2020 VSWGA Fall Board Meeting

**Meeting: Fall Board Meeting**

**Date/Time: October 13, 2020 9:30 AM**

**Place: Quechee Club**

**Board and Committee Members Present:**

Kathy Sikora, Jo Allsopp, Linda Jane Parson, Dana Cassidy, Sis Capeless, Jayne Magnant, Jen Farrington, Sarah Lee **Present via video:** Jen Steck, Patty Shirk, Lauri Brown, Pam Boyd

**Board and Committee Members Absent:** Mary Ann Athanas, Nancy Myers, Ellen McAndrew

**Call To Order 9:35 AM**

Introduction of new board members, Patty Shirk, Jen Farrington, Jayne Magnant and Meg McCarthy, accountant

**Minutes from 9/16/20 Video Board Meeting**

Reviewed. Sarah Lee moved to approve. Linda Jane seconded. **Approved**

**Appointment of Officers:**

President: Linda Jane Parson

Vice President: Sis Capeless

Secretary: Jo Allsopp

Treasurer: Jayne Magnant

Director North: Mary Ann Athanas

Director Central: Jen Farrington

Director South: Sarah Lee

Director at Large: Dana Cassidy

Director at Large: Patty Shirk

NW Liaison : Mary Ann Athanas

NE Liaison : Patty Shirk

Central W Liaison: Jennifer Farrington

Central E Liaison: Jo Allsopp

South Liaison: Sarah Lee

Jo Allsopp moved to approve officers. Sis seconded. **Approved**

**Action:** Kathy Sikora will post on Facebook , Sis in the VGA newsletter and Jen Farrington will put in her next Bulletin.

**Treasurer**’**s Report**

As presented at the Annual Meeting. Jayne Magnant introduced as new treasurer. Sis requested approval to bill VSWGA for Zoom membership on the months when we have a video meeting. Sarah moved to approve, Jen Farrington seconded. **Approved**

Sis moved to donate $1500 to the VGA Scholarship program as has been done in previous years.

Sarah Lee seconded. **Approved**

In the treasurer’s report is mention of lobbying fee. Sis explained that historically, VGA,VSWGA, Superintendent’s organization, and VTPGA split costs to retain a firm to lobby on our behalf when issues related to golf and golf courses arise.

**Committee Reports**

 **Major Tournaments**

Discussed lowering age limits for Senior Tournament and Mid-Am Tournaments in alignment with USGA requirements.

**Senior** – question to lower age to 50. It is currently 55. Preference is given to HCP index should the field become full. Discussion regarding attracting more participation.

Jo Allsopp moved to lower the age to 50 with preference still given to 55 and over. Sarah seconded. **Approved.**

**Amendment:** If additional carts are needed VSWGA will subsidize renting carts as needed.

**Action:** Jen Steck, Kathy Sikora, Dana Cassidy will work on a poster to place in pro shops of participating clubs to encourage participation.

**Mid-Ams** – question to lower the age to 25 in alignment with USGA. VGA and USGA currently run tournament as match play. VSWGA will remain stroke play at this time.

Sis moved to lower the age to 25 with preference given to 30-55. Linda Jane seconded. **Approved**

 **Website review**

Pam Boyd working on new FAQ section for VSWGA.com for the benefit of players looking to join.

Also discussed important to get a link to our website on the VGA website. The results of the survey conducted in the spring have not been distributed. Decided to post on website and Kathy Sikora will send to club reps.

Currently Sis posts edited version of the meeting minutes on the website. Discussed transparency of the financials. Jayne suggested Dashboard. After the minutes are finished, the board will decide whether to post as is or make a summary.

**Action:** Jayne and Pam will work together to discuss posting financial info.

**Tri-States**

Since we didn’t have the tournament this year due to Covid restrictions, it will be held at Rutland CC on June 15 & 16 2021. Sis Capeless moved that shirts bought and paid for this year will be given to players for free next year. Jo Allsopp seconded. **Approved**

**State Days**

Dana working on confirming final calendar for 2021. Liaisons were assigned clubs to verify dates.

 **Rules**

Cathy Neff was not present but sent an emailed report reviewing several rules questions that arose most frequently during State Day and tournament play.

**Junior Golf**

Lauri Brown working on making inroads with the VGA with regard to Junior Tournaments. VGA and VSWGA committee trying to attract more junior members through two-way communication. Had prepared equipment swap in spring with free equipment going to juniors before Covid halted it. Planning another one this spring.

Sis moved we make State Amateur Tournament free to all juniors. Linda Jane seconded. **Approved**

 **Communication**

Kathy Sikora reported Facebook page is open to members to share photos. Update on FB usage, Instagram usage and will be involved in making posters for pro shops.

 **Pace of Play**

Nancy Myers has turned over POP to Ellen McAndrew. Due to Covid-19 this summer, the pop process was not followed as diligently. Reviewed current process and we need to follow through with slow players and place them on tee sheet with consideration of their pace.

**Proposals**

Review issues from 2020 Annual meeting

1. Agreed to extend expiration dates of chits to end of 2021 due to Covid restrictions and clubs not being able to stock their pro shops accordingly.
2. Lakeside players need to identify a member who can be a voting representative.
3. Dayle Burditt – Green Mountain Challenge. Players need to send a copy of their current map with completed courses.
4. Golf Genius issues discussed. Difficulty adding players over the weekend because cannot charge online after course registration has closed. Jen Farrington recommended using the GG app on your mobile device. Easy to register and it can save your credit card info to use. Info about the app will be sent out in the next Bulletin.

Sis made motion to allow weekend add-ons for an upcharge of $15 payable on the day of play. Linda Jane seconded. **Approved**

1. Roles of club reps – New guidelines designed by Linda Jane and Jen F discussed and edited. Suggested a video training course for scoring on Golf Genius.

**Action:** set up rep meetings and send updated copy of Roles for Representatives.

**New Business**

Handbooks need to have editing completed by the middle of January. New wording regarding juniors and all participation.

Transgender Policy – ongoing discussion on how to describe to fit our state days and majors. Other states and organizations have been contacted and reviewing. Options:

* Booklet could include put link to current USGA policy
* Registration could include statement regarding self identity as a woman

**Action:** Sis and Lauri will contact VT Legal Aid and/or Outright VT to find out how to phrase for our purposes.

**VGA**

Sis has been working with the VGA regarding their interest in joint cooperation with VSWGA. VGA currently streamlining their organization and reducing the number of board members. Sis will continue to work with them while considering what our role would be in cooperation with them. Have been researching other states mergers. This will be a several year project to just discuss the possibility. We will have Sis Capeless and Jen Farrington available to meet with members of their board if they wish to do so.

**2021 Plans**

At this time, we will keep everyone updated with regard to ongoing Covid-19 regulations.

Sis made a motion that our members who are over 80 or turning 80 in the upcoming year will get free membership in the VSWGA. Jayne seconded. **Approved**

**Meeting adjourned 2:31 pm.**