



# NEWSLINKS

*A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting golf for women in Arizona*

## AWGA Annual Meeting & Recognition Dinner

*By Robyn Noll*

On January 30th, 2014, the AWGA conducted its Annual Meeting and Recognition Dinner at Moon Valley Country Club. Before the business and awards part of the evening, new and continuing committee members and AWGA reps were invited to attend a short Volunteer Reception to welcome and inform them about all of the AWGA programs. Thirty-two people attended, and discovered how the AWGA committees interact. Many people asked questions about the Build-a-TEAM program, and many others expressed interest in our various committees, starting an energetic mock bidding war among the committee chairs for prospective volunteers.

USGA Regional Affairs Director Mike Sweeney also attended the Reception, and was excited to see so many people interested in the Rules of Golf, especially considering that 2013 was such a controversial year for Rules decisions at the national level. The USGA's desire is to make Rules easier to understand, and Mike mentioned that we can expect to see some work in that direction soon. He also emphasized the many ways that the USGA is working to make the game more enjoyable, affordable, and inclusive. He told us to keep an eye out for:

- Turf improvements that will help both the environment and the bottom line for courses
- The addition of more forward tees for women, juniors and high-handicappers
- A Drive, Chip and Putt Championship for juniors, to be held before the Masters
- And more efforts to make the game faster to play

Mary Pomroy noted that the Build-a-TEAM program is just over a year old but is off to a fine start. Of the money spent on the teams in 2013, 53% was spent on lessons for the girls, 21% on equipment, and 26% on team uniforms, and an untold number of hours were spent nurturing and encouraging our 8 teams and their coaches. None of our teams qualified for High School State this year, but we're happy to know we helped 6 girls get to State for the first time.

Mary also mentioned that tournament entries are up again, including a record number of entries at January's State Medallion Club Team Tournament. Two under-subscribed tournaments – The Weekend Classic and Day in Hades – have been dropped from the schedule. While we're sad to see them go, as outgoing President Robin Lane stated, we're trying to "manage costs and be good stewards of your money."

As the business meeting wrapped up, there was abundant praise and a few tears shed for Robin, who was on the Board for six years and who served as President from 2012-2013. Among her many other accomplishments, Robin helped considerably enhance our relationship with the PGA Section. Incoming President Ginny Zak has vowed to "spiffy things up" in the year ahead by continuing to evaluate, streamline, consolidate

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*AWGA Board President, Ginny Zak*



*Dick Hyland of DC Ranch accepts the 2013 Host Club of the Year Award*

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and improve the results of our programs, and also introduced the new 2014 Board of Directors.

An exuberant emcee, Ginny went on to lead the awards portion of the evening, and ran such a tight ship that the evening actually ended EARLY. The Academy Awards could learn a thing or two from her! The first awards were given to the 2014 GEM award winners. Member votes last year helped us identify the top 24 courses for women in Arizona for 2014. Nine of those GEM courses were represented at the dinner, and were thrilled to accept their plaques. Alta Mesa, Grandview, Trilogy, and all three courses at Sun City Grand (Cimmaron, Granite Falls and Desert Springs) were all first-year recipients of the award. Copper Canyon, The Highlands, and Tonto Verde were on hand as second-year GEM award winners.

Dorothy Pease Achievement Award-winner Pat Trimbell received a wonderful tribute by Judi Lorenzen and Kathy Cline, who shared presentation duties. Then Dick Hyland from Host Club of the Year DC Ranch described all the work he and his team put in to making the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship a special event for the AWGA volunteers and players. Their hard work garnered high praise from all corners of the room.

AWGA Rep of the Year Theresa Noreika had a table full of supporters, and despite being a bit nervous before heading to the podium she gave a great acceptance speech. To the surprise and delight of all, Carolyn Suttles announced she was leaving for Costa Rica after the dinner, to celebrate both her birthday and receiving the Volunteer of the Year award. Susan Browning made the whole room laugh with her anecdotes about Kim Eaton's caliber of play, just before Kim hauled off two more big hunks of crystal to add to her collection. And while they didn't win an award that evening, Betty Biddle and Becky Sellers were recognized for their second consecutive State Medallion win in January.

If you were there, we thank you for your attendance. If you weren't, why not?! Join us next year for great company, great food, and loads of laughter. You can read about all of our award winners below, and we encourage you to call and volunteer if you want to help with any of our outstanding programs.

## 2013 Player of the Year & Senior Player of the Year Kim Eaton

The AWGA's most prestigious tournament player's awards are the Player of the Year, and for women over the age of 50, the Senior Player of the Year. The award is to recognize the player whose performance in the past year surpasses everyone else in the Arizona Women's Golf Association membership. Kim Eaton has been a championship level golfer from a very young age, when she won the Colorado Women's Junior Match Play in 1977. Her record of victories as an amateur earned her induction into her home state's Sportswomen of Colorado's Hall of Fame in 2006. Kim became a part time resident of Arizona in 2008. Since that time, Kim has continued to win championships in both states, including the CWGA Senior Stroke Play Colorado in 2009, making her the only player ever to win CWGA Championships in the junior, open, and senior divisions.

Kim's winning career spans over 40 years and continued through 2013, when she won both the CWGA Match and Stroke Play Senior titles, along with the AWGA Match and Stroke Play Senior titles, as well as the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship.

She was named Senior Player of the Year in 2011 with victories in State Seniors Stroke Play Championship, the Season Opener, and 4-Ball Championship, along with selection for the team representing Arizona in the US Women's State Team Championship.



## 2013 Volunteer of the Year Carolyn Suttles



Arizona's golf community became a better place when Carolyn Suttles moved from Michigan to Pebblecreek 16 years ago. Her passion for golf began back in 1987 when she learned the game through an initiative where she worked. After the initial lessons, the women formed a group and played 9-holes after work. Carolyn was a member for about 10 years. She described those years by saying, "We were all beginners so it was comfortable for us to stay together. I volunteered to hold several offices over the years just to keep the group active. That was my introduction to golf. I could never have guessed how much it would impact my life."

Since becoming a member of the AWGA in 1997, Carolyn has spent most of her spare time either golfing or volunteering. "Why do I do it? For the love of the game," she said. "It hardly seems like work to me. When no-one else wants to volunteer, I step up to do it!" Carolyn is an avid golfer and plays at least four times a week! She was 2011 Overall Net Winner of the AWGA Scotch Play Tournament with partner Jane Hee.



Volunteering is an integral part of Carolyn's nature. She definitely knows the meaning of giving back! "I was honored and surprised to be recognized this way," Carolyn said. She doesn't volunteer for the recognition but admits it's nice to know that someone acknowledges her work. She insisted on sharing this honor with her husband, Rodney, who has been patient and supportive of her efforts over the years. "He's as good as a husband could be," she proudly said.

Congratulations, Carolyn, on being named 2013 Volunteer of the Year. Receiving this award on January 30th has special meaning for Carolyn since it also happens to be her birthday! "This is quite a birthday present," she said. Well deserved, Carolyn, and thank you for sharing your generous spirit with the Arizona golf community!

# ACES

## October

24 | Dixie Dewitt | Wigwam - Patriot

## November

6 | Eunice Inman | Sundance GC

## December

15 | Geri McMenamy | Briarwood CC

16 | Susan Haggbloom | Fountain of the Sun

19 | Doris Northorp | Star Pass- Rattler

24 | Darlene Iverson | Copper Canyon GC

26 | LaVonne Laudel | Desert Mountain

27 | Sandra Murray | SaddleBrooke CC

## January

3 | Lana George | Mountain Brook GC

3 | Connie Phelps | Westbrook Village

4 | Barbara Haley | Quail Creek CC

4 | Linda Randles | Sunbird GC

5 | Faith Cannady | Briarwood CC

5 | Bonnie Svarstad | The Views GC

6 | Becky Sargeant | Sunbird GC

7 | Judy Kirschenbaum | Oakwood GC

7 | Lynne Smith | Club West GC

8 | Elsie Burklund | Great Eagle GC

8 | Brooke Podesta | Desert Hills GC

9 | Beth Smith | Ironwood GC

9 } Tracy Boisjoli | Lone Tree GC

10 | Lee Ann Townsend | Alta Mesa GC

14 | Bo Ochse | Poston Butte GC

16 | Lois Neitering | Apache Wells GC

20 | Jenny Ballway | Alta Mesa GC

21 | Peggy Tomlinson | SaddleBrooke CC

25 | Sandy Munsell | Forty Niner CC

26 | Katie Heltsley | Sun City South

28 | Cathy Barnard | Quarry Pines GC

29 | Connie Chapman | Desert Hills GC

29 | Jackie Goupil | Red Mountain Ranch

30 | Sue Griffin | Quailwood Greens GC

## February

2 | Debby Cuthbertson | Briarwood CC



## Benefits of AWGA Membership

After shopping during the holiday season, most of us have discovered that finding a great value for \$30 isn't an easy task. We all want to get the most for the money we spend. And we want our purchase to be useful and meaningful.

So how does the \$30 annual fee for membership to the AWGA rate? It seems clear that the value far exceeds the cost. Here's a summary of our Member Benefits.

### Technical Services:

- Handicap Administration – Maintain a USGA Handicap Index and receive your revised handicap index through e-mail twice a month
- Computer hardware and software at your course – Did you know that the computers where you post your score are paid for and maintained by the AWGA and AGA through the Arizona Handicap Network ( AZHN)?
- Course Rating – every member course is rated for women
- Rules of Golf –advice, interpretation and Rules Official training and support
- Membership Rebates – Our commitment to providing fair treatment for those belonging to more than one local club
- Advice and assistance in setting up and administrating your local club Playing Opportunities:
- AWGA Competitive Tournaments including 4 State Championships – play golf at new courses each year, some of which are only open to those with memberships
- Player Development Programs such as Golf 101 and Build-a-TEAM
- Just4Fun Golf Days
- Challenge Series

### Educational and Social Benefits:

- Handicap and Rules seminars to increase your knowledge of golf
- Publications –stay informed through the AWGA NewsLinks newsletter, E-mail newsblasts and the AWGA interactive website where you can post scores, register for events, complete surveys and more
- Build life-long friendships (who can put a price on this!)
- Promoting the voice of women's golf in Arizona – the AWGA continually works toward making women's needs and preferences known in Arizona courses.

### Philanthropic:

- Support of Junior Girls Golf and other golf-related organizations

### AWGA Partners:

- Receive Member Discounts with Choice Hotels

**Bottom Line:** The \$30 annual membership fee offers us a variety of benefits. And although we may not take advantage of all of them, some benefits touch everyone. The rewards received from our AWGA Membership far exceed the small cost of joining. We are a women's golf organization managed by women golfers to promote and enhance the interests of women golfers in our state. And that may be the most important benefit of all!



## 2013 Host Club of the Year The Country Club at DC Ranch

As one of Arizona's premier courses, it was not a surprise to see the surveys after the State Amateur Stroke Play Championship returned with high praise for DC Ranch. The course lived up to its reputation of being one of the premier courses in Arizona with a welcoming spirit toward women golfers and impeccable customer service. It was the perfect place for an AWGA championship event.

"We didn't have to lift a finger," Erin Groeneveld, AWGA Tournament Operations Manager, said. "Dick Hyland, Director of Golf, and Drew Darrow, Head Golf Professional, are two of the best in the business. The special touches they had arranged for the players were amazing starting with their arrival." From personalized parking spaces to personalized lockers containing bags of gifts, the ladies were surprised at the special treatment. "Drew was on hand each afternoon to post scores on the customized scoreboards and quickly made a poster for our player who made a hole-in-one during the tournament," Erin said. Pat Kuntz, AWGA Tournament Chair and Tournament Official, said, "It doesn't get much better than DC Ranch when it comes to making an incredible impression. It was the best treatment ever, like we were part of a professional event!" Sally Larson, Rules Official in Charge (ROIC), complimented the staff when she said, "As ROIC, this course made my life easier than any other course we've worked with. And when my life is easier, it's more enjoyable for the players too!" Erin agreed, "They were some of the best staff ever and we work with the best!"

The course was in excellent condition due to the expertise of Bill Kostas, Director of Agronomy, and his assistant, Dana Parrish. Their zealous efforts to present the course with ideal surfaces set the stage for a great event. Erin summed it up by saying, "As many know, August can be a tough month for courses in the valley. But DC Ranch was in superb shape and the greens were some of the best we played all year."



Dick Hyland shared the honor, "It was a collective team effort from all departments that made the event a success." Their Club leader is Paul Skelton, COO, who is well respected in the Club industry. In addition to Drew, golf professionals Eric Johnson and Nick Fowler make running championships fun for all. Sharon Bishop Hall is responsible for group functions with Clubhouse Manager, Laura Biever and Executive Chef, Len Rubin. Bill Kostas and Dana Parrish presented picture-perfect fairways and greens. DC Ranch member, Mary Fink, was instrumental in coordinating communications and logistics and DC Ranch volunteer Rules Official, Jerry Mahanke, helped to make the tournament run smoothly.

"I have had the pleasure of working with the AWGA since 1987 and I am thrilled to be winning this award," Dick said. "AWGA events are some of our favorite to host." Drew added, "Hearing the news that we were selected as the Host Club of the Year is great and confirms why we always put our best foot forward. DC Ranch is a wonderful place for women's golf!" Dick continued, "Our goal is to have AWGA players feel welcome at the club, play a challenging test of golf on pristine surfaces and when the tournament is over say, "WOW" that was a great golf experience and I can't wait to play there again!"

## 2013 Rep of the Year Theresa Noreika

Theresa Noreika has been a member of Terravita Golf Club in Scottsdale since 1997, when she moved to Arizona from Pennsylvania. She has been serving as the AWGA Rep for the past three years and was completely surprised to hear that she had won this award. "I didn't even know I was nominated," she said with a giggle. Her humility was noticeable. "I have a job that I'm trying to do to the best of my ability," she said. "I didn't think I'd get an award for it!" But Carol Sanches, President of the Terravita WGA, thought differently and nominated Theresa for AWGA Rep of the Year. "She certainly deserves this award," Carol said. "With 145 active members in our group, I rely on Theresa for being a stable influence and for her wealth of information. I feel a sense of comfort knowing she always has good advice for me." As AWGA Rep, Theresa posts e-mail newsblasts on their bulletin board to be sure everyone sees them even if they don't use e-mail. She organizes the State Medallion events and helps members understand how it works. "Because there were so many questions, I wrote an article about the State Medallion and the qualifications to be chosen as a representative from our club," she said. "That helped our ladies to know what was required of them." Theresa also keeps the Terravita Board of Directors informed, attends AWGA Rep meetings where she learns valuable information to become a better liaison between her club members and the AWGA, and often has one-on-one conversations with women about the AWGA and its benefits.



Carol noted that Theresa provides stability to their golf group. "She attends all Terravita WGA Board meetings, presents regular reports and offers sound recommendations when needed. She did an outstanding job communicating information about the State Medallion." Besides the fact that she does a thorough job, Carol added that Theresa is an amazing woman. "She smiles all the time and has the best attitude in the world even when she hits a less than hoped for shot. She is a true model and advocate for women's golf."

The AWGA thanks you for your dedicated service to the Arizona women's golf community and for your dependability in promoting the AWGA to your fellow Terravita members! Congratulations, Theresa, for being chosen as AWGA Rep of the Year!



## Patricia "Pat" Trimbell, winner of the 3rd Annual Dorothy Pease Award

The Dorothy Pease award is given to those whose volunteer spirit and dedication has helped enrich women's golf in Arizona. The 2013 award goes to one of the true unsung heroes of Arizona golf, Pat Trimbell.

A golfer since about 1960, she says she never got "tournament good" but her membership at various courses led her to get involved in tournament administration, where she found her niche.

After the couple moved to Green Valley, it wasn't long before Pat was asked to be on the AWGA Board, too. She says she came on as a replacement Board member, and her first job was arranging lunches for tournaments. At that time, there was a staff of "one-and-a-half to two" and Board members took on a variety of jobs for the organization. She rapidly became an assistant Rules person and laughingly remembers storing equipment in her garage. She served two three-year terms on the Board, from 1997-2003, and spent many of those years as Chair of the Rules committee.



## Pat Trimbell *(continued from page six)*

She worked from 2000 to 2003 as a Regional Affairs member for Southern Arizona, In 2004 she was asked to be on the Women's Mid-Amateur Championship committee, and is part of the team responsible for putting on the Arizona sectional qualifier.

She has been heavily involved in junior golf, especially in Southern Arizona, helping give young girls the chance to play golf in a supportive environment. She was the Girls Junior America's Cup Tournament Director when the event was held in Tucson in 2006, after which time she worked with Rose Nehring and a small group to form the USGA/LPGA Girls Club of Tucson. She's also been a Rules official for the Joanne Winter Silver Belle Championship for young women amateurs.

Pat remains an active and vital volunteer at the local, regional, state, and national levels. She is a member of the Canoa Hills and San Ignacio WGA, is an AWGA Area Advisor, and has conducted many Rules clinics, including for the budding AWGA Build-a-TEAM program. She is on the AWGA and Southern District WGA Rules committees, as well as the aforementioned USGA Women's Mid-Am committee. As a Rules official, Pat continually hones her knowledge, and has an uncanny knack for delivering rules judgments that are helpful and tactful.

## Letter from President Ginny Zak

Welcome to the 2014 season of the Arizona Women's Golf Association. We are now 90 years young! This season promises to be an exciting one as we keep tried-and-true programs moving forward while developing several "younger" programs.

We warmly welcome golfers of any level. Our Golf 101 classes are for those who may have never held a golf club or who may simply be a bit rusty. "Just 4 Fun" golf offers the opportunity to play with other women in a friendly, non-competitive atmosphere. And our tournament program offers gross and net play up to the Championship level, and opportunities to compete in gross events with other low handicap golfers in the Challenge Series. For more details and to sign up for a class or tournament, please visit our website, [www.awga.org](http://www.awga.org).

We're keeping the ball rolling in 2014 with our budding Build-a-TEAM program, as we strive to help eight high school girls teams grow in the game of golf. This will also mark the 3rd year of operating the one-of-a-kind GEM program. We recently shortened the survey, so please take a moment to fill it out when your email notification arrives. Once you play a course and fill out the form, you will not be asked to fill it out again for another 6 months. If you've opted out in the past and want to change that, just let us know at [awga@awga.org](mailto:awga@awga.org).

Last year, our Course Raters once again placed at the top in the regional calibration seminar. We'll continue to upgrade and offer support for the GHIN system, and will be offering continuing education for both Rules and Handicapping.

If your club or group has the need or desire for interesting, informative speakers on many different aspects of golf - from handicapping, rules, course rating, putting tournaments together, and the Tournament Pairing Program - we will be happy to send a member of our new Speaker's Bureau to come and chat with you on a formal or informal level, whatever your need might be.

All of these programs and events would not be possible without the help and support of our many volunteers. We thank each and every one of them from the bottom of our hearts! We are always in need of volunteers in almost any capacity. If you have an interest in volunteering, we have a job for you. Check out our new "volunteer" tab on our website, [www.awga.org](http://www.awga.org).

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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141 East Palm Lane, Suite 210 Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555  
602.253.5655 800.442.AWGA Fax 602.253.6210

E-mail: [awga@awga.org](mailto:awga@awga.org)

Web: [www.awga.org](http://www.awga.org)

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas to Kelly Hollister at [kelly@awga.org](mailto:kelly@awga.org).



SEVEN

VISIT US AT [WWW.AWGA.ORG](http://WWW.AWGA.ORG)

## 2014 AWGA Four Ball Championship

Sewailo Golf Club, Tucson, AZ  
April 24 & 25

Entries open March 10



141 East Palm Lane, Suite 210  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555

Nonprofit Org.  
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# DEAR CADDY

**Q** Eight friends play golf every Tuesday. We are compatible and have handicaps in a similar range. One of our players is a very slow putter - standing over her ball for an exceedingly long period of time. It is difficult for the other three in the group to watch and wait. Do you have any suggestions as to how we can politely move her along?

**A** Slow play will be the demise of golf. The USGA deems pace of play so important that they have started a pace of play initiative campaign called "While We're Young." In one of their recent articles it is quoted that, slow play was cited by 91 percent of those surveyed as something that bothers them most and detracts from their golf experience." We know that most often golfers are completely unaware they are slow, and in some cases these players may not view pace of play as the important issue that it is!

So how do we address your Turtle Tuesday problem? The task now lies with you & your group to rectify the situation. First, ask yourself why is Turtle so slow on the green? Does she just not realize it takes her two minutes to putt, or is she simply not as concerned with pace of play? If she sincerely has no idea she is slow, tell her. If you find this difficult at least share the math: the USGA states a player is permitted 40 seconds to make a stroke. The 40 seconds begins after she has been allowed to mark, lift, clean and replace her ball, repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on her line of putt. Time spent lining up the ball and looking at the line from beyond the hole, to the side and behind the ball all count towards the 40 seconds. Perhaps you can suggest that she allow you to time her and in turn she can time you. You both may be surprised at how long it takes you to make a stroke. If Turtle falls into the other category, I suggest explaining to her that pace of play is a bigger issue than she feels it is. Politely suggest that the group should pick up its pace. If she still does not seem to place the appropriate importance on her pace of play then I suggest after the 40 seconds that two of you move on. Pick up clubs, towels, etc and skip on back to your carts to prepare for the next hole. This will initially feel "rude" to you since we generally do not walk away when someone is putting; however it will drive the point home. Let's hope it sinks in - along with some of her putts - remember, this is friendly!



EIGHT

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