

Q & A

Meet Rachel Ryan

Rachel Ryan is the first woman and first Hispanic president of the board at the Shaker Ridge Country Club.

by Ed Parham
Community contributor

Talk a little bit about you and your family.

I am 35 years old and I've lived in the Capital Region since 2002. I grew up in New Jersey, lived in the Boston area for about eight years and moved to Albany after my husband, who is a native of the region, proposed to me. We have a 5-year-old son who attends Loudonville Elementary School.

What do you enjoy most about living in the Capital Region?

The people – it is a blessing to have so many friends and family in the area. I can still remember the warm welcome we received from our neighbors when we moved in Loudonville. I also enjoy the lifestyle the Capital Region affords my family. We are minutes away from family, our jobs, our son's school and Shaker Ridge, which makes juggling my responsibilities easier.

Where did you go to school and how did this prepare you for your current career?

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard University and my Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School. The classes I attended at Harvard taught me how to analyze a situation critically, identify problems and develop creative solutions. Law school helped me refine those skills in a legal setting. As a healthcare attorney, I work with hospitals, health systems and physicians across the country to figure out how they can align to effectively deal with changes in the healthcare market. Thinking critically and devising creative solutions are skills I use every day to assist my clients.



Photo courtesy of Ed Parham

RACHEL RYAN

"I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT SHAKER RIDGE IS VERY FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND HAS AN ACTIVE AND GROWING SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP. WE HAVE SEVERAL FAMILY EVENTS EVERY YEAR, INCLUDING FAMILY FUN DAY, AND A KIDS SUMMER CAMP."

How have you been active with Shaker Ridge Country Club in the past?

My husband and in-laws are longtime members of Shaker Ridge. I joined in 2003, and in 2005 became president of the Shaker Ridge Ladies Association, a group that organizes golf tournaments and leagues for female members. In 2008, I was asked to join the board. Prior to becoming president, I served as vice president for two years.

How do you feel about being the first woman and first Hispanic president of the board?

I am thrilled! I hope to inspire other women and younger members to get involved and make positive changes at our club because I believe its livelihood depends on the growth of these types of members.

What challenges and opportunities do you see facing the club in the upcoming year?

I think the biggest challenge we face is recruiting new members. It's important for us to communicate to potential members how we are different. It is no secret that we pride ourselves as having one of the best golf courses in the Capital Region. Recent improvements include the addition of target greens to our driving range and the replacement of all 18 of our greens with bent grass. These, as well as a new professional membership category, will help Shaker Ridge stay a step ahead of our competition. Additionally, what many people may not know about Shaker Ridge is that we are very family-friendly and have an active and growing social membership. We have several signature family events every year, including Family Fun Day, a Halloween Party and Breakfast with Santa. We also offer a kids summer camp.

Tell us about your prowess on the golf course.

I think most people will tell you that I am consistent on the golf course. To be honest, the best part about golf for me is the time I get to spend with my friends and family. This summer, I golfed at Shaker Ridge with my 5-year-old son, 39-year-old-husband, my in-laws who are in their 60s and my 86-year-old grandfather. Golf connects multiple generations in a way few sports can.