

# Women's Metropolitan Golf Association



## TEE TALK

Spring 2016

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[www.wmga.com](http://www.wmga.com)  
Beth Lankler, Editor

## The President's Message



Valerie DePiro

Well, for those of you who follow it, you know that the groundhog did not see his shadow and so hopefully it means we will have an early spring. With Team Matches moved a week later in April, we hope for better weather, higher participation, and better course conditions.

Our Board has been working hard all winter to ensure a great 2016 season, and to think strategically about our organization's

future. Commitment, hard work and enthusiasm are just a few words to describe our Board members: Miles Dumont, Michele Greenfield, Sarah Greenhill, Phyllis Gusick, Alicia Kapheim, Mary Anne Kelly, Barbara Klestadt, Heidi Komoriya, Dale Kramer, Beth Lankler, Leanne Leonard, Donna McHugh, Diane Mock, Erin Noonan, and Carol Steadman.

As always, our office staff is in high gear. Nancy Early – Executive Director, Sarah Relyea – Manager of Tournament Operations, and Tim Norton – P.J. Boatwright, Jr. Intern tackled our annual membership renewal, team renewal, and Tournament Schedule Book, among other projects, to ensure our spring and summer will be successful.

In January, we held an all day strategic planning session building on the framework from a similar meeting in 2014. We prepared a "SWOT" analysis, looking at our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. As a group, we remain focused on four principles, (1) increasing awareness of who we are and what we do, including our Foundation; (2) stabilizing membership; (3) growing tournament participation, and (4) improving the volunteer experience. Taking results of our meeting, together with the four principles, we will be creating and reconstituting a handful of committees to execute the ideas formulated as a result of our analysis. Some ideas you may see implemented in the short term; however, some ideas

are clearly for the future, such as, sustainability of the game and our changing demographics. We appreciate your input and support as we move things forward.

A big "Thank You" to all our Met Reps and member clubs for getting our team matches and championship sites scheduled. As we embark on our 117th season, we are reminded that "The mission of the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association is to foster women's amateur golf and to encourage the participation of junior girls, while promoting integrity, respect for the game, and good fellowship through individual and team competition."

Each semester we received notes from WMGA Foundation Scholarship recipients updating us on their progress towards their college degrees. Each note reinforces my belief and resolve that our Foundation really does make a difference in the lives of this amazing group of young women. Thank you to those who support our Foundation through its various fundraising initiatives, including our Swing for Scholarships initiative. The WMGA Foundation Board, Beth Post, Chair, Dale Kramer, Michele Greenfield, Diane Mock, Barbara Klestadt, Sarah Cohn, Judy Cuttone, Annesley MacFarlane and myself look forward to seeing you at the various fundraising events and welcoming the class of 2016 this spring.

At this time last year, I wrote that it was hard to believe I was already three months into my presidency. With winter practically behind us, it is even harder to believe I am embarking on my second season. While being a member of the WMGA Board requires work, my time as president has not changed my opinion that, the love of the game and the friendships and camaraderie within the WMGA, continues to keep me, and so many of you, involved in this great organization.

On behalf of the WMGA 2015-2016 Board of Directors, thank you for your active participation in our wonderful organization and I hope to see you at our Met Rep meetings in April and WMGA events this season. Please log on to the website and "like" the WMGA on Facebook to keep informed.

# 2016 WMGA Board of Directors

## Officers

President: Valerie DePiro, Montclair  
VP of Competition: Phyllis Gusick, Mount Kisco  
VP of Outreach, Marketing & Initiatives: Michele Greenfield, Glen Oaks  
Secretary: Leanne Leonard, Brooklake  
Treasurer: Barbara Klestadt, Sleepy Hollow

## New Jersey Directors

Site & Club Relations Chair: Donna McHugh, Upper Montclair  
Communications & Branding: Beth Lankler, Fiddlers Elbow  
Team Competitions Chair: Alicia Kapheim, Hopewell Valley  
Interclub Team Captain: Miles Dumont, Bedens Brook



From Left to Right (Top): Alicia Kapheim, Miles Dumont & Beth Lankler  
(Bottom): Leanne Leonard, Valerie DePiro & Donna McHugh

## Westchester/Connecticut Directors

Membership Service Chair: Mary Anne Kelly, Winged Foot  
Course Rating Chair: Heidi Komoriya, Trump WC  
Interclub Team Match Chair: Sarah Greenhill, Round Hill  
Interclub Team Captain: Erin Noonan, Woodway



From Left to Right (Top): Erin Noonan, Sarah Greenhill & Heidi Komoriya  
(Bottom): Mary Anne Kelly, Barbara Klestadt & Phyllis Gusick

## Long Island Directors

Foundation: Dale Kramer, Fresh Meadow  
Junior Girls': Diane Mock, Indian Hills  
Interclub Team Captain: Carol Steadman, Rockaway Hunting



From Left to Right: Diane Mock, Dale Kramer & Michele Greenfield  
(Not pictured): Carol Steadman

## Meet our Newest Board Members



### Barbara Klestadt, Treasurer

Currently a resident of Scarsdale, NY, and a member at the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Barbara grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, NY, and first touched a golf club in her early 30's. Her handicap is proof positive that children learn more easily than adults. Barbara graduated from New York University with a B.S. in Management and Marketing, and an M.B.A. in Finance. She worked in the commodity futures industry before starting a family with her husband Alan. They have a daughter, 27, and two sons, 25 and 22. Barbara has been active in her community and school district for many years, with broad experience working with not-for-profit organizations. She has served as Treasurer for the Junior League of Central Westchester, the Edgemont PTSA, and the Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service. Barbara is the past Chair and current Treasurer of the Sleepy Hollow Womens Golf Committee. She loves spending time with her husband and children, and, when not golfing, enjoys traveling, skiing, SoulCycle, cooking and gardening. Barbara is looking forward to serving on the WMGA's and Foundation's Board of Directors as Treasurer.



### Beth Lankler, Communications and Branding

Beth resides in Westfield, NJ and is a member of Fiddlers Elbow CC. She grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia with a family of golfers. While she appreciated the game as a young girl, she stuck to mini golf and driving the cart with her family. Beth attended the University of Pennsylvania undergrad and met her husband Andrew, an avid golfer, while earning her law degree at George Washington University. She practiced law primarily in the New York court system but retired to stay home with her two boys: Bradley and Justin. After years of dedicated volunteer work for her children's schools, she turned her attention to golf. Her family joined Shackamaxon CC where the love for golf truly blossomed for the whole family. Both her sons are competitive players—Brad, a junior, is currently playing for the Franklin & Marshall Diplomats where he earned All-American DIII honors last year and her younger son, Justin will be attending F & M as well in the fall with the intention of challenging his big brother. She is thrilled to be serving on the WMGA Board of Directors.

# Welcome Junior Girls to the WMGA!

It is our mission at the WMGA to encourage, educate and foster Junior Girls' participation in our tournaments and golf events. No matter what golf experience you may have, or skill level you have achieved, there is a place for you in our WMGA Junior Membership. Bring a friend, enjoy these beautiful courses, and experience the fun of friendly competition

## 2016 WMGA Junior Tournaments:

76th Junior Intercity Team Matches- Invitational\*  
June 29 – 30th Horsham, PA

### TROPHY TOURNAMENTS:

*Open to all Junior Girls\*\*  
18 & 9 Hole Divisions*

July 29th – Maureen Orcutt – White Beeches G&CC, NJ

August 18th- Junior Girls' Open Championship – North Hempstead CC, LI

\*To be eligible for selection in the Junior Intercity Team Matches, player must be a junior WMGA member or junior Fellowship member.

\*\*Players need not be junior WMGA members [or Fellowship members] simply Metropolitan Area Residents and not yet 19 years of age as of tournament.

### Junior Membership has its benefits:

Junior membership allows a young girl the opportunity to be selected for the Junior Intercity Team as well as participate in WMGA events so long as the player has below a 23.0 USGA Handicap Index. [See website and TSB for more information on joining]

The **US Junior Girls' Championship** is being held at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, NJ on July 18 – 23rd. The local qualifier for this prestigious national competition is being held at Apawamis Country Club in Rye, NY on June 27th for all junior girls who meet the criteria for this competition [HI Limit of 18.4 and cannot be 18 years of age on or before July 23, 2016] Apply to play at [www.USGA.org](http://www.USGA.org). Entries close June 1st.

## Double the Fun this Summer at Girls to the Tee

The Foundation is excited to announce that it will be holding not one but two free instructional clinics this summer open to all girls under 19 years of age. [No membership or residency requirements]. Please encourage any and all young girls to bring a friend and take advantage of free expert golf instruction from top PGA professionals at two of the most prestigious clubs in our area.

Wishing you all an awesome summer of golf!



**Diane Mock**  
WMGA Junior Girls' Chair  
WMGA Foundation VP

**GIRLS TO THE TEE**  
August 1st – Westchester CC  
August 22nd – Ridgewood CC



*Play the course that was originally designed with only women in mind . . .*

**Sign up for the “B” Stroke Play Championship at the historical Glen Head CC on Long Island on August 3, 2016**

“Glen Head began in the early 20’s when members of The Creek Club decided that they no longer wanted women golfers, most of whom were their wives, intruding on their private domain. They assembled 176 acres and built Women’s National Golf & Tennis Club, a renowned golf course for women, with 22 tennis courts, among them 11 of the finest grass courts in the world. “

For more on Glen Head’s illustrious history, please go their website at [www.glenheadcountryclub.org](http://www.glenheadcountryclub.org)



**Michele Greenfield**  
VP Outreach, Marketing  
and Initiatives

I welcome you to the 2016 WMGA golf season! Marketing, Communications and the Critical Needs Committee “CNC” has kept me, and the entire WMGA Board extremely busy. The “CNC” was formed in an effort to address critical short and long term issues of the WMGA and a Strategic Planning Meeting was held in January to identify such issues and implement changes.

Our goals now include:

- Improving **Communications** for our members via the WMGA website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TSB and on YouTube.
- **Branding** and **Promoting** of the WMGA and its Foundation through banners, pamphlets, public media outlets etc.
- **Governance** review of the Association prompting organizational changes for Board positions, as well as for our WMGA office staff.
- Working and communicating with our **Sister Organizations**.
- Increasing **Educational Programs** offered to our members: Rules, Handicap and Course Rating Seminars.
- Reviewing **Membership** trends and developing ideas to increase Membership.
- Evaluating and improving **Tournament Participation**.
- Establishing **Sponsorships** and sponsorship materials.
- Developing **Volunteerism**. (We love our volunteers!)

The WMGA is as strong as ever and these improvements can only make us better. Hope to see you out on the links!

## News from the USGA... Another Madame President

Diana M. Murphy, of St. Simons Island, Ga., was elected to serve a one-year term as the 64th president of the United States Golf Association. She is the second woman in the association’s 121-year history to serve as president, following Judy Bell, who was president in 1996 and 1997. And speaking of Judy Bell, the USGA will bestow its highest honor, the Bob Jones Award, to her on June 14, 2016, during the 116th U.S. Open Championship at Oakmont Country Club.

## USGA Rules of Golf - 4 Principal Changes Take Effect January 1, 2016:

- Withdrawal of Rule on Ball Moving After Address - Rule 18-2b (Ball Moving after Address) has been withdrawn.
- Limited Exception to Disqualification Penalty for Submission of Incorrect Score Card - A new exception has been introduced to Rule 6-6d (Wrong Score for Hole).
- Modification of Penalty for a Single Impermissible Use of Artificial Devices or Equipment.
- Prohibition on Anchoring the Club While Making a Stroke.

For more information on the 2016 Rules of Golf, go to [www.USGA.org](http://www.USGA.org).

*Did you know that there is a free Rules of Golf app available for your IOS or Android phone? Just go to the app store to download.*



**Phyllis Gusick**  
VP of Competitions

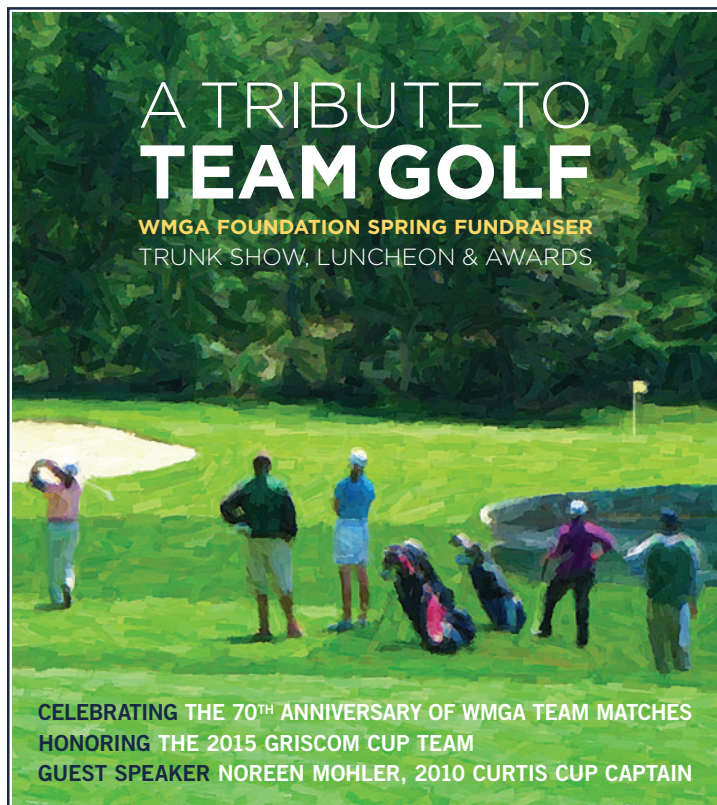
Plans for the 2016 tournament season are set and we have so many great opportunities waiting for you! Registration opens **April 1** and all entry fees include a continental breakfast, lunch, the golf competition, and access to the range and practice area. Please note an important change for this year, we will be accepting registrations on a **first come, first serve basis** (see the TSB for details),

so do not wait to sign up for your favorite events. A huge thank you goes to **Donna McHugh** for all her hard work in securing sites for our wonderful schedule! Our Team Matches kick off on April 26th and end with the Interdistrict Play-off on May 18th. Please remember that there are **no challenge rounds this year**, so make each match count and motivate your teammates! One of the 2015 season highlights included a great win by our Griscom Cup Team led by Captain Alicia Kapheim. On June 1 & 2, the team will be off to Boston Golf Club to defend the title! Another highlight was the introduction of the Best-Ball-of-Four Tournament held at Winged Foot Golf Club. This year’s Best-Ball-of-Four will be held on October 6, 2016 at Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT, so grab a foursome from your club and battle it out against other club teams. Play well and have fun!

**3 Districts. . . 30 series. . . 177 teams. . . 5 players per team. . . 5 days of match play  
. . . nearly 900 women competing within the tri-state area every match day.**

## **WMGA Foundation Fundraiser 2016** *A Tribute to Team Golf ~ Spring Luncheon on May 26*

While the WMGA was founded in 1899 for the encouragement of team play, the format of Interclub Team matches was revised in 1947 by Mrs. Henry March to what we have today. On May 26, the WMGA Foundation will be celebrating 70 years of team match play at its annual spring fundraiser. Please join us for a lovely luncheon, trunk show and raffle at the Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, New York. Reach out to your teams and let's all celebrate this wonderful tradition together while raising money for our scholarship recipients.



**THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016**  
STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.  
\$100 PER PERSON



**SIWANoy COUNTRY CLUB**  
351 PONDFIELD ROAD  
BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

Tickets can be purchased online at [wmga.com](http://wmga.com) or through the WMGA Foundation at (914) 592-7888.

### ***"I truly smile whenever I think about the WMGA and Team Matches" - Marge Goldbaum***

I loved to play sports so, after marrying a 1 handicap golfer in 1956, my learning to play golf was inevitable. As soon as our youngest started in a summer play group, I began taking lessons at our club, Cold Spring CC, on Long Island. After a lot of practice, I came to the attention of some of our more experienced golfers, who were active in the WMGA. They continued to encourage me as we played fun and competitive matches at Cold Spring. In the 1970's, I joined the WMGA and began playing on our second team and then worked my way up to our first team which eventually competed in Series 1. I loved playing and I loved the competition.

After moving to Manhattan, we joined the Glen Oaks Club in Old Westbury, LI. They, too, had a team in Series 1 and a second team in Series 2 or 3, depending on the season. I became the WMGA Rep and Team Captain to an exceptional group of women. In 1999, with our #1 player critically ill, but eagerly awaiting our results, our amazing team, playing in her honor, won Series 1 and then went on to capture the Interdistrict Championship!

Eventually, we began wintering in Florida, but, for quite a few years, I still had to return north for the WMGA matches to be with and play with our wonderful Series 1 team. Yes, we were truly a TEAM-all of us loving golf and, despite playing as individuals, always feeling like we were whole.

*[Note: While Marge no longer plays for her team she still serves as their Met Rep with a smile]*

### ***Worth the wait! - Beth Lankler***

In 2006, we joined Shackamaxon CC in Scotch Plains, NJ. I was a beginner golfer without a handicap. As a new member, I particularly enjoyed Ladies Day events when the pro shop created the pairings and I got to play with more experienced golfers: genuine "old timers". One such day, two golf godmothers regaled me with stories of their Met Team play, after seeing a flicker of potential in my game. It sounded great; friendly competition, the opportunity to play new courses and meet fellow golf lovers. From that point on, it was my goal to get better and lower my handicap so I too could play on a Met team. Well, it took some time and practice but I finally became eligible to join the WMGA. My excitement, however, was tempered as we did not have enough players to form a team and compete.

Fast forward to 2013, we join Fiddler's Elbow CC. My first question to the head pro, "Do you have a Met team?" They did not. My new goal: form a team, gain entry into the NJ District and finally get to compete.

So, last season (2015) was my inaugural Met team experience as both a player and a captain. And I loved it! I loved playing different courses, I loved meeting other women passionate about the game and I loved the comradery of our team! It was absolutely worth the 10 year wait.