



LWGA Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 1

Spring 2016



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your President:

Welcome to both our new and returning LWGA members. It is hard to believe we are 1/3 of the way through our calendar year and have already had 5 of our scheduled 15 events. Once again we have 14 local tournaments as well as the popular Getaway.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you what your Board has been doing and what is the “state of our association.” The Board began the year with 4 main initiatives over and above the regular and major function of planning and running our tournaments. First, we reviewed the By-Laws and Standing Rules to see that we were in compliance and that the wording was clear and accurate. The Standing Rules must support and be consistent with the By-Laws and are the procedures we use as a Board to guide our decisions. Many emails and phone calls which come to the President, Tournament and Membership Chairs would be unnecessary if members would read these documents - especially the Standing Rules. Members will avoid mistakes and disappointments if they follow this advice. As a Board we follow the Standing Rules so we have one set of rules for all members.



**Suki Brainard
PRESIDENT**

Our second initiative was to take a look at our membership. The total membership numbers have remained pretty constant at about 250 members. As of October 2015 our 244 membership breakdown by handicap index was as follows.

<u>Less than 10</u>	<u>10 – 15</u>	<u>16 – 19</u>	<u>20 – 21.5</u>	<u>Above 21.5</u>
26	85	83	22	28

Our Board discussion focused on our 4 credit requirement and the number of tournaments we should have each year. It is important that the number of tournaments per year is sufficient to accommodate our membership but is not so numerous that they are undersubscribed. If undersubscribed the Tournament Chair does essentially the same amount of work as she does for a full field, and the hosting club and pro give up their course and take in less money. The Board strongly supported the 4 credit requirement for maintaining an active membership.

The third initiative was to develop a Tournament Survey to provide some basis for maintenance or change of our tournament schedule. Seventy - two members completed the survey which was administered at the Annual Meeting and Brunch. The results were used to help guide the Tournament Committee in the selection of the tournament formats for the months July through December. A large majority indicated they would like to stay after tournaments to socialize. The semi-private and public courses offer food and beverage service on Mondays so these facilities may be the best opportunity to offer a social gathering after play.

The fourth initiative was to move towards “going green” in 2017. I appointed the Going Green Committee of Nancy Sain, Chairman, Jan Alpert, Chris Putnam, and Natalie Buontempo to lead us in this endeavor. They are hard at work gathering information, making informed decisions, and are on schedule to implement paperless membership and tournament procedures in 2017.

I am proud to say LWGA is a healthy organization with a dedicated and active Board, and many enthusiastic, active members. The more often you play the more people you will meet and the more fun you will have!

Suki Brainard

President



Enjoying the ferry ride for the Haig Point tournament!

Tournaments

Through April, LWGA Members have had an opportunity to play in five events which equates to just over 400 rounds of golf. All of the events were over-subscribed except Callawassie which was a less popular format—ABCD tournament. We had great weather for the boat ride and golf at Haig Point on April 23.

Members who completed the survey at the LWGA Brunch in January, clearly indicated a preference for two-person or four-person events in which you could choose at least one partner. We have twosome events coming up at Oldfield on July 18 and Palmetto Hall on August 15 and the next foursome event at May River on October 24. Although tournament entry usually begins three weeks before each event, it is never too early to begin finding your partners. Members from clubs with fewer LWGA Members, want to be able to sign-up as singles and be paired with someone else. The Solheim Salute on June 13 is an individual entry event in which the Red and Blue Teams will compete for prizes and bragging rights followed by a buffet lunch. The Pinecrest Tournament on October 3 will give priority to single entries even though you may also enter with a partner. Pinecrest has a restaurant open on Mondays, so a social gathering will follow golf while the tournament committee scores the event.

We encourage all LWGA Members to read the Standing Rules, especially “Entries” and “Oversubscriptions” beginning on page 5. The maximum handicap index for any player is 21.5. When tournaments are oversubscribed, priority for twosomes is a handicap index of 43.0 or lower and foursomes a handicap index of 86.0 or lower. The course handicap varies based upon the difficulty of the course. Twosomes play at 95% handicap and foursomes play at 90% handicap.

The schedule for 2016 and all entry forms can be found online at <http://www.lwgahhi.com>. Tournament results are also posted on the website a day or two after each tournament. We encourage winners to use their credits as soon as possible. LWGA is not responsible for the credits if a club is sold. Gratuities are included in your entry fee. All scores are entered into the tournament scoring system (TPP) which calculates the winners for each tournament format. Please post your gross scores on the official score card and let the computer compute your net score and your equitable strokes. The tournament committee then posts all scores as tournament scores to GHIN, except team formats such as scrambles and alternate shot. Credits for playing are also updated on the website a few days after each event. If you are on a wait list because the tournament is over-subscribed, you will receive a credit unless you are called to play and decline.

I want to thank my assistant chair, Chris Putnam for helping me score the tournaments and for all the volunteers who have helped with registration or scoring. Please let your Club Rep or the Membership Chair know if you have any changes in your contact information. We use email to regularly communicate with Members.

Jan Alpert

Tournament Chair

Membership

Our April new member enrollment is now complete. We are pleased to welcome the following ladies to LWGA:

Belfair	Carol Given and Jane Taussig
Colleton River	Mary Beth Kilrea, Christine Marlowe and Charlotte Spencer-White
CC of Hilton Head	Linda Henderson and Barbara von Bremen
Dolphin Head	Barbara O'Brien and Amy Ramey
Fripp Island	Sara Dashiell, Beverly Fineis, and Jan Pringle
Long Cove	Kitty Krahnke
Moss Creek	Robin Fulton, Deborah Hengemuhle, Carolyn McClurg and Irene Vouvalides
Pinecrest	Deborah Bondarenko
Sun City	CJ Oremus
Golf Club at Indigo Run	Suzee Louis

We encourage all members to become familiar with our by-laws and standing rules. These documents can be found on our website (lwgahhi.com) so please take some time to read this important information.

As a reminder, if you have a change to your personal information, please send it to me as soon as possible (labonte7479@roadrunner.com). I will make the changes to our membership list and will make sure it gets to the appropriate board members. We want to make sure everyone is receiving our e-mails and e-blasts.

Kathy LaBonte

Membership Chair

Communications, Representatives, and Handicaps

Communications:

We use a combination of information posted on our website, email blasts, and information from you club reps to keep you informed for tournaments, events, and membership.

Please be aware that email is not a guaranteed delivery service. You also need to manage your service provider and the security settings in order to receive our notices. Some services unsubscribe you from our service thinking it is spam. Depending on your settings you may find our emails in your spam folder instead of your inbox.

Nancy Sain, Communications Chair

Club Reps:

Who is your LWGA Club Representative? **She is** the person you hear from with news about tournaments and any other valuable information concerning LWGA .

The job is an important one in the chain of communication, but not a difficult responsibility. There is only one meeting a year, in January, and the rest of the year, **the LWGA rep** keeps in touch with her fellow members as the conduit between the LWGA board and her club.

It's not a difficult job, but an important one.

Elaine Shayne, LWGA Administrator

Handicaps:

As you know, the tournament committee posts most of your tournament scores, but **they are** only a few scores each year in your GHIN reports. More than ever before, you are being trusted to post ALL of your scores, as required by the USGA. As often as you may hear this, so many scores still go unposted. So be a golfer with a true handicap! Don't forget to post!!

Elaine Shayne, LWGA Handicap Chair

PAST PRESIDENT

DID YOU KNOW THE LWGA BOARD DOES NOT RUN ITSELF??

Your Board of Directors is looking for members interested in giving something back to their organization by volunteering for 2017 Board positions. It's not that hard or time consuming and your contribution will be greatly appreciated. The positions do not take effect until January 2017.



Natalie Buontempo
Past President

