

# President's Message

By Don Kjelleren— Board President

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“Start your engines,” “Play ball,” “Let the games begin” are familiar words that are used to start major sporting events. The VSGA has not coined any such memorable words, but we are ready to start our exciting and fun filled major sporting event: the 2011 Vermont State Senior Games Championships. I encourage everyone who reads this newsletter that is aged 50 and older to participate. Everyone is invited, so please invite your family and friends, and spread the word. With new sports, new venues, and a renewed effort to make these the best Vermont games ever, we promise every athlete will have a memorable experience, and maybe a once in lifetime opportunity to become a Vermont State Champion!

The spring newsletter is devoted to providing the 2011 games and registration information. Vermont Systems has made it possible to give you for the first time the option of registering on line. Once you are in the system, future registrations will be easy. I encourage you to give serious consideration to registering on line.

We wish the Vermont athletes going to the June NSGA Summer Games National Championships in Houston the very best of luck. We hope they have a great time, a safe trip, and bring home some gold!

Much of the success of our games depends on volunteers. We welcome the help of spouses, families, and anyone interested in helping with the games. If you have some time and are interested in volunteering please contact the sports coordinator of your choice or let Barbara Jordan know of your availability. We are also looking for additional persons to serve on our Board of Directors. We are particularly in need of someone with promotional and publicity experience, but welcome anyone (no age limitation) who is interested in serving as a board member. Please contact me (302) 985-2766 or Bob Willey (802) 879-0186 to discuss.

Most organizations depend on people and finances for their success. The VSGA is no different. The good news is we are extremely fortunate to have an experienced hard working, dedicated, committed cadre of sports coordinators, officers and board members. We currently have adequate funding to maintain a modest program, but this is not what we are focused on. It is the Board’s commitment to significantly grow the VSGA to better serve the health and well-being needs of Vermont’s aged 50+ community. To do this we are in need of additional funding. We are asking athletes (on the registration forms) to consider making a contribution. We welcome and appreciate any amount small or large. For those readers who are in business, please consider having your company become a sponsor. Both cash and in-kind sponsorships are welcomed. Contact me if you are interested or know someone who might like to be a VSGA sponsor.

We are always looking for better ways to serve, so please let us know if you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas for making the VSGA a bigger and better organization.

Have a wonderful and healthy summer— I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Vermont Senior Games.