

**STLWDGA OPENING MEETING
BELLERIVE COUNTRY CLUB
APRIL 13, 2018
Minutes**

STLWDGA President, Gerry Wisniewski, welcomed the ladies in attendance and called the 2018 Spring General Meeting to order at 11:03.

INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Gerry followed with an introduction to the Executive Board.

- Vickie Ressler, Vice President, MB
- Joyce Jackson, Tournament Chair, FH
- Daveann Degenhart, Assistant Tournament Chair, LG
- Ronnie Burg, Team Chair, PW
- Margaret Farrell, Assistant Team Chair, WB
- CJ Evans, Treasurer, LF
- Sue Springmeyer, Recording Secretary, STA
- Bev Frein, Corresponding Secretary, BH
- Laurel Palmer, RulesChair, ALG
- Marian Sinnett, Parliamentarian/Past President, FH

She informed the ladies present that we are in our 98th year as an association and she thanked the ladies who have worked to support STLWDGA throughout the years.

Gerry introduced the past presidents that were present and thanked them for their years of service.

- Lucinn Sams (1995-1996) FH
- Kathy Reid (2001-2002) FH
- Laurie Merchant (2005-2006) STA
- Belinda Green (2007-2008) BH
- Marsha Rheinnecker (2009-2010) OW
- Kathleen West (2011-2012) GB
- Pattie Canter (2013-2014) NW
- Marian Sinnett (2015-2016) FH

Following the introduction of past presidents, Gerry introduced the members of the standing committees.

INTRODUCTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Vickie Ressler, Auditor
- Bev Frein, Mixed Event Chair
- Marian Sinnett, Oanh Wieland and Gerry Wisniewski, Nominating Committee
- Boobie Light and Laurie Merchant, Prize Chairs
- Amy Felton and Janine Reed, Historian/Publicity
- Laurel Palmer, Pattie Canter and Jane Hayo, Rules Committee
- Ronnie Burg, Webmaster

Gerry thanked the staff at Bellerive Country Club and STLWDGA member, Terri Hennessey for arranging the details for the meetings and lunch.

18-HOLE CHAIRS IN ATTENDANCE

She recognized Sandi Franklin who is the non-district 18-hole chair from Whitmoor.

NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED A STLWDGA PIN

Gerry invited new members to come forward and receive their pins.

- Colliean Haynes from Whitmoor
- Janet Weber from Persimmon Woods
- Kathleen Burns from Westborough
- Carol Stampley from Whitmoor

She informed the STLWDGA members that Betty Schmidt, Honorary Life Member from SSHC passed away on Nov. 14, 2017.

The Recording Secretary, Sue Springmeyer confirmed that a quorum was present.

Gerry requested comments in regard to the 2017 Fall Closing Meeting Minutes that were on the lunch tables. A motion was made by Beth Schasteen, NH and a second was made from Ronnie Burg, PW. The minutes were approved.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Gerry Wisniewski, Norwood Hills CC

Gerry began her report by thanking the Executive Board for their dedication and volunteer hours.

- TOL

We are looking forward to celebrating our newest Honorary Life Member, Helen Shopmaker, at our Tournament of a Lifetime on Friday, May 18 at The Country Club of St. Albans. Helen joined District in 1968.

- MIXED EVENT

Bogey Hills Country Club will be hosting the Mixed Event on Thursday, July 19th. Bev Frein has volunteered to assist Gerry to plan the event. The entry form is in the back of the Yearbook and on the website.

- INVITATIONAL

The Invitational, the STLWDGA Championship, will be held at Sunset Hills Country Club on July 30 – August 3. The entry form is in the back of the Yearbook and on the website. The event will be pre-flighted with the 16 lowest handicap players in the Championship flight. Stroke play on Monday will be used for seeding each flight. This event is open to all female members minimum of 18-year-old and a member at one of our 20 District clubs. Joyce Jackson gave the CDs Invitational brochures that includes an entry form to post at their clubs.

- SUSAN E. SHEPHERD CHARITY EVENT

The Susan E. Shepherd Charity Event will be held at Sunset Country Club on Friday, Sept. 28th. Our chosen 2018 Charity is “The Women’s Safe House”.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: Vickie Ressler, MB

- YEAR BOOK

Vickie thanked the CD’s for their help in gathering information to update the 2018 Year Book. She reminded them that the information is critical for keeping our Database, Year Book and the USGA Tournament Master Roster up to date for communication to our membership. The Pros and each member will receive a pdf copy of the 2018 Year Book. She will update the information throughout the season. STLWDGA printed 200 Year Books for the members that requested them through their CD’s. If we need more we can have them ready in approximately a week’s time.

- NEW MEMBER COORDINATORS

The New Member Coordinators have all the necessary information that they will need this year for prospective New Members. One of their responsibilities is to monitor the bi-monthly handicap reports, then contact and encourage those players eligible for membership. We have six New Members

- Colliean Haynes, WM
- Janet Weber, PW
- Anne McDonald and Cece Strand, GB
- Kathleen Burns, WB
- Mary Koomar, PW

- JUNIOR INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Junior Invitational Golf Tournament will be held at Norwood Hills Country Club on July 5 & 6. To get the word out, Vickie sent approximately 252 emails to private and public school athletic directors, coaches, physical education teachers, principals, Pros at our 20-member clubs, and The First Tee in St. Louis. The entry form is on our website under www.stlwdga.com under

Tournaments. She asked the membership to encourage Junior Golfers between the ages of 12-18 to sign up for the event.

- **SUSAN E. SHEPHERD**

Our recipient charity for the 2018 Susan E. Shepherd Tournament is The Women's Safe House. The Women's Safe House provides safe shelter and transitional living services to battered women and their dependent children. Through their services, they work to empower women to make informed choices about their future. They serve as a haven for women and families who are in immediate danger and are fleeing domestic violence. All of the programs and services are free and confidential.

Vickie reminded everyone to think about charities that primarily assist women and children and bring their recommendations to the Closing Meeting. The Executive Committee will discuss the recommendations made by the STLWDGA members and vote for the next recipient at the Fall Executive Board Meeting.

TOURNAMENT CHAIR REPORT: Joyce Jackson, FH

Joyce introduced the Assistant Tournament Chair, Daveann Degenhart, LG.

- **OPENING DAY SCRAMBLE**

The Opening Day Scramble is at Lake Forest. Sign-ups are due from the Corresponding Directors on Friday, April 20th. She reminded everyone to let their CD know if they would like to play in the tournament.

- **CLOSING DAY SCRAMBLE**

The Closing Day Scramble will be held at Algonquin on Friday, October 5. For both the Opener and Closer, you can make your own foursome or sign up as a threesome, twosome, or single. Singles are encouraged and welcome to sign up as this can help fill out our tee sheet.

- **TOURNAMENT OF A LIFETIME**

The Tournament of a Lifetime will be held on Friday, May 18 at St. Albans and our Senior Tournament will be held on Friday, August 24 at The Legends. Both of these events are one day individual stroke play events. Participants are flighted and play with other members based on individual handicaps.

- **THREE DAY STROKE TOURNAMENT**

The Three Day Stroke Tournament will begin at Whitmoor Country Club on Tuesday, June 5 followed by Persimmon Woods on Wednesday, June 6, and ending at Greenbriar Hills on Thursday, June 7. Joyce informed everyone that the entry form is on page 147 of the yearbook and will close on May 28th. An entry form is also available on the STLWDGA website.

- **BEST BALL EVENT**

On September 13th, Forest Hills will be hosting our Best Ball Event. Participants will be able to make their own foursome for this Tournament.

- **SUSAN E. SHEPHERD CHARITY TOURNAMENT**

The Susan E. Shepherd Charity Tournament, a two-person event, will be held at Sunset Country Club on Friday, September 28th.

- **TIMELINESS**

Joyce reminded everyone to respond to the requests from their CD in a timely manner. Information about each tournament can be found with a CD, in the Yearbook and on the website. All signups must be received by Joyce no later than 10:00 am one week prior to the event. For any changes after the cutoff, the individual player should contact her directly.

- **MERIT SYSTEM**

The merit system will be used if we have more players than can be accommodated for each tournament. The merit system is a point based system which assigns 1 point for playing in an event and 2 points for playing in the Three Day or Invitational. No points are earned for Team Play or the Mixed Event. In addition, 1/2 point is awarded to a player that is wait-listed from an event due to her Merit status. Details about the Merit System can be found in the yearbook and on the website.

- **REPORTING ON TIME**

Joyce reminded the ladies that they must be checked in and at their cart at least 15 minutes prior to their tee time. Late participants, after 8:15, may be allowed to play, but will not be able to compete for a prize. Scorecards should be turned before taking your clubs to the car.

Joyce invited everyone requesting additional information and/or questions to call or send her an email.

ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT CHAIR: Daveann Degenhart, LG had no report.

TEAM CHAIR: Ronnie Burg, PW

Ronnie informed the ladies that 2018 team competition will be held at Norwood Hills, St.Clair, Westborough, St.Louis and Glen Echo.

The regular team season is scheduled to end on Friday, July 27 at Glen Echo. After that Gerry will be contacting neutral courses to host the Semi-final and Final matches.

She reminded everyone to contact Margaret Farrell or her if they have questions in regard to team play. Additional information is available in the yearbook and the website.

ASSISTANT TEAM CHAIR: Margaret Farrell, WB had no report.

TREASURER: CJ Evans, LF

CJ informed the ladies that the 2017 season ended in good financial standing for STLWDGA. We have \$2500 in reserves, \$9000 in the 100 anniversary fund, and \$250 in the MedArt fund. After the books were balanced, there was \$3695.70 to put forward in the 2018 budget. This

larger than normal carryover was mainly due to the large participation in the 2017 Invitational tournament.

A proposed 2018 budget was submitted to the Board at the Spring Board meeting on March 2. It was approved and is on the table.

All participating clubs have sent in District dues for the ladies in their membership. The Website invoices have been paid and submitted invoices and dues refunds since November 1 have been paid.

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sue Springmeyer, STA had no report.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Bev Frein, BH

Eight thinking of you cards were sent and three sympathy cards.

RULES CHAIR: Laurel Palmer, ALG

PACE OF PLAY

Laurel reported that the Pace of Play Committee met in January to discuss options for improving Pace of Play for all of the events. The committee decided to have a Foursome Captain in every group for all of the events. The Captain will be designated by a red dot next to her name on the score card. The Captain will be responsible to make observations and positive suggestions when confronted with Pace of Play issues, and to guide her group to move faster as needed. Her job is not to criticize or police her foursome but to constructively communicate to the members of her foursome who are playing slowly and to offer tactful solutions to encourage them to improve the Pace of Play. Each District member will be a Foursome Captain at some point during the season.

There will be a sign titled Pace of Play Guidelines at the check-in table for every event. (Laurel showed the sign) All members should read the sign so they are aware of different ways to improve Pace of Play. Laurel suggested that the Foursome Captain may want to pick one or two of these suggestions and inform her foursome at the beginning of the round that they might want to focus on these particular suggestions during play on that particular day.

She reminded everyone that the Foursome Captain policy is a group effort. It is for the best interest of all members that we focus on improving Pace of Play and try to play District golf in 4 and ½ hours or less.

Pattie Canter asked if the guidelines could be posted on the website. Margaret commented that they were given to the Team Captains.

HONORARY PRESIDENT/PARLIAMENTARIAN: Marian Sinnett, FH had no report.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDITOR: Vickie Ressler, reviewed the account and reported that the figures are correct and balances are at the proper level. A STLWDGA member from the floor asked, when the

membership will be informed as to what is planned for the 100 year celebration? Pattie Canter responded that as of today a plan is to have a party to celebrate all of us. She continued that there appears to be little interest in having a book. Comments from the floor included that some of the members liked the book. Gerry reminded the ladies that we have a book for every year.

MIXED EVENT CHAIR: Bev Frein informed the STLWDGA membership that Bogey Hills is will host the Mixed Event. She presented drawings of the new clubhouse. She reminded the membership of the event on Feb 16, 2017 when the clubhouse burned to the ground. The new construction started in August and Bogey Hills will sponsor the Mixed Event on July 19, 2018. The new building is much large than the old and the course did not change. She informed and invited everyone to the ribbon cutting on May 14.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Marian Sinnett, Oanh Wieland and Gerry Wisniewski had no report.

PRIZE CHAIRS: Boobie Light and Laurie Merchant would like to know what the members would like for prizes. There was a vote by hand as to whether or not STLWDGA members prefer gift cards or a gift. A vote was taken and the majority wanted gift cards.

HISTORIAN/PUBLICITY – Amy Felton, Janine Reed had no report.

RULES – Laurel Palmer, Pattie Canter and Jane Hayo had no report.

WEB MASTER: Ronnie Burg informed the membership the the website is updated through the year and tournament results will be posted as received. On the website, entry forms are under tournaments, What's New is a place to preview upcoming events. There is a link to view a video of the TOL honoree, Helen Shopmaker and a link to the Women's Safe House. Ronnie reminded the ladies that the password for the roster is STLWDGA ROSTER.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no additional comments in regard to old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2017 SCRAPBOOK

Debbie Manne from Norwood Hills, our 2017 Historian, created a 2017 photo book that is being passed around. It is an important part of documenting the history of STLWGA.

- MGA HALL OF FAME

The Missouri Golf Association's Hall of Fame Celebration was on January 19 at Meadowbrook C.C. Two of the inductees for 2017 are members of STLWDGA. They are Barbara Berkmeier of NW and Ellen Port of SS. More information is available on the MGA website. Gerry congratulated the ladies for their accomplishments.

- ST. LOUIS SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Marcella Rose, NW, is being inducted into the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame, Legends of St. Louis Golf on April 23rd. Marcella stood, Gerry congratulated her on her accomplishments and she received a standing ovation. Marcella thanked everyone, Additional information can be found on the STLWDGA Website.

- YEARBOOK

Based on a survey of members in regard to printing the yearbook, the board decided to print the yearbook for only those members who requested one for use during the current year. Each of the CDs from our members clubs advised Joyce as to how many yearbooks to print for their respective members. Vickie Ressler is going to chair a committee to discuss the Yearbook, what it should look like and the contents. Gerry requested that members contact Vickie if they are interested in serving on the committee.

- HANDICAP INDEX 17.4

During the last few years, STLWDGA has experienced a decline in membership. In 2015, we had 392 members, at the beginning of this year we had 353. Therefore, the Executive Board decided to raise the handicap index for eligibility from 15.4 to 17.4 effective immediately. The New Member Coordinators were advised of the change this morning during the NMC meeting.

- 2019 BOARD POSITIONS

The Nominating Committee will be looking for candidates to fill several positions in 2019. Gerry made a request for STLWDGA members to contact members of the Nominating Committee, Marian Sinnett, Oanh Wieland or herself if they are interested in serving on the Executive Board.

- U S WOMEN'S MID-AM

The 2018 US Women's Mid-Amateur Championship is being played at Norwood Hills CC. Gerry requested volunteers for the event. Volunteers are to contact Gerry. She added that Kathy Glennon from STA might be in the field.

QUESTIONS

Gail Walters from Bogey Hills commented on a misprint in the Yearbook on page 155 with the dates being incorrect. The oversight was duly noted and Gerry commented that it is correct on the entry form.

There being no further business to discuss, Gerry requested a motion from a Director to adjourn. Peggy Linsin from Norwood Hills made a made a motion to adjourn and Patty Canter from Norwood Hills seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:53.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Springmeyer
Recording Secretary
April 18, 2018

rev. 5/4/18