

Executive Board Report
South Hills Country Club
April 20, 2016

Welcome to the 94th year of the Women's Golf Association of Western Pennsylvania!

It is an honor and privilege for me to serve as the President of this golf organization and I am pleased to provide you with an update on the state of the WGAWP for 2016. Our membership, as of April 15, was at 524 and we continue to receive renewals. This includes 4 new members and 11 reinstatements. While our membership is down from previous seasons, we anticipate that we will end the season with our roster nearing last years' numbers. I am sorry to report that we have lost a few member clubs. In 2015, we had no members renew from either Shadow Lakes or Lone Pine and, as was previously communicated to the membership, Rolling Hills decided to close down. We are disappointed and saddened to see long-time member clubs close or discontinue their membership in the WGAWP. I am pleased to formally announce that we do have a new Member Club, Southpointe Golf Club. Former members from Rolling Hills who have joined Southpointe were instrumental in initiating and facilitating the approval process for Southpointe's membership. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with Southpointe Golf Club and hope that their members will soon be applying for a Team. Look for their Open Day in late September.

Last winter, we lost one of our past President's, Jo Shore. Jo was president of our organization in 1982 and 1983. I knew Jo quite well as she was a long time member of Highland where I started my Western membership. Jo was so enthusiastic about the WGAWP and proud of her role in it. She mentored golfers who were striving to make Western and cheered all the team activities. Even if you didn't know Jo, she left a legacy to our group, as it was when she was President that we adopted our current practice for team scoring of a point-a-hole. So when you are out there in your team match this year, think of Jo and thank her for making such a welcome change.

As usual, we introduce some changes every year. This year, the Board has put a focus on addressing Pace-of-Play so you will see several policy and procedural changes to address doing better at shortening our play time and freeing the course to the hosting club. While these will be noted in the presentations, a separate session is planned after the formal meeting to cover the changes. I am sure you will all be very interested in our approach and we will have some time for Q&A. Please review your Yearbook and our "What's New" document for details.

The Women's Golf Association of Western PA has always had a good relationship with Western Pennsylvania Golf Association. In the mid-2000's, the WGAWP relinquished our Course Rating License and combined our course rating team with the West Penn team and all ratings have been done collaboratively since then. In 2013, the WGAWP began utilizing the online Tournament Pairing Program that is administered for us by West Penn to facilitate our tournament registration and tournament document preparations. West Penn has been a trusted partner for many years. In 2016, I am very pleased to announce that our partnership with West Penn is growing even more. While there are many details to be worked out, we have a letter of understanding with West Penn Golf Association that provides for office space and a permanent address for the WGAWP at the West Penn Blawnox headquarters. In addition, we are discussing the possibility of leveraging the charitable contribution status of the WPGA Scholarship fund for our scholarship contributions going forward. This means that members would be able to make tax-deductible contributions to our scholarship program. All of this is very beneficial to our organization and we are so happy to strengthen our ties to West Penn Golf Association. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Terry Teasdale, the new Executive Director of the West Penn Golf Association, for his ongoing efforts to support our organization and endorsing the expansion of our collaboration.

As you are now familiar, entry for our tournaments and "A" Open Days will be done online through TPP with registration opening tomorrow, April 21st.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Executive Board, Delegates, Handicap Chairs, Team Captains and Committee Chairmen for all their hard work, without which this organization could not function.

Thank you for coming today and showing your support for the organization. I look forward to seeing all of you participating in our tournaments and open days this season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corinne Lacich

President, Women's Golf Association of Western Pennsylvania