifurcating the Weekday league by skill level, the concept was rejected by a majority of members in a non-binding survey.

The Wednesday Instruction session was revamped under new leadership and attracted many new players from the community.

2015

Art Smallwood	–	President
Dave Sarno	–	Vice President
Mary McQueen	–	Secretary
Brian Gilroy	–	Treasurer
Tom DaParma	–	Past Pres.

The Tuesday/Thursday League and the Weekend League played spring and fall seasons, each followed by a single elimination ‘championship’ tournament. The Tuesday/Thursday League fielded 12 teams each season and the Weekend League expanded from 6 teams in the spring to 7 teams in the fall. The last day of play for the fall season was cancelled and the tournaments were postponed a week due to wet field conditions with hopes of having the field in top shape for the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team (“WWAST”) fundraiser.

The WWAST fundraiser was held on November 14th, co-hosted by the Club and the Sun City Veterans’ Association. The WWAST comprises service men that have lost a limb in combat and play softball at venues around the country to raise money for their charity. Over 3000 people surrounded the Sun City softball field to watch the opening ceremonies, which included a three-man parachute team descending to the field with the game ball and an American flag. Then they watched the WWAST closely lose to the Sun City 60+ Travel Team and then closely beat a select team of military veterans. Over 250 volunteers help stage what was until then the largest event in Sun City history. Through ticket, hot dog, soda and ice cream sales and personal and corporate donations, the Sun City community contributed \$36K to the WWAST charity. The event received local news coverage and highlights are available on YouTube.

Improvements to the field included (1) construction of the Scorer’s Platform behind home plate, (2) upgrades to the sound system and (3) resurfacing of the scoreboard, all from Club funds.

Two sponsors signed three-year contracts to have their names displayed on the scoreboard for an annual fee of \$700.

The price of a hot dog was increased to \$2 with 10% of proceeds earmarked for charitable contributions. In addition to a sizeable donation to the WWAST, the Club contributed to the Veteran's Association (to help pay postage for 'care' packages sent to deployed US military personnel) and to Sun City Staying Connected.

Craig McCall was awarded the 2015 Member Recognition Award for his tireless efforts supervising the Club's hot dog concession activities for the past few years.

The rule limiting scoring to a 12 run lead in what may be a last inning was adopted. The Club adopted QuickBooks for recording its financial transactions. Club by-laws were amended to comply with Lifestyle Services requirements.

2016	Art Smallwood	–	President
	Bob Cragin	–	Vice President
	Brian Gilroy	–	Secretary
	Mary McQueen	–	Treasurer
	Tom DaParma	–	Past President

Both the Tuesday/Thursday and CoEd leagues completed successful seasons in both the spring and fall. The T/T had 12 teams each season and the CoEd went from 8 teams in the spring to 9 in the fall.

The Club paid to extend pavers from the bleachers around to the entrance of the visiting team dugout and acquired four additional picnic tables.

The 65s and 70s travel teams each won an ISSA Championship. A 2'x2' banner with each team's picture proclaiming their success was hung behind the home team dugout

The CoEd League adopted a 160' Restraining Line rule for outfielders.

The Club hosted its annual Memorial Day tournament and the Diamonds hosted a Ladies Military tournament.

Mike Giuliani and Carl Bolno organized the "Sno-Ball" league – an informal league that played a six game schedule between the end of the fall and beginning of the spring seasons.

2017	Brian Gilroy	–	President
	Bob Cragin	–	Vice President
	Mary McQueen	–	Secretary
	Mark Triger	–	Treasurer
	Art Smallwood	–	Past President

The Tuesday/Thursday and the CoEd leagues completed successful seasons in the spring and the fall. The T/T fielded 12 teams and the CoEd league went from 9 teams in the spring to 10 in the fall. During the spring season, the T/T league had to postpone three games due to frost. In the fall, the Club suspended play for a week when the county was ordered to evacuate due to Hurricane Irma. Victoria Black became the first female to play as a regular roster player in the T/T when she was drafted in the spring season – her team went on to win the championship.

Beyond the usual league play and open practices, with the full support of the Board, members organized the following opportunities for members to enjoy playing softball:

- league play during the summer and winter off seasons;
- weekly invitational coed scrimmage games;
- two One Pitch Tournaments to help raise funds for a local charity; and
- a reverse softball game where players batted from the opposite side and had to run the bases in reverse order.

The Club paid to install a pathway of pavers from the bleachers to the sidewalk along Red Dam Road.

Administratively, the Board organized a committee (“Improvements Committee”) to assist in prioritizing future improvement projects. This committee recommended four improvements that were approved by the Community Association and scheduled for completion during 2018. The Board also adopted policies governing Club involvement in charity events and guidance to umpires for suspending play when lightening threatens. The CoEd league initiated elections for its three commissioners rather than volunteers.

The Competition Committee trained a staff of official scorers to keep statistics independent from team-generated statistics to improve consistency in the stats used for drafting purposes.

2018	Mary McQueen	–	President
	Bob Peters (deceased)	–	Vice President
	Mitch Sacks	–	Secretary
	Mark Triger	–	Treasurer
	Art Smallwood	–	Past President

In December 2018 at the General Membership Meeting, for the first time in the Club’s history, a woman was elected President. Mary McQueen was elected the first woman President of the Softball Club.

During the first year of tenure the following took place:

- There were 10 teams in the Spring Co-Ed League and 12 teams in the Spring Tues/Thurs League.
- An election of Commissioners in the Co-Ed League (as opposed to appointment) took place in July of 2018.
- The One-Pitch Tournament, benefitting Backpack Buddies, took place in early May.
- The Memorial Day Weekend Tournament was held.
- One of the major projects was the repair of the left field, left centerfield, and centerfield drainage system.
- The Sno-Ball League had its second season.
- The summer Co-Ed League held games from May through June.
- A new freezer was purchased.
- Inquired about purchasing two new handicap picnic tables.
- Spring picnic catered by Jameson’s at the Pavilion.
- A “Battle of the Badges” softball game was held at the Hardeville town field between the Hardeville Police and Fire Departments. Sun City provided umpires for the game.
- A softball game between the CAM (Community Association) and Sun City teams was held in November of 2018.
- Octogenarian Awards were presented to active Club members reaching the age 80+. A ceremony awarding members a pin and certificate were given at a ceremony in
- November 2018. There were approximately 25 members who received a pin and certificate.
- The first ladies' tournament inviting the women from Peachtree City, GA took place.

2019 Mary McQueen	–	President
Bob Peters (deceased)	–	Vice President
Mitch Sacks	–	Secretary
Mark Triger	–	Treasurer
Art Smallwood	–	Past President

The following occurred in the 2019 season:

- 11 teams in the Spring Saturday League
- 12 teams in the Spring Tues/Thurs League.
- Memorial Day Tournament w/military from Army and Marines
- One Pitch Tournament in May benefitting Backpack Buddies
- Major repair to the grass in the outfield – the field was closed for most of the summer.
- A new batting cage was installed
- Shade screens behind the dugouts and bleachers were installed
- Two handicap picnic tables were purchased
- A second freezer was purchased.
- Black hats for pool players were purchased.
- An article in the May 2019 SunSations was presented about the “Play Like A Girl – Meet the Ladies of the Sun City Softball Club”: The article highlighted those women who were instrumental in bringing their expertise to the Softball Club by managing, serving on various committees, and just making the Softball Club grow in ways to include women who’s expertise can help the Softball Club grow.
- The approval for a Woman’s League came about in 2019. A proposal had been submitted to the Board by Victoria Black, and through further discussions and meeting, it was agreed by the Board that a Woman’s League would now be a part of the Softball Club.
- Another ladies tournament against Peachtree City, GA, and Sun City was held in Sun City.
- The first Veteran’s Day tournament idea was instituted in 2019. The tournament was the idea of current President, Mary McQueen, and the first game for Veteran’s in Sun City would be held in November of 2020, under the newly elected President, Mitch Sacks.
- The “Silver Centurion Award” was presented at the 2019 Dinner Dance in November 2019. This was the idea of then Competition Committee Chairman of the Tues/Thurs League, Alan Neamand. Alan came up with the idea to award those who had been a Club member for many years, have played softball for many years, and also contributed their talents to our Club for many years. The recipients of the award were John Rinaldi, Celeste Michalski, and Dominic Alfieri. The awards were presented at the 2019 dinner dance.

2020	Mitch Sacks	–	President
	Lou Fasano	–	Vice President
	Ed Esswein	–	Secretary
	Tommy Payne	–	Treasurer
	Mary McQueen	–	Past President

The following occurred in the 2020 season:

2021	Mitch Sacks	–	President
	Lou Fasano	–	Vice President
	Ed Esswein	–	Secretary
	Tommy Payne	–	Treasurer
	Mary McQueen	–	Past President

The following occurred in the 2021 season:

2022	Mitch Sacks	–	President
	Lou Fasano	–	Vice President
	Ed Esswein	–	Secretary
	Claire Sille	–	Treasurer
	Mary McQueen	–	Past President

The following occurred in the 2022 season:

2023 Holly Meckley	–	President
Lou Fasano	–	Vice President
Eddie Hasenauer	–	Secretary
Claire Spille	–	Treasurer
Mitch Sacks	–	Past President

The following occurred in 2023:

- Created role descriptions for all Board members and established and defined numerous committees.
- 12 teams in the Spring Saturday League - Champion The Zone
- 8 teams in the Spring Tue/Thu League - Champion Dynamic Dentistry
- 4 teams in the Spring for WSL - Champion Hawg Wild
- Formalized, adopted, and implemented a new Club Ratings system
- A Player Development Committee was formed which enhanced the Wednesday Introduction and Instructional Program.
- League softball games were enhanced with announcers and music.
- A dedicated Club Photographer was identified and present at games and special events to capture memories throughout the year. Activity photos and videos were greatly expanded and made available on the clubs' website.
- A video camera was installed at the field to provide a live feed to YouTube allowing softball enthusiasts/friends/families to view games and other activities on the softball field live as well as archived videos of prior days.
- The Club website was redesigned providing more space, greater ease of navigation, and easier maintenance.
- A “Battle of the Badges” softball game was held at the Hardeville town field between the Hardeville Police and Fire Departments. Sun City provided umpires and the announcer for the game.
- Automated "Field Status" updates are now directly by the Field Maintenance Manager and include the day/time of the status change.
- In June, renovations were completed in the dugouts, the storage area, and storage sheds. A pitcher's practice area was complete with two mounds and a backstop.
- Field rejuvenation of the outfield included fresh sod edging the infield.
- On Memorial Day the Softball field was Renamed the “Veterans Memorial Field”
- 8 teams in the Fall Tue/Thu League - Champion Hughes Dental Group
- 11 teams in the Fall Saturday League. - Champion Carson Realty
- 4 teams in the Fall for WSL - Champion Hughes Dental Group
- Hosted men's and women's tournaments against Peachtree City, GA, and Sun City
- In September, the softball club co-sponsored its 1st annual Pet Adoption Day Event in conjunction with the Dogs and Pet Lovers Club.
- On November 10, we held our 3rd successful Veterans Day Game event. Kicking off the Marines Toys for Tots Campaign sponsored by the Town Square Upbeats. There were 6 teams of Veterans and hundreds of fans, and a record day of 1100 Hot dogs sold!
- Initiated a By-Law change which was adopted in Dec 2023