



Tee Talk

Beth Lankler, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE ONE:

President's Message

PAGE TWO:

Our newest Board Members

PAGE THREE:

2019 WMGA Board of Directors

PAGE FOUR:

Foundation

Welcome

I can't believe that it's been six months since I took office last October. I would be remiss to not thank former president Cheryl Brayman for her tremendous efforts as well as her assistance in my transition. I am honored to be working with our current board which is comprised of such diverse, knowledgeable and talented women. Lastly our organization wouldn't run as well if it wasn't for our strong back office support staff starting with Sarah Relyea, Executive Director, along with Jen Browne, Tournament Manager, and 2018 Boatwright Intern Suzanne Longlade.



Our Focus

As I fill this honored position, I have three initiatives I hope to accomplish. First initiative is to provide different venues to meet our diverse and dynamic existing member demographics. Second is to better exploit the utilization of technology and third is strategic planning for long term success in collaborating with various organizations and obtaining new members. We started off the year by holding a Strategic Planning Session similar to ones held in the past. We assessed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We sought input from outside consultants and previous presidents. The WMGA is an organization steeped in tradition and while it's our strength it can also be our weakness. We defined projects that hold on to that rich tradition but also crossover for new growth. We would like to expand the WMGA to be a more year-round organization with different venues that accommodate the diverse backgrounds of our membership. As we value your input, we sent out a 10-question survey. We will continue to solicit your feedback and comments to ensure that the changes we make have the most impact and acceptance.

What's New at the WMGA

Besides preparing for the 2019 Interclub Team Matches and tournament schedule, we created a new bi-weekly communication: *On The Tee*. This e-blast gives you brief time sensitive information on WMGA news as well as educational golf tips. As part of the survey, many of you indicated you would like rules seminars, clinics, non-traditional golf venue events and a member guest. We have already provided information to upcoming Met area rules seminars and we are working with the Met PGA and LPGA Amateur to have some afternoon clinics in May. In our back-office, we upgraded our computers utilizing cloud technology which will enable us to accept credit cards at tournament events. This is just the beginning.

Volunteering

And now my plug for volunteering. The WMGA is so grateful for the support from our wonderful members but we would like to encourage even more ladies for their help. For those individuals who identified themselves in our online survey, we're thrilled to have your help. To others, please consider volunteering to assist at a nearby tournament event, learn how to be a course rater, step up as a Series Captain or if you have more availability and interest consider a board position. You will get great satisfaction from helping out and serving our organization.

On behalf of the WMGA Board of Directors, I thank you for your continued support of the WMGA. I look forward to seeing many of you at Team Matches and tournaments as well as some of the new venues we have in store. We hope you embrace our changes as we continue to fulfill our mission to have more women and juniors play the wonderful game of golf.

Lori Ann Cerullo
President

 @WomensMetGolf

 @womens_metgolf

 Women's
Metropolitan
Golf Association



Shannon Boyle, Initiatives Chair

Shannon grew up in Westfield, NJ where she learned to play golf at Echo Lake CC. She was introduced to the WMGA as a junior golfer by Mike Preston, the former ELCC Head Golf Pro, who encouraged her to sign up for the Maureen Orcutt. From that moment on, she was hooked, playing in WMGA Junior events for several summers and even competing on two Junior Inter-City Teams. A particularly special memory for Shannon, however, is winning the low gross trophy in the 1999 Father-Daughter Championship with her Dad before moving away from the Met area. Shannon received a golf scholarship to UNC-Chapel Hill. As a member of the women's golf team, she served as a captain, was twice named to the National Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar Team, made the Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll all four years, and participated in the US Women's Amateur Tournament. In 2007, Shannon moved to New York City to begin a career in Private Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley. She also earned her MBA from NYU Stern in 2016 while working full-time. Currently, Shannon plays at The Creek where she enjoys being part of the Club's vibrant golf community. Nearly 20 years after her experiences as a junior golfer, she is excited and honored to serve on the board of an organization that has meant so much to her.



Laura Coash, District Captain Westchester/Connecticut Team Matches (WTC/CT)

Laura lives in Rye, New York with her partner, Sean, and her children. Although Laura grew up at a club that offers golf, she focused all of her summer energy on diving and tennis. In her 20's, Laura started chipping balls in the yard with her mother, Sally-Ann. As time moved on, Laura had four children - Channing, Tyler, Charli and Devon. Golf shifted to the back burner. As they grew, there was more time to play. With her mother's encouragement, Laura joined the WMGA in 2002 and together they played Team Matches for Westchester Country Club. Since 2016, Laura has served as both Team Captain and Met Rep for Westchester CC. In May 2018, along with her four teammates, Westchester CC won the WMGA Inter-district Championship. Laura also serves on the Board for the Women's Tri-County Golf Association, is a member of the LPGA - Amateur, kickboxes for fitness and represents BEMER USA, a wellness company. Laura is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve on the Board.



Mary Jo Gray, Vice President of Competitions

Mary Jo resides in Morristown, New Jersey and currently plays at Mendham Golf and Tennis after 32 years at Essex Fells CC. Mary Jo has three grown children. Her introduction to golf is unique as it stems from her years as an account executive in the NYC garment district. One of her clients was Leon Levin, one of the early manufacturers of women's golf apparel in the 1960's, famous for creating the "Q" skirt or "skort". Mary Jo first began playing the game at age 34 when pregnant with her second child. Nothing like a big belly to help keep you centered. Mary Jo has served as both a WMGA Met Rep and a Series Captain. Mary Jo has served on the USGA Junior Girls Committee for 12 years and we are thrilled to have her experience as she joins our Board.



Ina Kim-Schaad, Junior Girls' Chair

Ina is a passionate amateur golfer who has been playing golf from a young age through college at Northwestern University, where she served as captain of her golf team. Though she put her clubs away for over a decade while pursuing a career in finance, her husband, Ian, got her interested in the game again and she is now more addicted than ever. She has won two Met Amateur titles, played on two French-American Cups, and hails out of Deepdale Golf Club. She has served on the board of the AJGA as a junior player representative and is ardent in her desire to give back to the game all the blessings the game has given her. Ina is honored to be on the WMGA Board of Directors as Junior Chair.



Michele Le Moal-Gray, Secretary

Michele has been involved with the WMGA through her membership at the Bellport Country Club since 2010, and prior to that, Hampton Hills Country Club, participating in team matches and various tournaments. Michele began playing golf at the young age of 12. Since 2018, Michele has added course rater to her list of impressive accomplishments. Michele earned a doctorate in Higher Education Administration and a juris doctorate. She was a senior administrator for several universities, serving in various leadership capacities as well as teaching graduate level courses, serving on numerous accreditation teams, and on a national editorial board. She has served as a trial attorney and as an in house counsel, focusing on labor and employment law. She currently practices law (part time), serves on various community and not-for-profit organization boards, and is an avid sports woman and bridge player. We are thrilled to have Michele on board with her professional expertise as well as passion for the game we all love.



[L to R] Back Row: Tara Fleming, Ina Kim-Schaad, Diane Galtieri, Donna DeMarco, Laura Coash, Kathy Flicker, Heidi Komoriya, Diane Mock, Kate Platt, Wendy Dominick, & Shannon Boyle
 [L to R] Seated: Michele LeMoal-Gray, Beth Lankler, Lori Ann Cerullo, Barbara Klestadt, & Mary Jo Gray

Executive Committee

Lori Ann Cerullo, President
 Mary Jo Gray, VP Competitions
 Beth Lankler, VP of Outreach, Marketing and Initiatives
 Michele LeMoal-Gray, Secretary
 Barbara Klestadt, Treasurer

Rye
 Mendham
 Fiddler's Elbow
 Bellport
 Sleepy Hollow

Long Island Directors

Shannon Boyle, Initiatives
 Ina Kim-Schaad, Juniors
 Diane Mock, Foundation Liaison
 Diane Galtieri, LI District Captain

The Creek
 Deepdale
 Indian Hills
 Huntington

Westchester/Connecticut Directors

Wendy Dominick, Team Matches
 Donna DeMarco, Membership
 Heidi Komoriya, Course Rating
 Laura Coash, WTC District Captain

Powellton
 Lake Isle
 Trump WC
 Westchester

New Jersey Directors

Tara Fleming, Team Competitions
 Kate Platt, Communications and Branding
 Kathy Flicker, NJ District Captain

NJ National
 Montclair
 Cherry Valley

New & Improved



Rules Bag Tags

only \$5 each
 Small price = Big rewards

- Common rules situations/resolutions right at your fingertips
- Support for the WMGA Foundation
- Promotion for the WMGA.

Available for sale at all tournaments or by calling the office [add'l shipping fee]



Go For It!

Go to USGA.org to apply for local qualifiers:

2019 U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship May 16-19

Handicap Index Limit: 7.4
 Age Limit: Must be 50 on or before May 16
 Entries Close: 4/10/19

2019 U.S. Girls' Junior Championship-July 22-27

Handicap Index Limit: 9.4
 Age Limit: Cannot be 19 on or before July 27
 Apply to play: 3/25/19- 6/12/19

2019 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship August 5-11

Handicap Index Limit: 5.4 No Age Limit
 Apply to play: 4/1/19 - 6/26/19

2019 U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship August 24-29

Handicap Index Limit: 14.4
 Age Limit: Must be 50 on or before August 24
 Apply to play: 4/29/19 - 7/10/19

2019 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship September 14-19

Handicap Index Limit: 9.4
 Age Limit: Must be 25 on or before September 14
 Apply to play: 4/29/19 - 7/24/19

2020 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship-April 25-29, 2020

Individual Handicap Index Limit: 14.4 No Age Limit
 Apply to play: 5/6/19 - 8/14/19



**A reminder to
all team match
players:**

Please donate \$1
to the
WMGA Foundation
for every point
YOU win or
Donate \$1 for
every point
YOUR TEAM wins.

WMGA Foundation

In 2003, the WMGA Foundation began providing scholarships to deserving young women. To date, the Foundation has awarded almost **\$635,000** to over 100 young women towards their college degrees. As we keep in touch with many of them, we have a great sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that all our fundraising efforts have been making a real difference in their lives. Many thanks to all of you who have shown your support with your time, money or resources to help achieve our goals. As we begin another exciting golf season which kicks off with Team Matches, please continue to keep the WMGA Foundation as part of your charitable donations with **Swing For Scholarships**.

WMGA Foundation Board:

Valerie DePiro (Chair)
Diane Mock (Vice Chair)
Dale Kramer (Secretary)
Barbara Klestadt (Treasurer).

Other trustees: Lori Ann Cerullo, Pam Charles, Judy Cuttone,
Michele Greenfield, Heidi Komoriya, and Kate Platt.

Be a Mentor *Volunteers needed*

Every year the WMGA provides junior golfers (ages 12-18), who are not members of member clubs, Junior Fellowship Memberships. WMGA members volunteer, serving as mentors to these aspiring golfers. Responsibilities include: fostering good sportsmanship, encouraging participation, following and supporting the player's progress. If interested in mentoring, please contact the WMGA office.



New Rules: The Highlights

- No penalty if ball is moved accidentally during a search-replace ball. *Rule 7.4*
- Penalty areas replace water hazards, and you can move loose impediments, ground your club and take practice swings in penalty areas without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough. *Rule 8.1 and Definitions*
- No penalty for an accidental "double hit". There has been only one stroke. *Rule 10.1*
- No penalty if your ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke. *Rule 11.1*
- Spike marks and most other damage on the putting green can be repaired. *Rule 13.1*
- Ball accidentally moved on putting green—no penalty and replace. *Rule 13.1*
- Putting with flagstick in hole is permitted. *Rule 13.2*
- All drops are from knee height. *Rule 14.3*
- Loose impediments may be moved anywhere on the course. *Rule 15.1*
- Search time for a lost ball is reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. *Rule 18.2*
- Unplayable ball in bunker – extra option to drop outside the bunker for 2 penalty strokes. *Rule 19.3*