

HISTORY OF THE IOWA WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Written in 1995 by Martha Kemble

[This history is taken from histories written by Ione Reed, the first Historian of the IWGA, and by Jean Peterson, plus some research work done myself.]

[Updated in June 2002 by Sally Sharp, current Historian]

The first women's tournaments were held in conjunction with the men's state tournament. The first of these was held in 1902 at Burlington. Miss Ruth Crape of Burlington won this tournament. From 1902 through 1922 the records are not complete and perhaps the competition was held intermittently.

In 1922 a group of Iowa women thought it would be a good idea to organize a competitive golf event of their own. The first event was match play and was played at Sunnyside Country Club in Waterloo. Miss Margaret Addington of Waterloo won. The women were invited to play their next tournament at Hyperion Field and Motor Club in 1923. This tournament was also match play and both are recorded as invitationals. The Championship was won by Miss Ruth Harwood. Miss Harwood's lived on 804 17th Street in Des Moines, Iowa when she won the tournament.

The first ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP was held at the Cedar Rapids Country club in 1924. The flights were: the Championship Flight, the President's Flight, the Cedar Rapids Flight and the Hysterical Flight. Mrs. C. D. Waterman of the Rock Island Arsenal Club won this first tournament.

The Western Golf Association Rules were used from 1922 through 1926. In 1927 the present Constitution and By-laws were adopted, with revisions being made through the years as necessary. The organization's original name was Women's Iowa State Golf Association. The name was changed to the present Iowa Women's Golf Association and incorporated in 1932.

The original state tournament were match play but were changed to medal (or stroke) play in 1957. Through 1946 stymies were played according to the USGA Rules of Golf. A "stymie" is a rule that says if your ball on the green lay in your opponent's path to the cup, the ball was to be left on the green, causing your opponent to chip over it. If your ball was within 6" of the cup, it had to be marked and picked up. In 1946 Miss Shirley Mueller of Dubuque bested her closes rival, the illustrious Ann Casey, with 6 stymies, and won the championship. The next year, the USGA dropped the stymie rule. Through the years the format has gone from days of play, to four days for the championship flight and three days for the rest, and finally to three days of play for everyone – the format used today. It was in 1976 that the Senior Women's Tournament was separated from the State Am and operated as an additional tournament.

Some of the women who are most noted for their “winning ways” are Ann Casey Johnstone, Sharon Fladoos and our retiring President, Corkey Nydle. Corkey has also been elected to the Iowa Sports Hall of Fame.

Corkey Nydle was also responsible for starting the 4-State USGA Girls Junior Tournament. The first one being held at Ames Golf & Country Club in 1952.

In 1999 the Iowa Women’s Golf Association developed its own web site, www.iawga.org. From this web site you can find Officers and Board Members, information on scholarships, tournaments, membership, districts in the State of Iowa and other golf links. Judy McCarty was the one most responsible for completing this project.

In 2002 we introduced the Individual Membership application. We offered an IWGA “EAGLE” Member for \$100.00, which included a bag tag, IWGA directory and club calendar, IWGA towel and a newsletter twice a year. \$75.00 of this \$100.00 went to the scholarship fund, which is tax deductible. The “BIRDIE” member is \$35.00 and you received an IWGA logo bag tag, an IWGA directory and club calendar and two IWGA newsletters each year. \$20.00 of the \$35.00 went to the scholarship fund and is tax deductible.

The Newsletter was also new for 2002 and is called the Iowa Women’s Golf Association “ONLY FAIRWAYS AND GREENS”. The first issue was dated May 2002 and was written by Judy McCarty for the IWGA membership and will be published two times per year. Judy’s email at that time was pjmccart@interl.net. The first articles for the newsletter were: 2001 Putter Raffle, Club Course Ratings, Would you like to be a Course Rater?, IWGA on the Internet, IWGA Board News, “Swing Into Spring” Jubilee, Scholarship Program, How does the IWGA fund these scholarships?, Individual Membership Program, District Team Play, IWGA Tournaments and Holes-in-One. The “Swing Into Spring” jubilee was new for 2002, inviting the Districts Chairs to participate in a golf outing and to take part in a District Chair meeting and board meeting.

2003 brings another IWGA tournament to its list. The tournament is called The Iowa Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship. This is a new tournament established in 2003 for Iowa women golfers who have reached the age of 25 or over. The field is limited to 64 players. Suggestion for this tournament was made in 2002 by Mary Chase of Coralville, Iowa and will be the tournament director for 2003.

In 2004, the Iowa Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship never got off the ground, as there was not enough interest.

In 2005, it was noted that we had our first Mother and daughter serving on the IWGA board of directors at the same time. Trudie Higgs, Director of the Ann Griffel Scholarships and Kathie Sankey, both of Des Moines. Kathie was elected executive secretary in the fall of 2005. This year, brought to us by the USGA was an intern working out of the IGA office by the name of John Michel. At the board of directors meeting in October, it was also decided to change the format of the IWGA Senior

Amateur Championship to one overall field; use the current trophy for the overall winner of the tournament; the current trophy for winner of the Super Senior Division (60 and above); then give medals for winners of age groups 50,60,70 and 80. It was also decided to change the Ann Griffel scholarships to \$1500.00 for 2006.

Original information from a book which was made for the 30th Annual Iowa Girls' Junior State Golf Tournament in 1981 is as follows. It was written by Ione Reid, Historian I.W.G.A.

In 1922 some women in Iowa thought it would be great fun to play competitive golf. An invitation was extended from the Sunnyside Country Club in Waterloo, Iowa for the first year. In 1923 the women were invited to play their tournament at the Hyperion Field and Motor Club in Des Moines, Iowa.

The first annual Championship was played at the Cedar Rapids Country Club, Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1924. They had the Champion flight, the Presidents flight, the Cedar Rapids flight and the Hysterical flight. The champion was Mrs. C.D. Waterman of the Rock Island Arsenal Club and the Runner-up was Mrs. A.C. Clapp of the Harlan Country Club, Harlan, Iowa.

The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted in 1927. They have been reviewed several times through the years. In the first five years they used the rules of the Western Golf Association.

Mrs. L.W. Bryant of Sunnyside Country Club of Waterloo was the first president of Women's Iowa State Golf Association. The name was later changed to Iowa Women's Golf Association and was incorporated in 1931.

The state tournaments were Match play tournaments and the first entry fees were two dollars. In 1957 the state tournaments were changed from match play to medal play [stroke].

Iowa Women's Golf Association sponsors the Women's State Tournament, State Team Play, Junior Girls State Tournament, Women's State Tournament SR. Division, Girls' Four State, I.W.G.A. Wife-Husband and the Forever '39 Tournament.

Since 1963 scholarships have been given to girls entering college. The first scholarship was given to Louise Ostreko. On June 10th, 1980 at the Olde Indian Creeke Country Club in Marion, Iowa scholarships were presented to Linda Bettenhausen, Emmetsburg; Diane Thiede, Hampton; Diane Davis, Cedar Rapids; Barb A. Mueler, Orange City and Alicia Eckstein of Boone, Iowa. The first scholarship in 1963 was for \$350. Last year the I.W.G.A. gave 5 scholarships of \$750 each.
