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March 23, 2015

Governor Nikki Haley  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

The Sumter Chapter of the Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) would like to invite you to 'kick-off' the **16th Annual Churches Challenge Golf Tournament** by *hitting the first tee shot of the day*. This year's tournament will be on Saturday, August 15 at the Sunset Country Club in Sumter, with an 8:00 am tee time.

The **Churches Challenge** has become one of the area's most popular tournaments with proceeds being returned to area participating churches. Over the past few years more than \$80,000 has been awarded to various churches for use in their youth and outreach programs. Churches are encouraged to invite their members and non-church goers to participate. Festivities begin on Friday evening with a bar-b-que 'pig-pickin' featuring good old Southern bar-b-que, good gospel music, and fellowship. If your schedule permits we would love to have you for the dinner also. Good opportunity to "spend a weekend in beautiful Sumter!"

The **Christian Golfers' Association (CGA)** is a nonprofit golf ministry organized in Sumter in 1996. We are strictly a faith based ministry and have no paid employees, all are volunteers. CGA soon grew from a local organization into a nation-wide ministry with members and /or chapters in 47 states. By 2001 CGA began to take on an international appearance with several chapters forming in Australia, the United Kingdom, Africa and other countries. Presently, there are members and / or chapters in thirty countries around the world, and CGA maintains a working relationship with a world-wide Christian sports ministry that conducts Christian leadership training in over 150 countries.

Governor Haley, we would certainly love to have you honor us with your presence, and to take the first tee shot of the day at the 16th Annual Churches Challenge Golf Tournament & Praise Rally. Thank you so much for your consideration. God bless.

In HIS service,

Tom Winstead, Sr.  
Christian Golfers' Association (CGA)

Information enclosed. Visit: [www.christiangolfer.org](http://www.christiangolfer.org)





*16th Annual*  
*Churches Challenge*  
**PRAISE RALLY - DINNER &  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**AUGUST 14 - 15**

**\$51,000**

**HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE**





## WHAT IS THE CGA?

### CHRISTIAN GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION?

In mid-1996, two golfing enthusiasts (golf nuts), who had in previous years gone through some rather harrowing, life shaping experiences, began discussing what the Lord had in store for them, and what they thought He wanted them to do. After some delay (procrastination) and more than a few "coincidences," it was determined that He wanted them to "get a move" on and get busy. The question was "what?" and "where?"

In the fall of that same year, these same two 'bonafide' golf nuts, even though living in different states, began discussing having a Christian golf tournament and organizing an organization for Christian golfers. So, on a beautiful fall day in 1996, in Sumter, South Carolina the first Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) golf tournament was held at the Lakewood Links Golf Course in Sumter. A new chapter in the world of golf was born. Professional golfers have their PGA and the lady golfers their LPGA. Now, Christian golfers, male and female, young and old, have their very own CGA!

The Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) is a nondenominational, nonprofit 501(c)(3) ministry of golfers. The purpose is to promote and foster Christian fellowship among golfers, and to evangelize by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with other golfers. CGA is the only national or international ministry devoted entirely to encouraging and enhancing Christian fellowship among the thousands of Christians who love the game of golf. **It is a faith based ministry with no paid staff or employees. There are no dues or fees charged to become a member. Donations are tax deductible.**

Membership is not limited to only Christians. With such a wide proliferation of golf courses in the world, and the massive number of people - male, female, young and old - who have taken up the game, our primary goal and mission is outreach and evangelism. Through the fellowship and association with Christians, CGA hopes to reach other golfers for Christ.





## OUR VISION

To equip every Christian golfer with the tools, self-confidence, and enthusiasm to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every golfer with whom they come into contact.

## A BRIEF HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Originally the Christian Golfers' Association (CGA) was founded as a local, Sumter Christian Fellowship and ministry, primarily in an effort to provide opportunities for Christians to enjoy the game with fellow Christian golfers in a fun, clean environment. However, as the word spread, rather rapidly indeed, the founders realized that God had His hand on this ministry. And, soon discovered, from hundreds of inquiries received, that the



Sumter CGA Chapter receives charter in January 1998 from Tom Winstead, Sr. of the national organization. Charter officers were: Ryan Peters, John Maroney, and Tom Payne, Chapter President.

Association provided much more than an opportunity to play golf!

The founders soon found that CGA offered its members tremendous potential and opportunities to witness and spread the Word of Jesus Christ, to the many thousands of golfers, both Christian and non-Christian alike, who enjoy the game. Soon people in other areas and states heard about CGA and called and asked how they could become a part of the ministry. So chapters began to organize across the United



States. CGA quickly became not only a local ministry, but a national and international ministry as well. As Christians in other countries heard about CGA, they too began to contact the local office asking how they could start a CGA chapter in their country. **Today, there are chapters and/or members in forty-seven (47) states in the U.S. and in thirty (30) other countries around the world.**



## SUMTER CGA CHAPTER

In 1998 the Sumter Chapter began having it's annual golf tournament, "CHURCHES CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT & PRAISE RALLY." The tournament was designed to be an outreach program that churches throughout the Sumter area could utilize



to reach nonmembers and non-Christians and invite them to attend a local church. Churches were urged to get teams together to play in the tournament, teams should be made up of two or three church members and at least one non-church attendee.

On the Friday evening before the Saturday morning tournament, the Sumter Chapter held a Praise Rally featuring Southern Gospel music, a message by a local pastor, a fantastic bar-b-que dinner for the entire family, and door prizes. Starting off in the early years with small numbers participating, the CHURCHES CHALLENGE has grown to almost maximum capacity with participants from as many as thirty local churches, representing twelve different denominations, entering teams in the event.



As the Sumter CGA Chapter continued to grow, it began offering its members monthly golf outings played at different golf courses around Sumter and surrounding counties. Later the Chapter was asked to help with the First Tee program at Crystal Lakes Golf Course. Chapter members served as volunteer coaches and teachers for several years, until the Sumter First Tee program was discontinued. In its place, the **Sumter Junior Golf Foundation** was formed to replace the First Tee. The Sumter Junior Golf Foundation, a program of Sumter County is headquartered and staffed by the Sumter CGA Chapter.

