

March, 2009

All St. Demetrios Parishioners,

Six months from now we will be holding our 15th Annual St. Demetrios Golf Tournament at Sunset Hills Country Club in Thousand Oaks on September 21, 2009. The Golf Tournament has become our second largest fund raiser after the Festival. In the last four years our net revenue has gradually increased from \$15,000 in 2005, to \$17,000 in 2006, \$21,500 in 2007 and \$21,000 in 2008.

This year we face the great challenge of capturing the same revenue level as last year despite the economic downturn. The impact of the economy on our event will be real, but we will be doing our best to accomplish our financial objectives.

The Golf Committee is a small group: Chris Pulos, Lyle Hochberger, Ted Metropoulos, Steve Devolites, Nikki and Frank Gankas and Mary and Joe Freeth. This is where all of you come into the equation. We have a basic infrastructure and strategy in place based on the last four years. What we need this year is a Greek Army!

We need an army of volunteers to go out into the community to secure sponsors; sponsorship goes from a minimum of \$250 for a Tee Sponsor to our Platinum Sponsorship of \$3,000. We have been weak in sponsorship in the past. Who do you know? Can you get a Platinum or Silver Sponsor? One of each is another \$5,000 in revenue.

We also need high ticket Silent Auction items like Electronics, Cameras and Flat Screen TV's. We also need Parishioners to host in-home dinners as part of the Silent Auction. Last year we added this component and increased our revenue by \$2,300 with four dinners for eight people each. The same families are hosting these dinners this year. Who else wants to display their fabulous culinary talents? I know firsthand that all Greeks are gourmet cooks.

Be creative when soliciting auction items, trips, jewelry and anything you can think of that you would want to bid on. Our Silent Auction now generates over \$7,500 in revenue and that number needs to double.

Remember it costs us nothing to ask!

The golf tournament committee can do the work of organizing the tournament, but we really need more people on the pavement soliciting in the community in order to fund building of the new church and cultural center.

Lastly, many of you have supported the tournament by coming to the dinner and for that the committee thanks you! If you can't come we'll take a cash donation. The Golf Tournament has been in the background with a small group of volunteers who do everything, from filling the Tee Prize bags, to setting up the Silent Auction and managing registration.

What we need now is a fundraising push on the front end of this year's event. Six months will fly by, I am asking for your support now.

Thanks, I can be reached at home @ (805) 375-9971 if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Joe Freeth
Tournament Chairman