



## *From the Club President*

Dear ECC Members,

What a terrific summer this has been! The weather seems to have mostly cooperated, giving us terrific days for outdoor activities and a golf course in the best condition ever!

As the season winds down, I want to thank all of our members who have been so patient and loyal . . . AND also express a huge thank you to our staff for going out of their way to keep us safe, healthy and in compliance with ever changing procedures.

I'd also like to express a special thanks to your Board of Directors . . . all volunteers, who have worked many, many hours on ECC business throughout the entire year. Their commitment, energies and thoughtful deliberations on matters large and small benefits all of us.


The annual membership meeting on Sunday, August 30 will be different – that's for sure. It will be held outside as we continue to promote social distancing, yet encouraging involvement of all. Good luck to all the candidates.

Perhaps I'm jumping into closing mode too quickly . . . there are, after all, many weeks of delightful golf, lake activities and changing colors to enjoy through the fall.

Winter also will be busy as we all get involved in discussing and deciding what is best for ECC as we move forward. Is it remodel, renovate or rebuild that will serve our collective needs? We need your thoughtful comments as we continue to discuss options.

As we close the year, there are really too many to thank for their help in making our club so enjoyable. We are thankful for the lovely grounds we enjoy, the terrific lake and the volunteers who provide events and competitions that get us all involved and excited.

Again, thank you all for your commitment and your help in making ECC the best it can be!

Sincerely,  
  
John Hovanec, President, Board of Directors

# 2020 Board Elections

Three terms are up for election on the ECC Board of Directors. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday August 30th. The Annual meeting begins at 2 p.m. Due to COVID regulations, the meeting will be outside, rain or shine. Please bring a lawn chair, umbrella, golf cart – whatever.

We will have a "Voting Table" setup at 1:30. If you do not plan to attend the meeting, but would still like to vote, you may do so prior to the meeting. Voting will also take place as it normally does, at the end of the meeting.

Remember – there is only ONE ballot allowed per corporate membership, and you can vote for up to three candidates.

The following members have indicated their desire to run for one of the board seats. They are all corporate members in good standing with ECC. Their bio's are attached. Brian Maki and Maggie Hillmer are the incumbents.

*Thank you, Dwight Day, Kris Coombe, Kym Drain, ECC Nominating Committee*

## **MAGGIE HILLMER**

I am Maggie Hillmer, and I am asking for your vote to re-elect me to the Board of Directors of ECC.

I have been on the ECC board since 2017, currently serving as the Vice President and 3 years as the Pro-Shop liaison. This last year I managed

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## **NATE LEHMANN**

I'm an insurance agent in Duluth where I've lived for 22 years. Since 2016, my family has had the privilege of being part of the Eshquagama family where we love spending time at our cabin, golfing and hanging with other families on the lake. There aren't many

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## **LARRY J. LEHTINEN**

Larry Lehtinen is the founder and part owner of Tacora Resources, Inc. an iron ore mining company located in Newfoundland and Labrador province of Canada employing over 320 employees. Larry served as Executive Chairman and CEO of

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## **BRIAN MAKI**

Brian is from the Lakeland - Eshquagama area and currently resides in Duluth. He has a lake camp near Eshquagama and has been an ECC member for most of 36 years. He is Chairman, President, and CEO of Lakehead Constructors of the Twin

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## **TERESA L. (TERRI) NELSON**

I respectfully offer my name as a candidate for the ECC Board of Directors. I believe I could be a positive and contributing member of the Board for the following reasons:

- Strong Work Ethic – Born and raised on the Iron Range, I learned the value

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## **ERIC SCHULTZ**

I haven't met many of the members of the ECC but have likely waved at most of you with frequent pontoon boat rides over the last 13 summers. This summer I have become a new property owner of a charming cottage that the previous owners loved for

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## Eshquaguma Country Club

6469 White Pine Lane, Gilbert, MN 55741  
Phone: 218-865-4263 • Pro Shop: 218-865-4706  
Bookkeeper: 218-750-2033  
[www.eshquaguma.com](http://www.eshquaguma.com)

## Upcoming Events

(ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19 REGULATIONS)

**August 30** ECC Annual Meeting - 2 p.m.

**September 2** Ladies Golf Guest Day

**September 4** Irish Road Bowling - 2 p.m.

**September 9** Ladies Business Meeting - Noon

**September 11-12** Hovanec Golf Tourney - Golf course open

**September 12** Chili Cook Off - 1 p.m.

**September 14** Closing Party

Here's a clue...what new event was a big summer hit? **The ECC Scavenger Hunt!**

We had 8 teams competing with wit, wisdom and craftiness as they fanned out across the golf course looking for clues. **Team Kingsley**, new members of ECC were the winners. Congrats to them and thanks to everyone who participated and decided this should be an annual event!



# Ladies' Handicap Tournament

This tournament is normally held in memory of one of the ECC Ladies' Golf League longtime members. However, this year it was to honor all the current members of the Ladies' Golf League who survived 2020.

It was a great turnout, great weather, and everyone had a great time. Handicaps are used to determine winners in this event. The field was divided into three flights. Winners

in the flights were allowed full (or almost full) handicap, however the overall winner in only allowed the PGA maximum handicap for events, of 20 strokes. The three flight winners were Andrea Polus, Jean Enloe, and Diane Malner. Second place winners were Kris Polus, Kathy Nelson, and Cathy Lisenby.

The overall Grand Winner was Carolyn Woodle, as she played a superb round of golf.



Top: 1st & 2nd Place flight winners: L to R, Kris Polus, Cathy Lisenby, Kathy Nelson, Jean Enloe, Andrea Polus, and Diane Malner.

Left: 1st place winners and the overall Grand Winner Carolyn Woodle (seated)

Also shown are L to R: Diane Malner, Donah Sten, and Cathy Hiti

## **MAGGIE HILLMER**

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the selection of our new POS system and worked heavily with the vendor, manager and bookkeeper to install it. I hope to continue to work on this project to make it more efficient for the employees and members.

I'm an avid golfer, who is very passionate about the golf course and the well-being of this club. My decision to run for the ECC Board is based on my desire to continue improvements with the golf course, pro-shop and clubhouse. Our much loved clubhouse does require improvements. It is imperative we explore all options, fully understand the financial impacts and build consensus to make the best decision for all our members.

I have a long, solid history with Eshquaguma Country Club. My husband Matt and I have been Corporate members for 17 years, and as a child I spent my summers here. My family have been members for 50 years. I am currently a part of the Hensen Family cabin on Lake Eshquaguma.

If elected I will continue to bring thoughtful leadership, an understanding of past decisions, and a passion to see this club improve and succeed in 2021 and the many, many years to come. I would greatly appreciate your vote for election to the Board of Directors.

## **NATE LEHMANN**

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weekends our two children will allow my wife and I to miss!

I'm also a member at Ridgeview Country Club in Duluth where I currently serve on the Board of Directors. One of my strengths is fundraising, where I've been the Head Chair for Ridgeview's annual fundraiser for the past 6 years. I also Co-chair the Green's Committee and Social Events Committee at RCC as part of my board duties.

I feel it's very important for members to be active and to serve their clubs whenever time may exist to ensure the club will prosper. As an ECC board member, I will do just that by sharing

my experience and ideas to serve our membership and staff making ECC an even better club for all involved!

## **LARRY J. LEHTINEN**

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Tacora Resources from its inception until his retirement this February. In retirement, Lehtinen continues as the CEO and majority owner of MagGlobal LLC, the founding shareholder of Tacora Resources.

Larry was born and raised in Palo, and attended high school at Aurora -Hoyt Lakes. Upon graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Minerals Engineering in 1977, Larry joined Inland Steel Mining Company, Minorca Mine as a mining engineer. During a 17-year career with Inland Steel, Lehtinen held a wide variety of technical and managerial positions ending as Vice President and GM-Iron Ore. In 1994, Lehtinen joined Cleveland-Cliffs at the Empire Mine as VP/General Manager. After a successful turnaround effort at Empire, Lehtinen was promoted to Vice President-Operations for Cliffs in Cleveland, Ohio. Lehtinen joined Steel Dynamics, Inc (SDI) at Butler, Indiana in 1997, as the VP/GM of Iron Dynamics Inc (IDI) where he led the design, construction and startup of IDI. After leaving SDI in 2001, Lehtinen founded four new companies over a twenty-year span: Ferrometrics, Mesabi Nugget, Magnetation and Tacora Resources. Through these companies, Larry led the construction of seven new facilities, refurbished a 50 year old iron ore plant that had been closed for five years, raised over \$1.3 billion in debt and equity capital and created over 1400 high paying jobs in the US and Canada. Larry also wrote over twenty patents during his 44-year iron ore career.

Larry attended the University Of Chicago Graduate School of Business in 1979 and completed his MBA degree by evening studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 1983. He is a founding director of the Iron Mining Association of Minnesota. Larry and his wife of 43 years, Teresa, have been members of ECC for 15 years, 13 of

which have been as resident members on Lake Eshquaguma. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren. Larry enjoys golfing, gardening, and fishing and is a licensed private pilot with instrument and seaplane ratings. Teresa previously served as a director of ECC and pro shop liaison. If elected to the ECC board, Larry hopes to contribute his experience and skills to the wellbeing of Eshquaguma.

## **BRIAN MAKI**

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Ports and Iron Range. Lakehead is a 105-year-old General Contractor with experience in mining, petrochemical, power, shipping, medical, and municipal markets. Brian is also a past Chairman of the Associated General Contractors of Minnesota and a long time board member of the Iron Mining Association of MN. He has been an ECC board member for the past year and is the golf course liaison to the board.

## **TERESA L. (TERRI) NELSON**

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of hard work, dedication, and finishing a task working on our family farm.

- A Career Committed To Service – 30 years of service to the citizens of Minnesota working for the Departments of Transportation and Corrections as a clerical and Human Resources professional. In my career, I taught classes to State employees on harassment, retirement, returning employees to work, Family Medical Leave, OSHA reporting, and worked returning injured employees to the job. I also have worked in restaurant operations and as a substitute teacher in the Commonwealth of Virginia

- Experience in Country Club Operations – Prior to 2010 we lived in both Idaho and Virginia where we had the opportunity to experience country clubs of different types that faced transitions in approaches and operations. These experiences showed me not only the opportunities, but the challenges that come with change.

- Commitment to ECC Members – Since

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**TERESA L. (TERRI) NELSON**

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joining ECC in 2010, I have enjoyed working on The House Decorating and Landscape Committees, delivering projects for the betterment of the Club. I have also participated in and helped with many of the activities sponsored by ECC every year. In 2019, I helped lead the efforts to raise funds by selling naming rights for chairs in the Grill Room.

I am a kind, caring, experienced and hardworking individual. I believe in member engagement and have spent some time listening to members and past Board members. A constant theme I heard is to understand member ideas, priorities, and concerns then present them at Board meetings. I am committed to soliciting and balancing member opinions and comments.

I firmly believe ECC can be an asset for its members, but also an asset in supporting the future of the area and the Iron Range. Thank you for your consideration and support.

**ERIC SCHULTZ**

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60 years. We look forward to our

many years of owning this cottage and continuing our traditions on Lake Esquagama.

By trade I am a mechanical engineer where I build custom equipment for my customers that meet their needs and expectations. From gathering requirements, I build quality product while staying within their project scope, delivery time, and budget. Building a quality machine is half of the delivery to my customers. I learn from my customers their needs and their challenges; and I work with them to solve complex problems by first understanding their business, internal processes, and their product.

What I will bring to my new club, its members, and my neighbors is the

ability to be objective, listen, and help work through complex challenges. I am an optimistic and energetic individual who works through challenges by asking simple questions, tough questions.

I am a member of multiple clubs that have deep, long history not only in the activity but also in their community and culture. As a member of the ECC board, I want to honor the ECC history and traditions but also work with my fellow ECC club members to work through complex challenges for ECC to be sustainable for another one hundred years.

Thank you for considering me to represent you on the ECC board. I look forward to meeting more ECC member in person.

**Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 30, 2 p.m. at ECC**

*Join us outside for the annual meeting. Bring chairs, golf carts, umbrellas, blankets, etc. Reports from committee members will be given.*

COVID accommodations for voting have been provided for those not wishing to be around people. Check-in at the voting table after 1:30 p.m. - obtain a ballot - vote - place ballot in ballot box. Voting will also take place at the end of the meeting as it always has in the past.

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ERA - a.m.	2 Ladies' Golf Guest Day Men's Golf 1:15 p.m.	3	4 ERA - a.m. Irish Road Bowling 2 p.m. Happy Hour 3-5:30 p.m.	5
6	LABOR DAY 7	8 ERA - a.m.	9 Ladies' Golf a.m. Business Meeting - Noon Men's Golf 1:15 p.m.	10	11 ERA - a.m. Happy Hour 3-5:30 p.m. Hovanec Golf Tourney Course Open	12 Chili Cook Off - 1 p.m. Hovanec Golf Tourney Course Open
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>All events are tentative due to Covid-19 regulations</b>						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

# 2020 ECC Men's Tournament Recap

This year's ECC Club Championship featured a similar format as prior years and again provided ECC with some great golf action. Contested over three days, August 21-23, the tournament included 28 golfers in four different divisions – Championship, First Flight, Palmer and Nicklaus. Championship flight players were seeded according to USGA/MGA handicaps with the defending champion earning #1 seed honors. New for 2020 was a net medal qualifying option that largely went unused. The other divisions were filled based on golfing ability and personalities which provided a jovial round of golf and some close competition. The Men's tournament continues to be on the rise and we're looking to crack the 30 member mark! Thanks to all who helped grow this event!

Championship flight matches started Friday, August 18 and continued throughout the weekend with the final pairing teeing off at 1 p.m. Sunday. Friday's first round and quarterfinal matches proved quite competitive with some upsets and stellar golf. The Friday double

header format for first round matches has proven successful and is here to stay. The Palmer flight saw six participants square off in a match play round robin format that culminated with the overall best record winning the group. The Nicklaus division also featured six men battling it out in a unique round robin flight format where points were earned based on number of holes won. Those succumbing to defeat in the first match of Championship flight formed First flight for a fresh start.

The tournament weekend kicked off Thursday afternoon, August 20, with the men's shootout. This year's shootout was a two-man alternate shot format and provided for some interesting strategy and teamwork. The fourteen two-person teams decided who was going to put the first shot into play and alternated shots accordingly until the final putt was holed out. The fourteen teams started on hole #9 and eliminated teams on holes #9, #2, #12 and #16 until the final two teams arrived on #18 vying for the cash title. New in 2020 was an elimination buyback allowing early losers to spend



2020 Champion Beau Mitchell, and Runner-up Nick Devich

their way back into the competition. Growing the cash purse over \$850! The team of Steve "Buff" Johnson and Gary Drobnick defeated the team of Brian Cepek and Scott Schueller. Congratulations to all! After the shootout, the annual Past Champions' Reception was held at 6 p.m. outside. This event, sponsored by various past men's and women's tournament champions, invites all members and their guest to come out for an evening of socializing and an opportunity to bet on tournament favorites and dark horses. Thank you past champs for your gracious donations. And thanks to all the supporters and staff during a crazy 2020!

Congratulations to all winners and thank you to everyone for playing and making this another fantastic rendition of "Glory's Last Shot".

## 2020 Men's Guest Night Recap

The annual ECC Men's guest night was held Wednesday, August 5th with more than 30 members and guests competing in the "Shamble" Format. In a shamble, all players tee off and then play their own ball in from the best tee shot recording gross scores. For the par 3s,

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## 2020 Men's Championship Results

	Championship	1st Flight	Nicklaus	Palmer
First Place	Beau Mitchell	Frank Cerar	Brian Cepek	Rob Nessa
Second Place	Nick Devich	Nate Lehmann	Dave Boz	Joe Cramer
Third Place	Matt Uhan	Steve Harms	Tico Leoni	Gary Drobnick
Consolation	Tim Virant	Larry Lehtinen		



Scott Schueller & Brian Cepek; Shootout winners Gary Drobnick & Buff Johnson

# 2020 Ladies' Championship Golf Tournament

Thank you to all the participants of this year's Ladies' Championship Tournament.

It seems our group gets smaller and smaller each year, but we somehow pull it off. Special shout out to all our champs! Kris Coombe finally got her name back on the trophy after 14 years! This is Laura's first tournament, Terri's first win, and Donah had her first win as a nonagenarian!

For anyone keeping score, in the 64 years of the Ladies' Golf Tournament, there have been many multiple winners. Here are all the multiple winners in Eshquaguma Country Club history: (first and last year of wins)

- Julie Staver (1977, 1995) - 9 total*
- Maggie Henson Hillmer (2004, 2015) - 8*
- Trish Olsen (2008, 2019) - 8*
- Kris Coombe (1992, 2020) - 7*
- Joyce Giblin (1983, 1990) - 6*
- Millie Sipola (1959, 1969) - 6*
- Ellen Erickson (1967, 1976) - 4*
- Kay Ware (1956, 1963) - 2*
- Helen Koehler (1974-1975) - 2*
- Kris Polus (1981, 2000) - 2*
- Marlene Stephenson (1994, 1998) - 2*
- Barb Manney (2002, 2003) - 2*



2020 Champion Kris Coombe (right); and First Flight Winner Laura Hughes



Second Flight Winner Terri Nelson, and Third Flight Winner Donah Sten

## 2020 Ladies' Championship Results

	Champion	2nd Place	3rd Place
Championship Flight	Kris Coombe	Maggie Hillmer	Sheri Harms
First Flight	Laura Hughes	Teresa Lehtinen	Kris Polus
Second Flight	Terri Nelson	Cathy Hiti	Carolyne Woodle
Third Flight	Donah Sten	Joanna Johnson	Diane Malner

## 2020 Men's Guest Night Recap

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everybody plays their own ball – tee to green. Congratulations to the winning team of Tim Virant, John Cochems, Rick Polus, Greg Delich and Roger Hensen!

Co-runner ups were Matt Uhan, Jon Hoel, Chris Ringsred and Mark Leese tied with Nick Devich, Pat Sjoberg, Dave

Boz, Joe Uhan and Steve Harms. During the event, there were on-course games on every hole, a blind horse race and a cash skins game. After the round, teams celebrated the day with a COVID-19 style celebration outside for some dinner and smart talk. Thanks to all who participated and showcased ECC to the guests!