

**January 16, 2026 Ambassador Meeting Summary**  
**Prepared by Karyl Leggio**

Hi everyone,

We haven't had an Ambassador's meeting since prior to the holidays, so lots of news today. Keep reading:

Notes from the January 2026 Ambassador meeting

- You may have noticed two new awnings at the front of the clubhouse. More awnings are coming at the front and side corners plus below the address numbers on the front of the clubhouse (and speaking of the clubhouse: how spectacular are those climbing bougainvillea looking: I love them).
- Some changes coming to the entrance to the Strand: the sign is being redone, and three fountains with water and backlights are being added.
- Elvis and Nick noted that top golfers are looking for good practice facilities, and we're pretty limited in space and an aquatic driving range: enter the Himalaya project. Currently surveys and permitting are in the works to take the area from Savannah 1's black tees to the croquet court and to the basketball court to convert that area into a couple of practice holes. The plan is that this facility will be open for everyone (not just golf members). We expect it to be completed by 2027,
- You may have noticed lights on the Island green by golf for New Year's Eve; the light will be permanent once wiring is completed
- Good news: the Elevator is functional again. It is, however, getting updated to coordinate with the interior. Date TBD
- Tavern 59 will get a kitchen after season, including special brick pizza ovens. After this project is completed, all of the spaces (Island Bar, ballroom, and Tavern) will have dedicated kitchens.
- The playground is coming. Elmo's team has been busy with so many projects, and before installing the playground, Elmo's team needs to finish the paver work by the tennis center and then the playground equipment will be installed. The structure will be heavy duty accommodating up to 12 year olds
- Really big golf news: this summer the club is redoing Savannah and Sable to get greens back to the size they should be, fix grass on the greens so greens will be faster and more firm, fix tee boxes so they're one continuous tee box for many of the holes. This is a big deal and is possible now that the sprinklers and irrigation are in place. Need to kill off existing grass which will begin in early April (the course will still be playable at this point, though the grass will be brown). These courses will be closed May 1 – November 30<sup>th</sup>. Nick has already reached out to clubs to accommodate our members during the closures (courses to be announced in the future). Pinnacle will remain open this summer, and members will have the ability to play Pinnacle twice to get 18 holes in (tee times 8-9:46, 12-1:46). The plan is to upgrade Pinnacle after the 2027 season. The goal is to make the golf course as nice as the clubhouse.
- The Member/member event was awesome. 66 ladies and 132 men with a wait list for the first time. Lots of praise for the event; 235 people were in the ballroom for the dinner with 400 guests downstairs for the Queen of Hearts

event. Lots of praise for the really good work of all of the staff with so many people dining at one time.

- Ringer is the next golf event
- Updates from Jobe: The Club took over croquet and has generated a lot of interest and has a really good team. 12 people are competing and representing the Strand. The team is 1-1 (having lost to the top team that we hope to beat in the championship later this season). The turf is in good shape. We're also getting an awning in the fan area of the croquet course to be consistent with other sports areas.
- The fitness center classes are going well, machines are in good shape. Jobe reminded members at the pool to put closed toe shoes on prior to walking through the gym. The new heater in the pool is working very well.
- The fitness center is hosting an event on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 in the pelican room. It is a spa event, sip and learn. The entire spa team will be there; they will do demonstrations. Attend, sip some wine, and get a discount coupon for spa services.
- The Chef told us about a new menu for the tavern and island bar that was introduced this week. Don't forget tapas on the veranda are available Sunday - Tuesday.
- The Battle of the chefs sounds cool; it is comprised of six courses; watch Elvis' newsletter for more detail.
- The Mediterranean night includes a belly dancer on Wednesday; spaces still available. There also is an upcoming Lobster bake (I didn't catch the date although Vicki is putting out a new calendar of events in the next couple of days.)
- Queen of hearts moved to Tuesday's beginning this week. There's going to be another buffet available (a dessert buffet, the grille, salad, and tacos). Make reservations at either the Tavern or the Island Bar. Get your tickets ahead of time; must purchase tickets by 5:45 on Tuesdays, and anyone who is drawn automatically wins \$1,000 now. There are 34 cards left. Once we have a winner, the next game will begin next year. During Queen of Hearts, the food and beverage staff are working like crazy. Last week they had 400 patrons; thank the wait staff. Fyi: each buffet is all you can eat.
- Pickleball machine is free now.
- Vicki has a number of events upcoming: a Seminar on image matters - what colors look best on you. I believe it's this week.
- Sunday is trivia night
- The parking lot market is supposed to be on Tuesday, but keep an eye out. There are weather issues Tuesday, and now Queen of Hearts, so watch for updates
- Vicki is trying to find a flamenco dancer for Spanish night; let her know if you know one.
- Thursday February 22 is Billy Joel/Elton John tribute
- This month's Wine dinner is nearly full; make your reservations soon.
- The Blood drive is on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and they're in real need if you can spare a pint.

- Fashion show is coming up, and the theme is casual collection
- Super Bowl party is happening soon (and Jobe asked everyone to cheer for his Miami Hurricanes Monday night)
- The Concert series in February is Michael Demoray (not sure I spelled his name correctly) Vicki says he's really good and a production.
- On February 26<sup>th</sup> there is an “Aging well” expo scheduled with a series of vendor tables
- Questions you asked me to address;
  - The gym will be painted to match the clubhouse after season
  - I asked the Chef to start using more mixed greens instead of so much iceberg
  - I asked about more small plate options or smaller portion sizes on the menu at the Island Bar. Chef notes some smaller sized entrees (there's a new chicken sandwich, and the flatbread is not large; he's taking it under advisement)
  - I asked about converting the tennis court lights to LED the next time they need updating, so they don't keep going off during matches; Elvis didn't commit



commit

- I also asked about adding lights on a fifth court so we can have a USTA team (USTA requires four courts of doubles and one court of singles; we can't compete with only four lit courts); Elvis is concerned about neighbor reaction to additional lights.
- Sorry; I forgot to ask about relocating the alligator. I'll ask next month.
- That's everything; next meeting is in February. Let me know if you have anything you'd like me to ask about. It's a pretty good time to be a member of the Strand.

Karyl