

2021 Review of WNJGA Board Decisions and Actions

Decisions and actions made by the Board from November 1, 2020 to October 21, 2021 were as follows:

President's Goals for 2021

- To increase membership
- To improve member participation in tournaments
- To create a more member-friendly website
- To support the Centennial Celebration

Centennial Celebration Committee

- Kathy Cosgrove – chair
- History of the WNJGA assigned to Lois Farese
- Date of the Gala – July 20, 2022
- Tournament venues in 2022 – same as founders
- Centennial Branding & Gifts
- Board approved \$10,000 for use by the committee

Letterhead

Updated the Stationery to include new members made into a PDF so all Board members could download and create their own WNGA letterhead. Paper and envelopes were purchased from Amazon by Board members, which were: Springhill 24 lb. blue printer paper 8 ½ x 11 (500 sheets) and Desktop Publishing Suppliers #10 business size blue envelopes.

Membership

- November 2020 – Due to daily changes in handicap indexes, the handicap index “as of the application date” is the one used as to qualify a candidate for consideration.
- January – two resignations – Kathy Jones of Ridgewood and Sherry Exon of Glen Ridge.
- February – two resignations – Dede Caputo and Barbara Kohut
- April -Penny Roberts resigned from membership
- May – resignation – Joyce Nothwang from Ridgewood
- Kathy Carter was approved for Honorary membership
- New members:
 - February – Shiobian Kelly (Canoe Brook)
 - May – Susan Sesko (Essex Fells); Stephanie Duke (Cherry Valley)
 - September – Jacqueline O'Connor (Cherry Valley), Kathy Foos (Navesink), Patricia Sanford (Canoe Brook), Cathy Fischberg (Maplewood), Mary Beth O'Rourke (Spring Lake), Jennifer Green (Bedens Brook), Cindy Perl (Cobblestone Creek), Lisa Lowenstein (Crestmont), Stephanie Schmidt (Hamilton Farm Golf Club)

Website

- For a more member-friendly website, a change was made on the platform from Drupal to Word Press.
- A new HOME tab was added that includes member directory, update profile, billing/dues statement, membership directory and tournament schedule
- A new ABOUT tab includes mission statement, 100-year history prepared by Lois Farese, Presidents of the Association (1923 to present), Board of Directory (1994 to present), 2021 Board of Directors, By-Laws, President's Letters, Committee, and Job Descriptions
- New TOURNAMENTS tab includes tournament schedule and registration process, my registrations, tournament policies and reminders, results, and photos
- New TROPHY HISTORY tab includes stroke play championship, Silvernail trophy winners, Thompson Trophy winners (team match).
- Revised Candidate Application was added to the Website

By-Laws

- Decided by a previous Board – By-Laws will no longer be printed. They will only be available on the WNJGA Website
- At the Annual Spring Meeting the following changes to the By-Laws were approved by the membership.
 - Amended By-Law IV Officers and Directors – Section 3 Duties of Vice President – Tournaments to read: in accordance with her Procedure, the Vice President Tournaments shall assume the responsibility for running all tournaments with the assistance of a committee chosen by her and the Vice President – Sites. **She shall also be a member of the Finance & Audit Committee. (change is in bold).**
 - Amended By Law V – Committees, Section 4 Finance and Audit Committee to read: The Finance and Audit Committee shall include the treasurer as chair, **Vice-President-Sites**, Vice President – Tournament, and Awards and Trophies Chair. (change is in bold).

Treasurer

Treasurer confirmed that letters and donations were sent as follows:

- \$50 in memory of Dina Golas to the NJSGA Caddie Scholarship Fund
- \$200 returned from Bedens Brook to the NJSGA Caddie Scholarship Fund as requested by the Craig Campbell
- NJ State Annual Report for 2021 and annual dues were paid which maintains the state of the WNJGA as a not-for-profit organization.
- The WNJGA has a \$30,000 CD which is up for renewal June 5, 2022. Much of that money will be used to support the Centennial Celebration.
- A \$500 donation was made to the NJSGA Caddie Scholarship Fund
- A \$500 donation was made to WMGA Foundation.

Trophies & Awards & Tournaments

To increase participation the following actions were approved by the Board in 2021.

- Tournament results will include points and dollar awards, both of which will be posted on the website.
- The top ten-point earners will be posted after each tournament on the Website.
- September minutes – approved to retire the Uebelacker Bowl and replace it with a new silver platter and change the format to a better ball event from a stroke play event in 2022. Tabled the questions of what to do with the John Farrell bracelet which is the low gross award in the Uebelacker trophy event, which will now be a better ball event.
- September minutes – approved a change in the format for the Harrington Trophy from a stroke play event to a Stableford format in 2022.

Survey

President Lois Farese sent a survey to 186 members and 100 members were respondents. Below are the major findings and suggestions based on survey results.

- Conflicts with family/work and other golf events were the main reasons for not participating.
- Few members are interested in serving on a committee (57 percent not interested).
- Fifty-seven (57) members plan to attend the Centennial celebration.
- The format is not a deciding factor on their decision to participate in WNJGA tournaments, but the venue is.
- Most members know little about the history of the WNJGA. However, they do know their responsibility for hosting a WNJGA tournament.
- Golf format preferences are what was expected – members prefer better ball tournaments.
- What to do with Uebelacker and Nielsen trophies reflects the desire for more better ball events, as most suggested the trophies be re-purposed with a better ball of two format.
- Over half of the respondents have sponsored a new member in the last five years. The most prevalent reasons for not sponsoring a new member were due to new members not being eligible (must be a member for two years) and waiting for a candidate to lower her handicap to meet the criteria for membership, which currently is 21.0.
- Most members visit the Website for the sole purpose of registering for a tournament and to seek information about tournaments, while some also looked at the directory.
- A WNJGA App is suggested because 61 percent of members would like one.
- The Tournament Schedule and Directory booklet should continue to be printed.
- Membership satisfaction with Board Member's responsibilities was high as most rating indexes were 4 or better on a scale of one to five with five being very satisfied, as seen below in weighted average indexes:
 - Website – 4.3 & 4.4
 - President's email blasts -4.6 & 4.7

- Dues payment options – 4.7 & 4.8
- Tournament Schedule – 4.4 & 4.3
- Tournament Schedule & Directory booklet – 4.5 & 4.3

Actionable suggestions that were noted in the survey for the Board to consider includes:

1. Check member's information to assure they are getting all the information sent via email.
2. Provide a notation on the website that a member's dues were paid.
3. Try to schedule tournaments on Wednesdays, instead of Tuesdays which conflict with home course tournaments (also noted in Kathy Carter's survey – Tuesday home course conflicts)
4. Offer more non-stroke play events, especially better ball of two and best ball of four tournaments, which may involve re-purposing some trophies, such as the Nielsen and Uebelacker.

Condolences

Clarification of who sends the letter of condolences is as follows: The President notifies the membership and sends a letter of condolences to the family of a deceased member or member's family. Secretary sends a letter with a donation, when applicable to the NJSGA Caddie Foundation in memory of the deceased.

Letters were sent by the President to the following members and/or member's families.

- Dina Golas – deceased member – sent to her son
- Jean Rodgers – passing of her husband
- Bridget Egan – passing of her mother
- Karen Marzulli – passing of her mother
- Cathy Marzulli – passing of her mother-in-law (addressed to Ray & Cathy Marzulli).

Submitted by Lois Farese, President

October 21, 2021