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MABGA.org

2025 Yearly Booklet



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www.MABGA.org

Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association

Mario Tobia, *President* Stuart Wenger, *Treasurer*
Steve Rodos, *1st Vice President* Paris Sterrett, *2nd Vice President*
Julie Sokoloff, *Secretary*

Dear Friends, Coaches, and Members of the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association (MABGA),

Welcome, and thank you for joining us as we celebrate the 77th anniversary of MABGA our founding in 1948, MABGA has been dedicated to providing blind and low-vision individuals with the opportunity to experience the joy of golf. The visionaries who founded MABGA laid the foundation for a community where everyone can participate, thrive, and enjoy the game.

Over the years, MABGA has expanded its impact, sponsoring fourteen junior golf events annually. In 2021, we proudly completed the construction of the Kritz Golf Course at the New York Institute for Special Education, our second junior golf course. Additionally, our adult programs continue to grow, hosting approximately thirty outings each year, along with our annual fundraising tournament and the Joe Casey Pro-Am Tournament.

MABGA's influence extends beyond the golf course. We are a supportive community that fosters physical activity, mental well-being, and meaningful connections through the game of golf. Whether it's the camaraderie, the benefits of being outdoors, or the challenge of the game, MABGA offers blind and low-vision individuals a space to thrive.

At the heart of our success are our incredible coaches. Their dedication, time, and patience make it possible for our members to participate in the game we all love. To our coaches, we extend our deepest gratitude for everything you do.

We also want to express our heartfelt thanks to the golf clubs that welcome us to their courses, adding a special dimension to our lives. Your generosity and support are invaluable.

A big thank you is also owed to our advertisers and sponsors, whose contributions make our fundraising efforts possible. The fees collected from participants only cover a small portion of the actual costs of the event. The rest is made possible by the donations and sponsorships from supporters like you.

As we continue to grow and serve our community, we ask for your ongoing support. The success of MABGA depends on the commitment of our members, coaches, friends, and donors. Will you join us in helping MABGA continue to thrive and provide opportunities for blind and low-vision golfers, both junior and adult?

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Sincerely,

Mario Tobia, President
Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association

Junior Blind Golf

by Michael Molloy, Director - Continuing Norman's Legacy

215-400-0599 mgmolloy@aol.com

It's been another great year for the Junior Golf program. We added three new families including two from PA and one from NJ.

We started in March at Golden Pheasant GC. April was washed out at Makefield Highlands GC. May found us at Five Ponds GC. June was at Radnor Valley CC. July was at Merchantville CC. August found us at Overbrook CC. In September we will be going to The Mad Golfer. October we will be back at Golden Pheasant GC to end our season. We owe a huge Thank You to all these clubs for hosting us. We also want to thank The PGA of Philadelphia for their support and assistance. We have to also thank our amazing volunteer coaches who help make all of our outings possible.

We awarded two of our high school graduates the Norman Kritz Grant named for one of the founders and the long time director of the Junior program. Lots of new friendships and lots of good golf coming from the Junior program!



Norman Kritz



**MEGA THANK YOU,
MICHAEL MOLLOY!
YOU ARE BEING A MOST
MAGNIFICENT JUNIOR
GOLF DIRECTOR!
ALL OF THE JUNIOR
GOLFERS ARE FILLED
WITH ABSOLUTE JOY!
MOST BESTESTNESS!
THE OLDER MABGA'RS 🧐 😄**

In **GREAT TRIBUTE** to



Steve Rodos



&

Paris Sterrett

For all their continuing years of hard work in securing and organizing our wonderful golf outings over many, many years.

We would like to express our heart-felt gratitude and appreciation for all they have done in the past – and still continue to do!

Sincerely,

All the golfers and coaches of MABGA

Thank You for Our Host Clubs

Over the past 77 years through today, many private clubs & public golf courses throughout the Middle Atlantic States have contributed to the success of MABGA. The Association would be hard-pressed to continue to remain in existence without the cooperation & generosity of the golf clubs that have sponsored outings for our blind golfers. The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to our members, coaches, clubs & all those who have played a role in the success of MABGA throughout the years. The following are the Host Clubs that have made it possible for MABGA to enjoy its successful 2023 golf season:

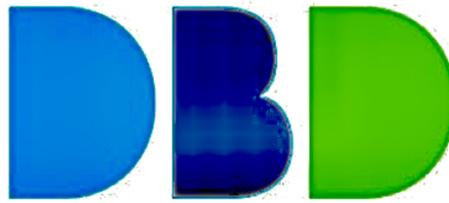
- **Bala Golf Club**
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- **Bluestone Country Club**
- **Brookside Country Club**
- **The Bucks Club**
- **Buena Vista Golf Cours**
- **Downingtown Country Club**
- **Five Ponds Golf Club**
- **Green Valley Country Club**
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- **Skippack Golf Club**
- **Valleybrook Golf Club**
- **Whitemarsh Valley Golf Club**
- **Worcester Golf Club**



In memory of **JOE CASEY**, full of heart and smiles you always were to us!
Much heart and many smiles continued back to you! Thank you for all you did for MABGA and all the wonderful memories.

All of Us - MABGA





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Some insight on our members:

Dear Friends,

I have the pleasure, with my hair sticking out everywhere, to manage membership for Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association, MABGA.

MABGA started in August 1948, a nonprofit, to give the blind and low vision a safe, full of smiles day out surrounded by friends while not having to worry about falling in a rabbit hole, tripping over a fallen branch or twisting an ankle on a vole tunnel. We have a junior program for ages 7 through 21 and an adult program for ages 21 through existence. One member is a 06 year old gentleman who still has fine mobility and golfing skills! I am sure his doctor thinks he is getting a little senile when he talks about golfing with fellow blind yesterday.

Each blind golfer has a "coach". The coach gives the blind golfer the lay of the land, distance for which club and lines the blind golfer up to swing. Of course the coach is the one driving the cart - the backseat driver is sitting right next to them. After a day of golf, however many holes are played, lunch is available. Some of our blind golfers and their coach play all 18 holes, others are a happy medium, while some swing some and mingle more - each are muchly jolly to be out. There are moments of pretending it was a hole-in-one, not a lost ball in water or jungle brush just as in everyday golfing. The fish are curiously awaiting for the big eggs to hatch as the squirrel still can not crack the white nut.

Signing up to be a coach, a blind or low vision golfer is easy and fast! We play an average of 29 outings a season - each outing is in a different course. The MABGA outings swing smoothly! Our web site lists them. We have 37 adult members and 13 perspective members, Perspective members are those coming out for the first time this year and will decide if they enjoy the heartfelt "crazy". Junior golf has a roster of 75, 37 are active - directed by Michael Molloy 215-400-0599 mgmolloy@aol.com

May the day be soon when all of these members are playing golf saying "Wow, I played better when I was blind" because new eyes became available. We have members that were born blind, lost their eyesight over time and those who lost it all suddenly in a car or other accident. Appreciate what you have today, be careful what you wish for - you may have more money tomorrow but not your eyesight.

We have a golf fundraising tournament each August to celebrate our anniversary while raising funds to keep MABGA swinging smiles strongly. A blind golfer created and runs our web site!

We are proud to continue to grow and serve our community,
Mega Thank You!

Many Smiles! Most Bestestness!
MABGA Member (19 years!) Leah Kinzinger, Zinger
zinger@MABGA.org
215-745- 2323

May the Course be with You!

Philadelphia Insurance companies
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MABGA 2025 Invitational Golf Tournament

Philadelphia Insurance Companies (PHLY) supports the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Blind Golfer's Association (MABGA) who since 1948, have been providing blind and visually impaired (legally blind) men, women, and children the opportunity to enjoy the challenges and rewards that golf offers.

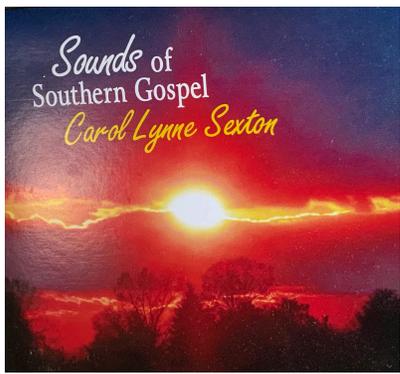
Wishing you continued success throughout the years!



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**Best to You Always, God Bless You,
MABGA Member Carol Sexton**

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The Kempton Lions Club works to serve people in the Kempton area and in the world at large under the Lions motto “We Serve.”

The club consists of men and women that have fun and work hard to support a wide variety of charitable causes for the betterment of our community.

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Memory of Cletus Stanton

The MacSwiney Club congratulates the Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association for all the wonderful work with and support of the vision impaired.



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**Keep on swinging
for many more
years MABGA!**

Many smiles to you my wonderful,
high-spirited, adventurous
MABGA friends!

A grand, cheerful, Thank You
for your tremendously helpful,
in many ways, program!



Best to you all!

Member Phil Hoffman and Family 



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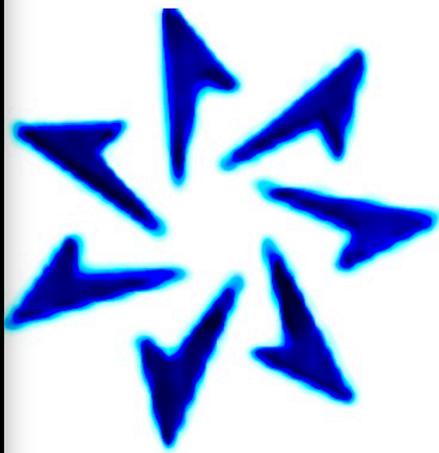
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**In Honor of
Julie Sokoloff.**

**Love,
Carrie and Barry
Jacobson**



**Congratulations to
Julie Sokoloff for your
dedication and caring
of your blind golfers!**

Nancy Lee

BEST WISHES MABGA



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 **Many Smiles!** 

Lion MABGA'r Leah Kinzinger



I could be a Caddie!

Daydreaming; smiling while reminiscing through the years. So many have left lasting imprints & great spirit to MABGA. Many new members & coaches are joining us to bring in more spunk! An awesome Circle of Friends! 😊

**In memory
of
Jack Herbert
Family and Friends 🥰**

In loving memory of Owen B. Schmidt, Jr. (“*Schmidty*”)

- a member of MABGA for several years
-who taught us many of the most important lessons in life and who also taught us to love to play golf.

We would like to thank the entire MABGA organization and past and present members for all the wonderful memories you provided for our dad.

We would also like to pay tribute to our mom, Mildred, “**Mitzi**” **Schmidt** – who passed away in July, 2021 – she was also an avid golfer (*at her insistence, a woman golfer was engraved on her tombstone 😊*).

Sincerely,

The other “Schmidtys” - John & Gary Schmidt, and our families

**In memory of beloved
GIL KAYSON, NORMAN KRITZ
AND SANDY KAYSON.**

Sandy always had this ad in, it was all cheers for **Junior Blind Golf** with Gil and Norman's spectacular devotion to it, and then and then, now we are sending smiles to Sandy too, thinking of her having coffee with Gil & Norman with many laughs & smiles!

Happy Golfing!

In memory of

Gilda Ellis

and

Bill McIntyre

Love from Helen McIntyre



**In Loving
Memory
of
Norman H.
Martin**

Cynthia

Best Wishes to the MABGA for a Successful Tournament at Philmont C.C.

Sam and Michele Huhn
MABGA Member for 33 Years



**MABGA –
keep up the
great work
that you do!
Best wishes,
Shelley Goldin**

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**Congratulations MABGA
on another successful golf
tournament in support of its
special members!**

Harriet & Jeff Bleiman

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County Association for the
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Congratulations

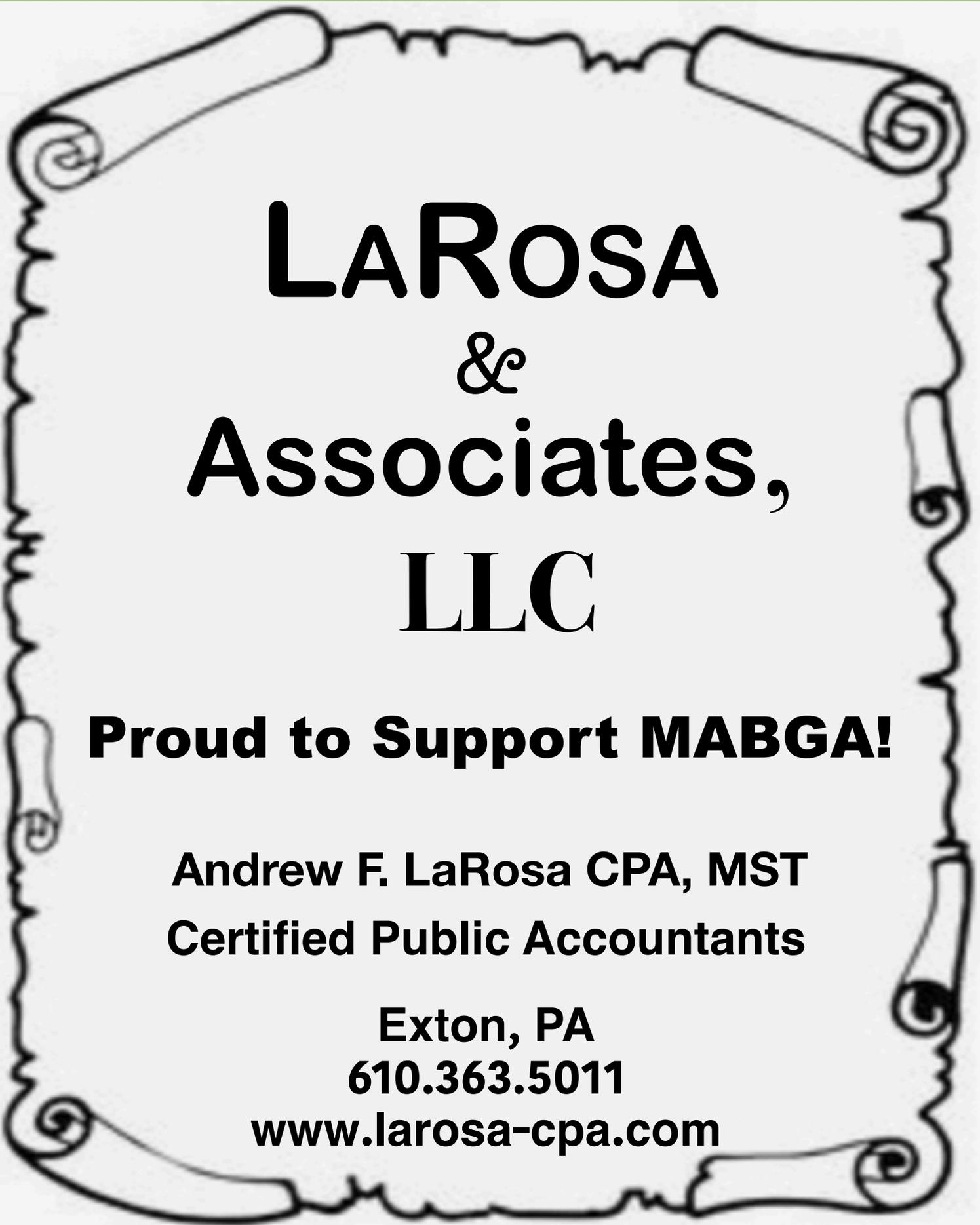
to everyone teeing up today — and welcome to Myke Krout teeing up today for the first time — in the 2025 MABGA Tournament.

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