

NEWS

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Ascension CHARITY CLASSIC

presented by **EMERSON.**



CHAMPIONS

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Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson to Headline Inaugural Legends Luncheon for the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

Nicklaus to also play in Legends Charity Challenge at Norwood Hills Country Club During Weekend of Tournament

ST. LOUIS (March 9, 2021) – With tickets for the 2021 Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson now on sale, tournament officials today announced a new charity event to be headlined by golf's greatest champion Jack Nicklaus and Missouri native and World Golf Hall of Famer Tom Watson. The inaugural Legends Luncheon will take place on Thursday, July 29, at Norwood Hills Country Club.

The Legends Luncheon will showcase Nicklaus and Watson sharing stories from their playing days and a Q&A with attendees. Luncheon attendance will be limited to the purchase of tables of 10 with all proceeds benefiting charity, including the tournament's three primary beneficiaries. Support for the Legends Luncheon can be secured through emailing abyrd@ascensioncharityclassic.com or by calling the tournament office at 314-938-2828.

Nicklaus' and Watson's involvement with St. Louis' inaugural PGA TOUR Champions event will also extend to the Legends Charity Challenge presented by World Wide Technology during tournament week on Saturday, September 11. Taking place at Norwood Hills Country Club, the Legends Charity Challenge competition will feature Nicklaus and Watson together with two additional celebrity members to create a powerhouse foursome that will play a nine-hole exhibition match to benefit charity. Additional celebrities and details on how to support the event or be part of the fun will be announced in the coming weeks.

"St. Louis has long been a passionate sports town, with a great history in golf—highlighted most recently during the 2018 PGA Championship—and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to be a part of this inaugural PGA TOUR Champions event," Nicklaus said. "I was fortunate to play a U.S. Open and PGA Championship at Bellerive, and the Ryder Cup at Old Warson 50 years ago this September. I also

competed as defending champion in the 1960 United States Amateur Championship at St. Louis Country Club. I look forward to being back to St. Louis in September as a part of this senior event at Norwood Hills, and joining Tom Watson in July for the Legends Luncheon. Outside of having professional golf return to St. Louis—which is good for both the region and PGA TOUR Champions—I applaud the event's mission to give back to and enhance the north St. Louis community.”

“There is a special connection I have with Norwood Hills Country Club through my good friend and long-time caddie, Bruce Edwards,” said Watson. “I am very much looking forward to joining the great Jack Nicklaus for the Legends Luncheon and the Celebrity Challenge on Saturday, September 11th. The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is going to be a great addition to the St. Louis sports scene. The fans will love watching all the great players, the players will enjoy everything St. Louis and Norwood Hills have to offer and the tournament is going to make a positive charitable impact within North County.”

The first playing of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is set for the week of Sept. 6-12 after being forced to reschedule from October 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Tickets for the tournament can be purchased at ascensioncharityclassic.com. Two types of weekly admission options are available, a Clubhouse Ticket as well as a Grounds Ticket. Daily tickets are also offered. Tickets start at \$20, and kids 16 and under can attend for free with a ticketed adult. Please note that should the tournament be hosted without fans because of the continued impact of the pandemic, ticket holders will receive a full refund.

Several charities have been identified as beneficiaries of the Ascension Charity Classic and its coinciding events, including Marygrove, a residential facility for children and teens; the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis; and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis.

“It’s such a thrill and honor to have the greatest golfer of all-time, Jack Nicklaus, help kick off the inaugural Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, and to be joined by eight-time major winner and Missouri native Tom Watson will make this a truly special event,” said Nick Ragone, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Ascension.

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be one of the premier Regular Season events on PGA TOUR Champions in 2021, which will give way to the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs – a season-ending, three tournament series used to determine the TOUR’s season-long champion. Due to the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, PGA TOUR Champions has combined its tournaments in 2020 and 2021 to form one season, and the next Charles Schwab Cup champion will be crowned in November 2021 at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Recent PGA TOUR Champion winners include “rookie” sensations Jim Furyk and Phil Mickelson. Both are members of an exclusive club of only three players to win their first two PGA TOUR Champions starts. Other winners from last season include names like Darren Clarke, Ernie Els, Miguel Angel Jimenez, and Bernhard Langer.

All three rounds of the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson will be broadcast on Golf Channel. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV.

For more information about the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson, including ticket, pro-am and hospitality availability, visit the Ascension Charity Classic website at ascensioncharityclassic.com. For the latest news and updates on social media, follow the tournament on Twitter at @ascensionccg, on Facebook at facebook.com/ascensioncharityclassic and Instagram at @ascensioncharityclassic.

About Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson

The Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is an official event on the PGA TOUR Champions operated by Tournaments for Charity, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity. This 54-hole stroke play golf tournament features 81 PGA TOUR Champions professionals competing for a \$2 million purse at historic Norwood Hills Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri. The event is designed to showcase the best golf on the PGA TOUR Champions for the enjoyment of spectators and to benefit local charities in the North St. Louis County area and beyond. All three official rounds will be internationally televised on the Golf Channel. For more information, visit ascensioncharityclassic.com.

About Ascension

Based in St. Louis, Ascension is the largest non-profit and Catholic health system in the U.S., with more than 160,000 associates and 2,600 sites of care across 19 states and the District of Columbia. In keeping with the organization’s mission to deliver compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable, all proceeds from the Ascension Charity Classic tournament will be donated to local non-profits. Last year, Ascension provided \$2.4 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs across the country.

About Emerson

Emerson (NYSE: EMR), headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri (USA), is a global technology and engineering company providing innovative solutions for customers in industrial, commercial and residential markets. Our Automation Solutions business helps process, hybrid and discrete manufacturers maximize production, protect personnel and the environment while optimizing their energy and operating costs. Our Commercial & Residential Solutions business helps ensure human comfort and health, protect food quality and safety, advance energy efficiency and create sustainable infrastructure. For more information visit Emerson.com.

About PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers 50 and older, including 33 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour’s mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 170 countries and territories, reaching more than 340 million potential households, and distributed in 15+ markets via GOLFTV. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter @ChampionsTour and on Instagram @pgatourchampions.

About HNS Sports Group

HNS Sports Group is a Dublin, Ohio-based LLC founded in 2000. The company offers over 125-plus years of collective experience and is committed to providing professional, efficient and effective client representation in the categories of sponsorship consultation, event management, hospitality management, sales representation and tournament operations within the golf market. To learn more about HNS Sports Group, visit hnssports.com.

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