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Courtesy of PWGA

President's Message:

Success of girls' golf takes more than money—what can you do to help?

By Mary Pomroy



The success of a girls' high school golf team hinges on support from the players' families and coach. Learning good sportsmanship and what it takes to be part of a team is also critical. The more successful school programs have made this part of their culture.

Unfortunately, not every player has the good fortune to have a strong support system. This is where you come in. Suzy O'Hara, the Arizona WGA

Junior Grants & Assistance Committee chair, says, "The joy and satisfaction I have received through working with the girls has far surpassed my expectations. It is a wonderful way to give back to the game and promote success in our young people."

High school girls' golf teams could use your support. Become an advocate for a school in your area—adopt a team, become their friend/golf buddy/mentor, go to their matches and cheer, donate slightly used equipment, hand out water, make these girls part of the women's golf community so they will want that throughout their life.

It costs you some time, but pays you back with the knowledge that you have made a difference in a girl's life and maybe helped to make golf a part of her life forever. You don't have to do this alone. Get your whole golf group involved! Make a difference in someone's life through golf.

And read on for some of the ways women's golf associations are giving back.



Alliance members go all out for girls' golf

ARIZONA

Build-a-TEAM touches lives through golf

Do you ever wish you had started playing golf sooner or had lessons when you first started? Many of us do. The Build-a-TEAM program administered by the Arizona WGA helps make that possible for high school age girls around the state.

This program is the responsibility of the AWGA's Junior Grants & Assistance Committee, chaired by Board member Suzy O'Hara and supported by staff member Julie Fenn, the Player Programs Manager. It supports eight high school girls' golf teams across the state.

The support requires each team to spend a large percentage of its grant money on lessons

taught by area PGA and LPGA golf professionals. The grant money also purchases team golf bags, uniforms, pull carts, quality golf balls, etc.

The program also connects the coaches to local sources for golf clubs and club fitting services. Many of the girls on the golf teams at Arizona high schools are athletes recruited from other sports who had never touched a golf club before.

Two schools in the program have a team member with special needs. The lessons and coaching that the program has funded have enabled these girls to have access to the game and gain insight into equipment modifications that allow them to participate fully and find success. One plans to use her new skills in upcoming Special Olympics.

Funding comes from individual donations, proceeds from 50/50 raffles, grants and AWGA membership fees.



CHANDLER HIGH GIRLS COOL OFF



NEW YORK/ NEW JERSEY

Getting 'Girls to the Tee'

The WMGA Foundation hosted 120 junior girls Aug.3 for Girls to the Tee at Westchester Country Club in Harrison, N.Y. Thanks to Gary Weir and Monique Thoresz, PGA Professionals, and Diane Mock, WMGA Junior Chair, for organizing this great day. At least 15 local golf professionals conducted a free clinic that mixed quality instruction with high energy.

Ridgewood Golf Club already has offered its range for 2016 Girls to the Tee New Jersey. Ridgewood will be hosting the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship next year.

Thank you to all who believe in our mission of supporting junior girls' golf and awarding college scholarships to young women who have an interest in golf. Without support to the Foundation, we could not accomplish our goals.

HOME ON THE RANGE



The **Arizona WGA** (AWGA) is the voice of women's golf in Arizona. We offer programs for members and the golf community that encourage and provide opportunities for women to learn, play, compete and administer the game for themselves and their clubs. Programs include information and outreach, player programs, USGA programs, and volunteer development.



MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S GOLF ALLIANCE

The **Colorado Women's Golf Association** (CWGA) is a nonprofit amateur golf organization established in 1916. We promote women's golf in the state and preserve the integrity of the game. We represent 17,000 individuals and 250 clubs and we serve as a regional operating partner of the United States Golf Association.

The **Kansas Women's Golf Association** promotes the game among women and girls by maintaining strong relationships with member clubs and individual members; conducting annual championships and other events; and offering a range of programs that develop and enhance the golfing experience for all.

The **Missouri Women's Golf Association** promotes women's golf by holding annual competitions for female juniors, amateurs, mid-amateurs and seniors. Scholarships are awarded each year to graduating high school golfers through the MWGA.



Founded in 1952, the **Delaware Women's Golf Association** shares a mission to promote interest in golf for women and junior girls in the State of Delaware and surrounding areas. The DWGA reaches golfers of all abilities through tournaments, travel, social events and education.



The **Maryland State Golf Association Women's Division** was formed in 1995 to promote amateur golf for women of all ages and abilities. The MSGA-WD is dedicated to providing a full range of services for more than 9,000 members including competitions, handicapping, course rating and rules seminars.



The **Montana State Women's Golf Association** is devoted to promoting educational, social and recreational advantages for women and girls in golf. They do this by encouraging sportsmanship, amateurism, skill and respect embodied by the honorable traditions in the game of golf.



The **Desert WGA** was formed in 2000 as a regional association for Southern California desert clubs and their approximately 700 members. It issues course and slope ratings as well as handicap indexes to its members. DWGA also sponsors golf tournaments, team play competition and other events for members.



The **Michigan Women's Golf Association** was established in 1986 to help promote the game and provide competitive play and education for female amateur players of all ages and skill levels. An on-going MWGA goal is to give back to the community through our successful LPGA-USGA supported junior program.



The **Nebraska Women's Amateur Golf Association** is an organization of golf clubs and individuals governed by amateur women golfers and formed in 1973 for the purpose of promoting and conserving the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf for all women in Nebraska.

The Women's Golf Alliance encompasses 20 state and regional associations across the U.S., from California on the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast and South Carolina, home of the Kiawah Island Golf Resort shown here.

PHOTO BY KIAWAH—COUGAR POINT

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The **New Hampshire Women's Golf Association (NHWGA)**, founded in 1923, is a nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer 15-member board. We offer our 750 members more than 40 golf events: weekly tournaments, mixed events, specialties, juniors and championships. We conduct rules clinics and annually award college scholarships.



Pacific WGA was founded in 1947 to promote the best interest of amateur golf for women. PWGA supports women golfers playing at public and semi-private courses in Northern California. In addition to funding several benevolent projects, we provide educational, competitive and social opportunities for our members.



Founded in 1934, **San Diego County WGA** is a nonprofit organization, chartered to promote, supervise and conduct competitive golf for SDCWGA members in accordance with the Rules of Golf of the USGA as modified by Local Rules determined by the Board of Directors.



The **WGA of Northern California** promotes and serves the interest of women's amateur golf in Northern California. We provide services for more than 100 member clubs' women's organizations from Tulare County north to the Oregon border, with a membership of more than 11,000.



Founded in 1899, the **Women's Metropolitan Golf Association** is the second oldest women's golf association in the U.S. and has a membership of 201 clubs and more than 2,300 individuals in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. The WMGA annually conducts spring team matches and more than 30 competitions, including a USGA Championship qualifier.



The **Women's Oklahoma Golf Association** began in 1915 at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club with the goal of crowning a Women's Oklahoma State Amateur. Its mission is to support, promote and grow the game of golf for women and junior girls in Oklahoma.



The **TRANS Amateur Championship** began in 1927 and in 1992, the TRANS Senior Four-Ball Championship for women was added. Among past TRANS Amateur champions and/or competitors are Brittany Lang, Paige MacKenzie, Nancy Lopez, Lorena Ochoa, Grace Park, Judy Bell, Carol Semple Thompson, Babe Didrikson Zaharias and Patty Berg.



The **Women's South Carolina Golf Association** was founded in 1949. The WSCGA membership consists of women's golf associations throughout the state: 140 member associations with more than 12,000 women golfers receiving USGA handicaps. The WSCGA is licensed by the USGA to provide handicapping and course rating services.



The **Women's Southern California Golf Association**, established in 1922, is the largest regional women's golf association in the U.S. Its goal is to promote and foster interest in women's amateur golf through friendly organized competition.



Founded in 1916, the **Women's Texas Golf Association** encourages and promotes women's golf in Texas. We also raise funds for college scholarships and educate others about USGA rules.



MICHIGAN

Uniting to create the future of women's golf

The Michigan WGA teamed up with the Executive Women's Golf Association Metro Detroit and the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association to organize the Women's Golf Summit in April.

The day, sponsored by the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) and Team Rehabilitation Physical Therapy, drew about 150 women golfers and supporters.

Activities included breakout sessions on golf rules, putting, chipping and full swing tips and drills, physical therapy and exercise information and demonstrations, mentoring, and etiquette. Former LPGA National Teacher of the Year Teresa Zamboni and a panel of leaders in Michigan women's golf gave presentations.

The planning committee led by chairperson Joan Cleland included Sara Wold, Janina Jacobs, Tonia Laird, Shirley McClain, Terri Pearce, Francine Pegues, Laura Winch, Debbie Stout, Shelly Weiss, Susan Bairley, Jeanne Myers and Cindy Obermeyer.

Zamboni, co-founder and Director of Events for Nancy Lopez Golf Adventures, gave details on her "Play Happy Golf" program and her mission to educate golfers on how to balance playing golf at their personal best while also enjoying every moment of the game.

The goal of the Summit was to provide a forum for women golfers at all levels of the game, whether competitive or recreational—gathering to encourage women to take up the game, to learn more about the game, and to feel confident and comfortable playing golf at whatever their level. —**Joan Cleland**

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STRETCHING WITH SHELLY WEISS (PHOTO BY GREG JOHNSON)

A TROPHY TO THE WINNERS: ROCKLIN HIGH



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Back to school and back to golf season

In Northern California, two golf associations come together every year to support high school golf for girls.

The Pacific Women's Golf Association (PWGA) and Women's Golf Association of Northern California (WGANC) host two 18-hole tournaments for high school girls. The Valley Tournament in the Sacramento Region is in partnership with Rocklin High School, the Central Coast in the Bay Area with the San Mateo High School. For some of the high school girls competing in the Helen Lengfeld memorial tournaments last year, it was their first real opportunity to play in an 18-hole match.

"I think it's a testament to the need and demand for this type of opportunity, clearly since last year we had 20 teams submit and only enough room for 15," said former Rocklin HS Coach Susan Espana. "There is a need

in this area for girls to play competitive golf and these women's associations provide that, which is really nice, so we appreciate it."

PWGA Executive Director Caroline O'Brien said PWGA and its sister organization WGANC felt that the prospects for junior team competition were too sparse. "Giving the high school teams an opportunity to play with other teams outside of their regular league provides them another occasion to come together as a team and collaborate for the win," O'Brien said.

This year the WGANC and PWGA will collaboratively host 180 girls from 30 area high schools for the annual tournaments, named for Helen Lengfeld, founder of the PWGA and a former President of the WGANC.

O'Brien said she thinks Lengfeld, who began taking golf lessons at the tender age of 8 and went on to become the youngest member of the now Peninsula Golf and Country Club of San Mateo in 1912, would have been proud of the competition held in her honor.



FULL-SWING INSTRUCTION AT CLINIC

SOUTH CAROLINA

Raising funds to lead girls to golf

The WSCGA's Junior Foundation held two clinics for area high school girls' golf teams in August.

Cobb's Glen Country Club in Anderson hosted 6 schools and 29 girls Aug. 11, and then Par Tee Driving Range in West Columbia hosted 4 schools and 20 girls Aug. 12. The three-hour clinics were coached by PGA Professionals who were volunteering.

The WSCGA Junior Foundation strives to expose as many girls to the game of golf in South Carolina as possible. "We want to help provide quality instruction to these girls in hopes they will enjoy and continue playing the game," said Cathy Robinson, WSCGA Junior Foundation Trustee.

The Foundation has stepped up its fundraising over the last few years to offer this type of assistance to area high school teams. In 2014,

the WSCGA Junior Foundation contributed over \$28,000 to the growth of junior girl's golf in South Carolina.

"High school golf is where it begins for many of these girls, and it can be really tough to do well and get into the game without instruction," Robinson said. "We are so fortunate to have such a great community of golf leaders in South Carolina and the support from the Carolinas PGA to be able to put on clinics for these girls."

The Foundation provided each girl with a T-shirt, lunch and beverage, and each high school team received a Classic Swing Trainer.

"We wish we could do more, as a 501c3 charitable organization we're still looking for a corporate sponsor to help us reach our goal of providing each high school team in South Carolina with a swing trainer," said Robinson.

In case you were wondering... What is the Women's Golf Alliance?

Formed in 2009, the Women's Golf Alliance represents 20 state and regional women's golf associations comprised of 120,000 women golfers. Its goals are: to increase the voice and visibility of women golfers; to enhance the benefits and services provided by member associations; and to offer marketing, management and governance resources and tools for member associations, staff and boards.

Who can join the Alliance?

The Alliance has various levels of membership. Please contact your local women's golf association if you are interested in joining the Alliance.

How can I get more information about the Alliance?

Go to www.womensgolfalliance.org

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