



□ *Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories concerning organizations that benefit the Imperial area. Volunteering in a community, through organizations, is a way to pay back for the benefits that the community offers an individual.*

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, area golfers' thoughts turn to the links. In addition, numerous leagues have already begun.

The Imperial Country Club Association has been preparing for the season for some time. Grounds Manager Keithan Cochran has been grooming the course. Club Manager Maggie Dill has been readying the clubhouse.

And the Association is ready to take memberships.

President Mary Wilson said a count of members isn't accurate yet, as many members are still paying dues.

However, last year there were 34 couple, 47 single and 13 student memberships. "As long as we can keep the membership numbers to that degree we won't have to increase dues," she noted.

Of course, more members would be great, Wilson added.

The board supervises a yearly cleanup of the course and holds benefits such as the Vegas Night and Jam Fest as fund raisers to aide in golf course update.

The course was switched from sand greens to grass greens in 1975, according to longtime member Gene Haarberg.

In that year the west fence was taken down, and tractors and dirt movers were brought in by volunteers such as Haarberg to build up tee boxes, install an irrigation system, and establish grass greens.

Haarberg said many volunteers participated, led by board members Daryl Rose and Millard Howell.

Current board members include, besides Wilson, Bob Thomas as vice president; former president Alex McNair, and Derek Russell, Kara Meeske, Michal Swanson and Eric McDaniel.

Wilson is excited about a fund raiser for Folds of Honor Foundation this Aug. 31-Sept. 1.

A Patriot Golf Day tournament will be held, when all green fees will be donated for scholarships to children and spouses of military men and women killed or disabled while serving our country.

Wilson said over the last five years \$12.8 million dollars for post-secondary educational scholarships has been donated through Folds of Honor Foundation.

For more information or to become a golf course member, contact Wilson at (308) 883-8729.