



# NCAConnect

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## NCA Lifetime Achievement Awards

### Fred Somers and Harold Berman Recognized by NCA

May 2011

NCA is marking its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a series of events and activities commemorating the occasion. In the fall of 2010, NCA's Board of Directors established a Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented for the first time as part of our 50th anniversary program. The award recognizes individuals whose collective body of work on behalf of private clubs and the club community has been of marked

significance and whose work has had a lasting impact on both NCA and the club industry. This award will not be given every year, but rather from time to time—based on meritorious service.

The Board selected two recipients for the inaugural presentation of this award, both of whom certainly fit the award criteria and more. The first individual to receive the award was

Fred Somers, from Atlanta, Georgia, to whom the award was presented at the NCA Regional Conference in Atlanta on March 28<sup>th</sup> of this year.

A graduate of the University of Virginia Law School and College of Arts and Sciences, Somers has more than 45 years of experience in private law practice, with concentrations in private club governance and development. He is a member of the American, Georgia, Atlanta and Virginia Bar Associations, Lawyers Club of Atlanta, American Society of Association Executives and Academy of Hospitality Industry Attorneys.

Somers is a past president of the National Club Association and served as counsel to its board of directors. He first became active on NCA's board in 1982 and was a member of the board for 18 years, including serving as president of NCA from 1987–1989.

Somers also was one of the leaders who helped to found what has become the NCA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of NCA that supports research and



Fred Somers received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Suzanne Wegrzyn, NCA President & CEO at the Atlanta Regional Conference.

education needs of the club community. He has served on the Foundation board as a director since its inception in 1992, dedicating both his time and expertise to help further the Foundation's success.

He is general counsel to the National Golf Car Manufacturers Association and past chairman of the Government Relations Committee of the Georgia State Golf Association. He serves as counsel and consultant to numerous private clubs, concentrating in private golf and recreational club organization, governance and development. Somers is also a long time member and past president of the Dunwoody Country Club.

Somers is a prolific author of legal material for private clubs. He has written numerous articles for *Club Director* magazine, and was the principal architect of several white papers in the NCA Reference Series: *Model Bylaws for Private Clubs*, *Model Golf Course Local Rules* and *Model Club Rules*. He also was a major contributor to several National Club Association publications, including *Private & Tax Exempt Status*, *Club Governance Guidelines*; and the most recent publication, *The Legal Reference Guide for Private Clubs*.

The second recipient of the award was Harold Berman, from Dallas, Texas. Berman is a native-born Texan and a graduate of the University of Texas and Harvard Law School. He has practiced law in the Dallas area for the past 61 years, representing a number of private clubs .

Berman is a past president of the Texas Club Association, which later



Harold Berman received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Brian Kroh, Immediate Past Chairman of NCA at the 2011 National Club Conference.

became the Texas Alliance of Recreational Organizations (TARO). For the past 10 years he has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of TARO.

In addition, for more than 23 years Berman was a member of Columbian Country Club in the Dallas area, where he served as president, general counsel and chair of its planning committee.

Berman first became active on the NCA Board in 1975 and was a member of the board for 23 years, serving as president of NCA from 1982 – 1984. Throughout those years, he gave generously of his time on a wide range of legal and governance matters and served as an active member of our Legal Legislative Committee.

Over the years, Berman has assisted NCA in authoring a number of its law-related articles and publications, especially those dealing with

membership guidelines and private status issues.

In 1992, Berman was one of the visionaries who helped found the NCA Foundation. He served on our Foundation Board since from its inception in 1993 until 2009, including serving as vice president, and actively contributed to the Foundation's body of work, much as he has with NCA.

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*Since 1961, the National Club Association (NCA) has served as the primary advocate for private clubs, representing their business, legal and legislative interests, while providing a wealth of invaluable resources to address educational needs of clubs related to operations, model club practices and effective leadership. For more information, please visit our website at: [www.nationalclub.org](http://www.nationalclub.org).*