

# WMSGGA

## President's Report

September 18, 2012

My first year as president has gone by quickly. I have had a few stumbles but always came out standing. There is much to learn when you step into a position like this. My knowledge base has grown by leaps and bounds and hopefully next year will flow a little smoother with my new experiences to reflect on.

Last fall I attended an MSGA Handicap seminar with Jean Young. Building an understanding of the handicap system seemed a good place to begin. It was very helpful and I think all golfers should have a clear understanding of what their handicap really represents. I would encourage all of you to learn more about the purpose and importance of your GHIN handicap.

July was an extremely busy month. WMSGGA hosted the NEWGA Championship at Natanis Golf Course. Terry Hamm-Morris did a fantastic job chairing the event. With the help of WMSGGA members and an incredible crew from Natanis the championship was an impressive success. We had twenty-five Maine women golfers participate and Alice Hwang, from Maine, won the NEWGA Junior Title. Two short weeks later the first Maine Women's Amateur was held at Augusta Country Club. This long awaited event was another example of what the women golfers in Maine are capable of achieving. The tournament was a combination of WMSGGA, SMWGA and MSGA working together resulting in a professional exciting championship. Congratulations to Emily Bouchard for taking home the prize. A huge thanks to Charleen Wiseman for stepping in and chairing the event.

With all the good things that have happened with WMSGGA this year it is with great concern that I need to bring up this next topic. Involvement with WMSGGA is declining. There has been a 36% decrease in membership in the last eight years. We are decreasing the amount of tournaments available by offering only one choice in May and September. We have had several tournaments this summer with less than twenty participants. We can't continue to ask clubs to close their course for us with those numbers. We will need to consider reducing the number of scheduled tournaments even more if the participation does not improve.

Not only are our weekly number of participants down but there is also a decrease in those who are willing to step in and fill vacancies within the association. Without the volunteers, who are willing to give their time and efforts to make this association work, it will not continue to be successful. First, let me say thank you to all the women who volunteer their time, despite their busy life, to keep WMSGGA running. There are those who give their time and talents willingly and without them WMSGGA would not be possible. Currently there are six (6) positions vacant in WMSGGA. This increases the workload of those who are volunteering and in some areas the work is not being done at all. Many of these positions require very few hours throughout the year and each position is needed to keep things running efficiently.

I am asking that each and every one of you consider stepping forward and offer a year or two of service. We are all busy. We all have families, jobs and a very busy life. The cost for you to play golf on some of the nicest courses in Maine is minimal. I would like to suggest that the additional cost, to keep this privilege, is donating some of your time. It is your association; consider giving back so that young women to follow can enjoy the same opportunity that you have.

I apologize for using the President's Report as a venue for soliciting volunteers. But, this issue is vital to keeping WMSGGA a self-sufficient, independent, association.

I look forward to serving as your WMSGGA president for another year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Dorval