

**Richard Smith**  
*Virginia State Golf Association*

Richard was born on August 7, 1939 in Burlington, North Carolina to Aurelious and Alice Smith. He had one brother, Willis “Jeep” Smith. His parents supported Richard in all of his athletic endeavors but it was his brother “Jeep” who introduced him to the game of golf at the age of 20. They used to play at the Shamrock Golf Club in Burlington, North Carolina when the yearly dues were only \$75.00 and the cart fees were \$5.00.

Richard attended Elon University (formerly Elon College) for two years. He is a VSGA Senior Four-Ball Champion, a Valentine Invitational Champion, a two-time Richmond Golf Association Senior Champion, and a three-time Richmond Golf Association Four-Ball Champion.

Richard has always tried to perform his duties at the very highest level of his abilities. Over the years with Western Electric, he had many job assignments. Richard’s goal has always been to “leave the job better than you found it” and he has carried that same goal into his career with the Virginia State Golf Association beginning in 1990 as an Assistant Tournament Director to Wallace McDowell. Richard was named Director of Competitions in 1993 and retired from that position in 2007. He conducted nearly 200 VSGA Championships in that time, not to mention qualifying events for those championships. Richard also conducted approximately 100 qualifiers for national USGA championships.

With all of those events, one would think that Richard was too busy to make personal connections. Quite the opposite was true. Those that know Richard recognize that those relationships are what make him tick. He is known as a tournament administrator for being thorough and fair, but is known as a person for being a great friend.

Richard’s passion has always been Junior Golf. He currently serves as the VSGA’s Junior Club Coordinator (which he conceived and implemented), that aims to bring youths to the game in a friendly environment. Richard tries to treat people and his employees fairly and consistently. He has found that if you do this, people will give back over 100%.

Richard was honored by the VSGA with the “Service to Golf Award” in 2005 for his outstanding service throughout the years going above and beyond the call of duty. In 2007 he was awarded the “Keeper of the Game Award” by the Keeper of the Game Foundation upon nomination by the Middle Atlantic Section of The PGA.

“The cooperation of PGA professionals has always meant a great deal to me personally and their support has contributed to the success of VSGA championships,” Smith says. “I’ll very humbly accept this award on behalf of the VSGA as it is a true reflection of the strong partnership the two associations have built over the years.”

Richard has been married to Jean Perry Smith for 43 years and refers to her as “the most caring, wonderful person I know and my best friend.” Their daughter, Sharon Smith Wolfgang, is married to Kevin Wolfgang and they have two children: Lauren, age 9, and Courtney, age 5. Richard and Jean also had two sons; Michael Craig Smith and Perry Alan Smith (both deceased). The Smiths currently reside in Mechanicsville, Virginia.