

Summary of 2019 VSWGGA Annual Meeting

October 1, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

Lake Morey Resort

Board Members and Committee Chairs Present:

Chris Johnson, Jo Allsopp, Sue Fox, Dee Macey, Sis Capeless, Cathy Neff, Kathy Sikora, Nancy Myers, Mary Ann Athanas, Linda Jane Parson, Dana Cassidy, Peg McBride, Jen Steck

Absent:

Lauri Brown (attending Fall Junior Tournament)

Call To Order:

President Sis Capeless called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

Roll Call and Secretary's Report:

Jo Allsopp called the roll for the Clubs represented:

Clubs Attending:

Blush Hill 1, Bradford 2, Burlington 2, Champlain 1, CC Barre 2, CC of VT 1, Green Mountain National 1, Lake Morey 4, Lake St. Catherine 1, Montague 2, Montpelier Elks 3, Mount Anthony 1, Mount Snow 1, Neshobe 1, Quechee Club 3, Ralph Myhre 2, Rocky Ridge 1, St. Johnsbury 1, Stowe 1, Stratton 1, Vermont National 3, West Bolton 1

The 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

Election of new Board Members:

The 3 new Board Members are Mary Ann Athanas, Debbie Jensen, and Sarah Lee.

President's Report:

Total membership 338. We gained 31 new players this year and hope to continue that trend.

The number of women golfers in Vermont is declining and many women are choosing not to pay extra for a GHIN card. However, there are at least 1,100 women golfers with active GHIN cards in Vermont so we have many more players to recruit and VSWGGA members are the best recruiters.

We broadened the Friends program to include all courses if there is capacity.

The forward tee program was initiated and we learned how to score it in Golf Genius with only a few minor bumps. Six courses offered forward tees with 43 women participating. VNCC had 14 women and Proctor Pittsford had 13. We hope to expand the program to more courses next year.

We have continued to partner with the Vermont Golf Association whenever possible. Our women provide half the course raters and we have collaborated in the effort to get the new rules out to all members.

Next year is our 90th year and we are planning celebrations !!!! Volunteers welcome to help.

The calculations for the club divisions and most improved players were incorrect. The correct winners were announced.

Div. 1: Brattleboro Div. 2: Cedar Knoll Div. 3: Lake St. Catherine

Most improved A	Mary Brush
Most improved B	Judy Manley
Most improved C	Mary Beth Menduni
Most improved D	Eileen Sims
Most improved E	Suzy Coutermarsh

Treasurer's Report:

Chris reported we had a successful year and have met all expenses. There are still outstanding expenses such as the Fall Awards Classic and the chit expenses. Chris explained some clubs have not yet paid their annual dues so more income is expected, as well as the remainder of our portion of women GHIN fees from the VGA. Chris explained the necessity of maintaining a cushion for operating expenses in order not to reach into our savings.

Committee Reports (attached)

Nancy Myers is retiring from the Pace of Play committee and is looking for a replacement.

Kathy Sikora would like assistance for the Communications Committee – someone who has knowledge of social media.

Cathy Neff is stepping down as NEWGA representative. Tracy Sloan will be replacing her.

Proposed Amendments to By-Laws

Chris Johnson proposed the following amendments to the existing by-laws to align with the system by which the VSWGGA operates:

Article 1 – OFFICES. Changes use of “principle” office for VSWGGA.

Article 2 – MEMBERS

Section 1. Members

Proposed new wording to include members of a non-real estate club, such as Lakeside, to give full membership rights and responsibilities, including voting rights.

Section 2. Membership Proposed to allow a non real estate club to have voting members and two representatives, as any other club.

Article 3 – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 2. Special Meetings

Proposed new wording does not limit place for members to meet.

Article 5 – OFFICERS

Section 5. Removes the “Board’s paid position” as it is no longer relevant to our method of operation.

All changes approved by the representatives at the meeting.

Representative Concerns and Comments

Vicki Goodrich from Quechee discussed possible use of chits outside of pro shops of member clubs. She is willing to approach retail entities to see if they would be interested in accepting our chits. Jo Allsopp moved to table and discuss at the board meeting on Oct. 8, 2019.

Dale Burditt proposed a “game” to play all the golf clubs in Vermont. Consisted of a map and some method to track and reward players who visit different clubs. Provides incentive to find new places and explore Vermont.

Maureen Quinn suggested possible sync with Vermont travel and tourism somehow. Board will explore the possibility.

Vicki Goodrich wants to find a method to continue to encourage those “friends” who played with a member on State Days to join VSWGGA.

The new VSWGGA logo designed by Dee Macey was unveiled to the membership. It will be incorporated in the VSWGGA 90th Anniversary celebration taking place throughout 2020.

Flowers were presented to out-going board members Peg McBride and Dee Macey.

Adjourned at 11:41 AM.

2019 VSWGGA Committee Reports

STATE DAY REPORT - Dana Cassidy

2019 Season ran from September 18, 2018 through September 10, 2019

- 51 State Days Scheduled (1 in 2018 and 50 in 2019)
- 4 Cancelled State Days: Links at Lang Farm, CC of VT, Mount Snow and Bradford
- Links at Lang Farm and Bradford held rescheduled State Days

Participation:

- 2,185 State Day Participants for the 2019 season (2495 in 2018)
- 5,394 Points Awarded in 2019 (6,204 in 2018) to 234 players (251 in 2018)
- Points were paid at \$3.00 per point (\$2.25 in 2018) for a total of \$16,182 in prizes (\$13,959 in 2018)

State Day Hole-in-Ones

June 4, 2019 – Fran McCune of Country Club of VT had a hole-in-one at Champlain State Day

Closest-to-the-Pin and Junior Golf Fund

- Collected 9/18/18 to 9/10/19
- \$2,147 raised for Junior Golf (\$2,411 in 2018)

State Day Awards:

Janet Lang Trophy for Overall Points Winner with 100 Points – Patty Baroudi, Montpelier Elks Country Club

Runner Up – 90 points – Maureen Quinn, Lake St Catherine

3rd Place – 88 Points – Dayle Burditt, Lake St Catherine

4th Place, tie – 86 Points – Sandy Ezzo, Lake St Catherine

4th Place, tie – 86 Points – Jeanne Morrissey, Williston

5th Place – 76 Points – Nancy Devaux, West Bolton

Mae Murray Jones Trophies – Division Winners

Division 1 – (16+ Players)

1st- Brattleboro Country Club – 99 points

Division 2 – (7-15 players)

1st– Cedar Knoll – 34 points

Division 3 – (6 or fewer players)

1st – Lake St Catherine – 55 points

Most Improved Winners:

Genevieve Babbit Smith Trophy – Mary Brush, Burlington Country Club

Based on greatest percentage reduction from 9/1/2018 to 9/1/2019

Division A (0 – 15.0)

Mary Brush, Burlington CC – 8.1 – 6.1 (24.69 % improvement)

Division B (15.1-20.0)

Judy Manley, Brattleboro CC - 19.3 – 14.7 (23.8% improvement)

Division C (20.1 – 24.0)

Mary Beth Menduni, Green Mountain – 20.1 – 17.2 (14.43 % improvement)

Division D (24.1 – 29.0)

Eileen Sims, Ralph Myhre - 26.0 – 22.0 (15.38 % improvement)

Division E (29.1 – 36.0)

Suzy Coutermarsh, Bellows Falls – 32.8 – 26.6 (18.9 % improvement)

TOURNAMENT REPORT - Jen Steck**Senior Championship**

The year began with Dorset Field Club hosting the Senior Championships on Thursday and Friday, July 11 & 12, 2018. Pam Engel was the club chair of the event. A field of 84 competed. The tee gift was a \$10 certificate to the pro shop or for food & beverage, and the token prizes were leather driver covers.

Reggie Parker of Ekwanok Country Club won the tournament with a two-day score of 157. Runner-Up went to Jeanne Morrissey of Williston Golf Club with 162. Third, with a 167, was Maureen Quinn of Lake St. Catherine. Net Champion was Diane Spence of Dorset Field Club (130). Second net was Edith Hiller of Rutland Country Club (134), and third net was Sue Fox of The Quechee Club (135). Super Senior Champion was Maureen Quinn. Legend Champion was Nancy Kendall of Dorset Field Club with 171. Fewest Putts was won by Jeanne Morrissey (25). Dorset Field Club won the Pat Job Cup.

Amateur Championship

Ralph Myhre Golf Course hosted the Amateur Championship on August 6th-8th, Chaired by Nicole Laberge. The field of players was 46 players. The tee gift was a \$10 certificate to the pro shop or for food & beverage and token prizes were engraved cherry bowls.

The winner was Chloe Levins of Rutland Country Club, with a three-day score of 225. Runner Up was Tiffany Maurycy of Killington Golf Course, shooting 242. Third place went to Andrea Brown of Lakeside Golf Club with 237. Net Champion was Jillian Miles of Rutland Country Club (211). Second place net went to Erika Politano of Ralph Myhre Golf Course (218). Third place net went to Nicole Laberge of Ralph Myhre Golf Course (219). The Junior Champion was Julia Dapron of Dorset Field Club with a score of 242. The Allbright Ringer Cup was tied three ways between Chloe Levins, Tiffany Maurycy, and Holly Reynolds (-7). The Paquet Cup was awarded to Burlington Country Club.

Mid-Amateur Championship

Newport Country Club completed the majors, hosting the Mid-Amateur. The pro, Diane McHeffey was the chair of the event. There were 62 players. The tee gift was a \$10 certificate to the pro shop and token gifts were soft-sided coolers.

The winner was Tiffany Maurycy of Killington Golf Course scoring 149 over two days. Carson Laderoute of Burlington Country Club placed second with 150. Andrea Brown of Lakeside Golf Club was third with 152. The Net Champion was Mickey Potwin of Lake Morey Country Club (133). Second place net was Denise Barnard of West Bolton Golf Club (136), and third net was Kathy Gaudreau of Lake Morey Country Club (137). Burlington Country Club won the Margaret Dick Cup.

*** Ties are broken using the USGA card matching system.

2020 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Tri-States hosted by the Rutland Country Club.

(Tue. & Wed., June 16 & 17)

Senior Amateur Championship hosted by the Newport Country Club.

(Wed. & Thurs., July 8 & 9)

Amateur Championship hosted by Dorset Field Club.

(Mon.-Wed., August 3-5)

Mid-Amateur Championship hosted by Ralph Myhre Golf Course.

(Dates TBA)

Fall Awards Classic hosted by Lake Morey Country Club.

(Tuesday, September 22)

2019 TRI-STATE COMMITTEE REPORT - Peg McBride

We want to thank Phyllis Simon for her tireless service on the Tri-State Committee since 2007. She served on the committee for 13 consecutive years. She started as the chair of the committee but served as captain for most of the years. Vermont won 10 times during her tenure.

2019 Tri-States:

The 2019 Tri-States Competition between Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire was held at the Brunswick Country Club in Brunswick, ME on June 18th and 19th. See the team picture and top point winners at:

<https://vswga.org/2019/06/21/nh-claims-title-at-2019-tri-state-tournament-in-brunswick-maine/>

Changes and Decisions are always made at the Maine Tri-State Competition. Here are the decisions that were made at the Executive meeting.

1. It was decided that the division of players would remain as before: Division A (8 players) HI 0 – 12.9; Division B (14 players) HI 13.0 – 21.9; Division C (8 players) HI 22.0 – 30
2. The number of strokes given/received per side for competition will remain 1 per side unless a player is playing out of division, then it is 2 per side.
3. The color of the uniform bottoms will remain tan. Vermont and New Hampshire will both be changing their shirt color in 2020. Vermont will be green. The color for New Hampshire is not yet known.
4. If a club does not have an alternate when needed, those matches will be a wash. We have asked for clarification on this decision since we came away with multiple understandings.

The question asked is whether all matches on that card are a wash or only the matches involving the team that does not have an alternate.

5. Alternates will continue to play stroke play

2020 Tri-States:

The 2020 Tri-State Competition will be hosted by Rutland Country Club. This will be the 5th time that Rutland Country Club has hosted the Tri-States. The first Tri-State competition held in Vermont was hosted at Rutland Country Club. The last time Rutland Country Club hosted the event was in 2002 and Vermont won.

In 2019 we invited people to volunteer to help with 2020 Tri-State event. The purpose of this is two-fold. 1) Have extra help when we are hosting Tri-States. 2) Let people have a chance to participate in the Tri-State committee prior to making a commitment to the Tri-State committee as stated in the Tri-State Policy and Procedures document that was adopted in 2018.

The committee members for 2020 are: Trish Wade (captain), Peg McBride (assistant captain), VSWGGA VP (committee chair), Jo Allsopp (volunteer), Mary Jane Shomo (volunteer), Fran McCune (volunteer).

Goals for the 2020 Tri-State committee are:

1. Select new shirts for the Tri-State team.
2. Host a successful 2020 Tri-State competition that will make Vermont proud.
3. Include the 90th VSWGGA Anniversary celebration to some extent.
4. Create and maintain information to be used in team selection. This will be mostly in spreadsheets that are easy for anyone to use. The determination of what information is useful is a large part of this job. This will continue to be improved in the coming years.
5. Move all Tri-State documentation to the shared google drive so it is accessible to both the board and the committee.
6. Make sure the latest Tri-State news is posted on the VSWGGA website.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - Kathy Sikora g1946olf@gmavt.net

In 2017 the VSWGGA Board decided to institute a new committee, the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to better inform the members about the happenings within the State of Vermont pertaining to Women's Golf.

VSWGGA members are informed by the twice monthly email from the VPGA along with their GHIN update as to upcoming State Days, Major Tournaments and Invitationals. There are also general or specific communications to members through the VSWGGA office, the Tournament Chair and the President and Vice President.

One of my main goals has been to help our member courses promote their invitationals. This year I sent out almost 20 applications for invitational tournaments from Brattleboro to Newport. I hoped that the Club Reps I sent them to posted them in their club house and/or emailed them so that all club members had access to them. I would like those clubs who had invitationals let me know if they experienced an increase in attendance and if they felt this should be continued.

I am the “keeper” of the VSWGGA Facebook page. I have not posted anything on it because I am not sure what members would like to see on it. I think this is open to discussion.

Please let me know how the VSWGGA can better meet your needs through better communication.

RULES REPORT - Cathy Neff

2019 proved to be an exciting year in golf with so many major changes occurring to the USGA rules of golf.

Four rules seminars were held throughout the state of Vermont. 120 participants received handouts on the major changes to the 2019 rules and were able to discuss concerns regarding the new rule changes.

Bi-monthly rules information was distributed through MailChimp from October 2018 to September 2019. Reports from MailChimp indicated that 50.9% of recipients opened up the rules information emails.

2019 USGA rules books were provided (through our membership in the VGA) at several state days throughout the season.

2019 NEWGA/NEGA REPORT - Cathy Neff

Shannon Johnson (Thorny Lea GC) took control of the NEWGA Championship at the outset and did not relinquish her lead for the remaining rounds. Following 54 holes of stroke play at GreatHorse against a field of some of the top golfers from the six New England states, Johnson maintained her composure and captured her second NEWGA Championship title. She now joins the roster of back-to-back champions, a feat that has not been achieved since 1995-96.

Six Vermont women participated in the three day tournament. Tracy Sloan, Brattleboro CC; Dana Cassidy, Vermont National CC; Nancy Devaux, West Bolton CC; Kathy Kemp, CC of Barre; Linda Jane Parsons, Mount Snow CC and Carson Laderoute, Burlington CC. Carson was the top Vermont player, shooting a final round score of 80, placing her 13th in the field of 76 competitors. Tournament Results are at: <https://www.massgolf.org/competition/womens-championships/>.

The New England Golf Association has received a verbal commitment with North Conway Country Club, North Conway, NH for the 2020 New England Women's Amateur, scheduled for June 29th – July 1st.

Following this year's event, the New England Women's Golf Association formally announced that their Women's Championship will be managed and operated by the New England Golf Association beginning in 2020. The New England Women's Amateur Championship will be the

fifth prestigious event added to the NEGA calendar alongside the New England Amateur Championship, the New England Junior Amateur Invitational, New England Girls' Junior Amateur Invitational, and New England Senior Amateur Championship.

Tracy Sloan has volunteered to be the NEGA VSWGGA Representative for 2020.

PACE OF PLAY COMMITTEE - Nancy Myers

Twenty warnings were given this year and no turtle designations. Last year there were no warnings, but 20 is in line with previous years. Last year, there were quite a few POP reports that I never received and this year I received considerably more. Again, very few rounds were over 5 hours, mostly at the more difficult courses. There seem to be a lot more people trying to encourage players to pick up their pace. That's great, a few words from another golfer is much less offensive than an email from me, and often a lot more effective. I rarely hear the phrase "we didn't hold anyone up" anymore. I'm much more likely to hear "we are out of position." Remember, your correct position on the course is immediately behind the group in front of you, not immediately in front of the group behind you.

I've decided that after more than 10 years, it is time for me to step aside. I think we could benefit from a fresh perspective. I am more than willing to continue in whatever capacity, co-chairing, advising, of just explaining the job.

2019 JUNIOR COMMITTEE REPORT - Lauri Brown

In follow-up to last year's year-end report, communication remains challenging. To date there is no single email directory available to us that allows me to communicate with club professionals *en masse* in pursuit of information about Junior programs statewide. Working through our members and/or club reps produces little-to-no information. I would still like to obtain information on junior golf programs throughout the state to distribute to schools and municipal recreation departments, as well as any active girl groups, such as Girls on the Run, Girl Scouts or 4-H. Relative to schools, it was suggested that I could contact golf coaches, PE Instructors and athletic directors through the Vermont Principals' Association website. However, there is no apparent way on the website to do so. In lieu of that option, I have sent the following email and attached flyer to Heidi Gerrish, their Finance and Office Manager:

Hello, Heidi –

My name is Lauri Brown and I am the Junior Golf committee chair for the Vermont State Women's Golf Association. Attached please find an informational flyer that I would like all Physical Education instructors to post in girls' locker rooms throughout the state. There is no minimum age for a junior golfer, so this should include elementary, middle and high schools, public and (if you have contact info) private. Additionally, please distribute the flyer to all girls' golf coaches.

In the future I would be happy to communicate with anyone directly. If there are contact lists available, please let me know how to access those. As well, my email address may be shared with anyone interested in contacting me about junior girls' golf opportunities.

Thank you so much for your assistance in distributing this information.

Best regards,

Lauri

With any luck, this will lead to the networking relationship that I had hoped to begin last year: connecting with Physical Education Instructors employing the First Tee program, possibly attending some PE classes and talking to students about their experiences and our support if they want to continue to play.

The attached flyer will spread the word that finances need not be a barrier to girls joining VSWGGA, playing in State Days, competing in tournaments, or just going out to their local course on a slow afternoon and giving golf a try. At my local course, Cedar Knoll, I again volunteered with Jane Bissonette and our Junior League on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. We have some promising young ladies, two of whom – as freshmen! – made the Champlain Valley Union High varsity golf team this fall.

Fall is the school golf season, and I am delighted to be attending the Girl's State Finals at Proctor/Pittsford Golf Course on Tuesday, October 8th. I will distribute the attached flyer and have a sign-up sheet for all players to add themselves to our email list. It's an excellent opportunity to see some of the young ladies I have already met and meet the ones I haven't, as well as network with coaches and others who support them. Thanks to Sis, Vicki Goodrich, and Chris Johnson for bouncing emails back and forth generating ideas, gathering info, and giving me the heads-up on this event. I hope that more communication will lead to more inroads with girl golfers and their support networks, as well as young ladies who have yet to catch the golf bug.

Last year I also mentioned partnering with Girls on The Run. I still have not connected with Nancy Heydinger who heads up the VT chapter, but hope to pursue this possibility in the coming year.

On the upside, I received two equipment donations this year. I will continue to receive and store any donations in case we have juniors seeking equipment through our outreach.

Again, if you or anyone you know wants to assist by becoming a committee member, mentoring girl golfers in your area, sharing information through your community, or sharing ideas and contacts directly with me, I welcome any and all assistance.