

# MWGA

## Newsletter

### **Safety First** *by Laurie Velett*

It's raining (again) and you're on the golf course. What do you do? Probably put up an umbrella, put on a rain jacket and continue slogging along. But what if a real thunderstorm rumbles in?

Many of you who played MWGA events this past summer know firsthand that once that thunder starts, and maybe even sooner, the horns will sound and you'll be called off the course until the weather is clear. It was rare to have a tournament without a weather delay this year. Hopefully, next year we'll experience better weather for our golf events, but just in case, let's review the rules and policies for bad weather.

Safety is our first priority and lightning is our worst enemy. Play is not stopped for rain alone (unless the golf course becomes unplayable), but when lightning is in the area, it's critical to get everyone off the course as quickly as possible.

The MWGA has a weather service that keeps us informed. We also keep a close eye on weather radar, and some golf courses have lightning detection systems. However, these methods aren't foolproof. An approaching storm may break up before it reaches us, making it seem like your game was interrupted without good reason. Conversely, a new storm cell may pop up quickly without warning, and it becomes a real scramble to get everyone to safety.

In most cases, the Committee will suspend play for a dangerous situation. However, the Rules of Golf and the MWGA hard card both state that a player has the right to discontinue play if she believes there is danger from lightning, even though the Committee has not yet suspended play.

When play is suspended by the Committee for a dangerous situation, the players **must** discontinue play immediately and shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. Penalty for breach is **disqualification**.

Please note that this requirement is different from a situation where the Committee suspends play for other reasons, such as darkness. In those cases, the player may have an option to complete play of the hole she has started.

- One prolonged sound of the siren indicates play **must** be discontinued immediately.
- Three consecutive notes of the siren, repeated, signal to discontinue play (non-dangerous situation).
- Two short notes of the siren, repeated, tell the players to resume play.

When the horn sounds for a dangerous situation, return to the clubhouse or other safe shelter immediately. It isn't necessary to mark your ball, but you may wish to mark it with tees if it is convenient to do so and won't delay getting to safety. If you are walking, hitch a ride on a motorized cart if possible.

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## What a Great Two Years

Dear friends:

I can't believe two years have already gone by. I've had the privilege of getting to know many of you through my time as president. What a wonderful time I've had supporting your efforts to build a better game for yourselves and a better playing field for all women in the sport.

I remember the day that Barb Hanson asked me to step up and join the board. It was at the State Am at Hillcrest. I had told her that my commitments to other things were winding down and I was ready to be of help. While standing in line for food, she leaned over to me and said she wanted me to be president-elect. Yikes! I took a deep breath and told her I'd have to think about it. In hindsight – I can only say to Barb and to all of you, "What a gift you gave me."

This organization is 93 years old. Some of the first women players in the state had a great vision for women's golf and formed this organization on September 22, 1915. I've had the honor of working with fabulous women to shepherd the legacy of this organization for just the briefest of moments in that 93-year span. And I hold the responsibility with great reverence.

My time as president of the MWGA has been full of wonderful memories. I've learned so much about sportsmanship, courage and grace under fire.

Officiating at events; shaking hands with winners; seeing the hopes and the nerves on the first tee. It's all touched

my heart and made me want to be better on the course and off.

And, of course, there was the US Women's Open. I am so fortunate to have had that event in town during my tenure. It was the experience of a lifetime – one I'll never forget. And mostly, I'm proud of the way our 185 MWGA volunteers fulfilled their duties on the VIP Transportation Committee.

The USGA officials said we were the best transportation team they ever had. When I asked them how we were better, one told me, "You all wanted to be there doing what you were doing. You stayed to the end, and acted like you enjoyed it all. You were 'can-do' and had a smile on your faces always."

I'm honored to have played my part for the last several years. Now it's time for others to step up to continue the legacy. I'm looking forward to watching Jane Reiman add her skills and commitment to the organization.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered with us. And to those who haven't, you're missing a great opportunity! If you're inspired at all, talk to me. I'll be the Nominating Committee Chair for the coming year and will be looking for smart, passionate people to fill board positions. I promise you a rewarding experience.

And I'm looking forward to 2009 for another reason. I'll finally be eligible for the real fun – the senior events!

*Kim Vanderwall*

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## Meet Jane Reiman



I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve as the MWGA President, and would like to introduce myself to you. I am a native Minnesotan. I grew up in Shoreview and am a University of Minnesota graduate. I have lived away from the state at times, the most recent being in Park Ridge, Illinois (suburban Chicago) from 1989 to 2002, but I keep coming back home, and my husband, Bert, and I are now retired in Rochester where we lived twice before this.

Bert and I are both retired physicians. He is a pathologist, and my specialty was Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. We did our residencies at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester and were on the staff at Mayo for nine years. So, like many MWGA members, my career definitely got in the way of playing much golf.

I have lots of interests outside of golf and medicine that have taken up my time over the years. We have three daughters, all married, and we have eight grandchildren. In addition to my love for and interest in all of them, I like to sew, read and play the piano. We're in two book groups, sing in the church choir, work out at the gym often, and for the past several months my husband and I have been taking ballroom dance lessons. Oh yes, I cook, too. Why would I play golf?

I did start learning golf when I was around 40, though, and since golf is a lifetime sport, I called it my "preparation for retirement", and that seems to have been true. I retired early, and was able to play more golf and join a women's league in Illinois and the more I played, the more I enjoyed the game. Who knew that what was a casual and interesting pastime among my many interests would become my passion, even as a high handicap player? I'm intrigued by the game and by its unpredictability. I love being outside on a golf course, and I especially enjoy the people I meet through the game.

My first work with the MWGA was as Tournament Director for the Women's State Amateur Championship when it was held at my home course, the Rochester Golf and Country Club, in 2006. This opened my eyes to the excellent organization and the wonderful, capable people that are the MWGA.

Since then, I've played in a number of association days, and this year I played in the two senior women's tournaments. I've served as SE Minnesota Regional Liaison, a member of the Nominating Committee, and President-elect of the Board. I've chaired various committees and organizations in the past and look forward to the new challenge of serving as MWGA President. Since I don't live in "The Cities" as we call them here, I feel I can bring a different and useful "outstate" perspective to the office. I hope that will help the MWGA become a true statewide organization. With the help of outgoing Board President Kim Vanderwall, I've learned a lot this past year about the workings of the MWGA, and with your help, I'll continue to learn as I go.

*Reiman continued on page 4.*

### **2008-2009 MWGA Board of Directors**

#### **President**

Jane Reiman

#### **Past President**

Kim Vanderwall

#### **Treasurer**

Nadine Nelson

#### **New Club Development Director**

Lori Jonason

#### **Member Club Support Director**

Jane Barton

#### **Events Director**

Joan Archer

#### **Tournaments Director**

Nancy Syverson

#### **Rules Director**

Marta Groess

#### **Communications Director**

Lori Wohlrabe

#### **Site Director**

Barbara Lundgren

### **The MWGA would like to thank the following retiring board members**

Jean Monn

Trish Anderson

Patty Barnacle

## Be a Good Camper *by Lori Wohlrabe*

Have you ever hit a fantastic drive that was perfectly placed in the fairway, only to find your ball half buried in a divot? Unfortunately, the rules of golf don't offer any relief in this situation, but we can save other people from the same frustration (and rack up some good karma) by replacing our own divots on the course.

In fact, it would be wonderful if all golfers adopted the "Leave No Trace" philosophy that campers follow to minimize the impact of their presence on the environment. Here are some additional steps that you can take to prevent the golfers who follow you from noticing where you've been:

**Greens:** It's important to fix ball marks on the green, but it's just as important to fix them properly so that they heal and leave a smooth surface rather than a dead spot. Avoid harsh twisting or pulling that may break the roots. Using a tee or ball mark fixing tool, push the turf from the outside of the mark toward the center rather than lifting up from the center of the ball mark, then tap down the spot with your putter. Also, avoid making scuff marks that result from dragging your feet or doing a victory dance after sinking a tough putt.

**Bunkers:** Enter and exit bunkers on the low side to avoid breaking down a steep face. Be sure to rake the bunker (after you've hit your ball out of it, to avoid a penalty) and if there are footprints nearby that someone else forgot to rake, get those too. Avoid

tracking sand on the green by hitting the sides of your shoes with a club to knock the sand off your cleats.

When you play in an MWGA tournament or event, please do your best to take care of the course. Our member clubs generously offer the use of their courses and we would like to repay their generosity by leaving every course in the same great shape that we found it.

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My vision for the MWGA is, first and foremost, to continue on the path blazed by my predecessors, Kim Vanderwall and Barb Hanson, and the women before them. I want the MWGA to continue to run excellent tournaments for the low-handicap and championship golfers so we can rightly challenge and honor those who have developed and maintained the special skills needed to play at that high level. I also want to encourage golfers of all skill levels from everywhere in the state to give the tournaments a try and to enjoy the Association Days, meetings, and other events we sponsor. I see us expanding our contact with and association with the other women's golf organizations. Last, but not least, I'd like us to enjoy the company of other MWGA members, and just have a good time. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Do we have your current e-mail address? If not you can enter it on our web site ([www.mwgaonline.org](http://www.mwgaonline.org)). Just go to the "Contact Us" page and click on the [change of address](#) link to fill in the form.

## MWGA On the Road

by Jane Reiman

Forty-three MWGA members journeyed to Giants Ridge in Biwabik, Minnesota for a great day of late summer golf. The weather was beautiful and The Quarry was an interesting challenge to all. Many a ball was lost in the tall grass in the hazards and rough, but the opportunity to play in such beautiful surroundings made it all worthwhile.

For many players, the first stop was the golf course restaurant with a lovely lake view from the deck and windows. Next was the pro shop for shopping to take advantage of the discount offered to the MWGA group. After that was golf at The Quarry. The course is built in the woods on reclaimed mine land, wetlands, and a sand quarry, so the terrain is varied, and those hazards are very deep! We worked up an appetite with the golf, and that was good because dinner was next.

The MWGA Excursion group had reservations that evening for dinner about 10 miles away at The Whistling Bird in Gilbert, Minnesota. It seemed an unlikely spot for the delicious Jamaican jerk seasoned food we enjoyed that evening, but then, the day had already been full of pleasant surprises. After a relaxing dinner and lively conversation, we headed back to Giants Ridge where most of us were staying at the Lodge. The next morning it was on to Hibbing for the MWGA Association Day at Mesaba Country Club, and another great day on the golf course.

The Excursion at Giants Ridge was a fun optional addition to the Association Day trip and expanded the adventure to two days. Thanks to Joan Archer, MWGA Events Director, for arranging it for us. If you missed the trip this year, watch for Excursion plans for 2009 – it's sure to be another fun adventure. Join us for the 2009 Association Days, too!

Farewell and thanks to Patty Barnacle as she steps off the MWGA board. Patty has served as Rules Director for five years. Patty's work has been extraordinary - positively above and beyond the call of duty. She single-handedly raised the quality of our tournaments and drove us to excellence in all areas of our operations.

Patty, as you go forward with your USGA volunteering, please always remember us. And come back and play sometimes!

## USGA Qualifiers

Congratulations to the seven Minnesota women who qualified to play in USGA championships this year.

Olivia Lansing was the sole Minnesotan to qualify for the U.S. Women's Amateur, held at the Eugene CC in Oregon, August 4-10. The renowned golf course has now hosted four USGA championships.

Claudia Pilot, Leigh Klasse and Ellie Layton qualified for the USGA Women's Mid-Amateur, played at Barton Hills CC in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Sept. 6-11. Both Klasse and Pilot advanced to the second round of match play on the 6,189-yd. Donald Ross layout.

Pilot, Layton, Anne Zahn, Jo-Ann Lindsay and Mary Flynn were qualifiers for the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur, played at Tulsa CC, Sept. 20-25. Layton and Flynn were among seven players tied for the final four match play spots. Flynn survived the two-hole playoff to advance, losing in the first round to 2004 champion and stroke-play medalist Carolyn Creekmore.

Pilot was a semifinalist, easily winning her first three matches. She won her quarterfinal match by making birdie on the 18th to square it up, and making another birdie on the 19th to win. She lost in the semi-final match to eventual champion Diane Lang. Flynn made the only eagle of the championship, holing her second shot on the uphill 305-yd. par 4 11th hole.

*Safety continued from page 1*

Don't leave the club during a weather delay, unless the Committee specifically tells you that you may (and when to return). Once conditions allow play to resume, be ready to move out quickly and get into position so you are ready to play when the horn sounds to resume play. You should plan to be ready to play at your appointed time even if a weather delay is in progress before you arrive for your tee time.

A weather delay can affect a tournament in more ways than simply making for a longer day. Depending on the length and frequency of delays, the Committee must determine what the options are for postponing or shortening rounds. A round may be shortened only if the decision to do so is made before the round starts. That is, we could have one day of 18 holes and one day of nine holes **if** we declare before the start of the shortened round that it will be only nine holes. Once any of the affected players has started the round, it cannot be shortened, so we must count either 18 holes or none.

Unpredictable weather is a fact of life in Minnesota, so we learn to deal with delays, maybe with a few hands of bridge or a quick catnap in the clubhouse. Thank you to all the players who were very good-natured and understanding about our weather delays this year. Remember, when you hear the horn, safety first!

## 2009 MWGA Schedule of Events

### MWGA Spring Meeting

*Baker National Golf Club, Medina*

April 27

### Championships and Tournaments

#### MGA-MWGA-MWPGA Women's Mid-Amateur Champ.

*Mankato Golf Club*

May 31-June 1

#### MN Women's State Amateur Four-Ball Championship

TBD

#### Minnesota Junior Girls' Four-Ball Tournament

*Somerset Country Club, St. Paul*

June TBD

#### Minnesota Junior Girls' State Championship

*Fox Hollow Golf Club, St. Michael*

July 6-7

#### MWGA Mid-Handicap Net Team Tournament

*Bent Creek Golf Club, Eden Prairie*

June 29

#### MWGA Senior Four-Ball Tournament

TBD

#### Minnesota Women's State Match Play Championship

TBD

#### Minnesota Women's State Amateur Championship

August TBD

#### Minnesota Senior Women's State Amateur Championship

*Rochester Golf & Country Club*

August 24-25

### Association Days

**May TBD**

*Island View GC*

**June 4 & 8**

*Hastings CC (6/4)*

*North Oaks GC (6/8)*

**August**

TBD

### Annual Fall Meeting & Volunteer Recognition

*New Ulm Country Club*

Sep 14

### Other MWGA Events

Junior Girls' Skills and Rules Clinic

TBD

We are working hard to complete plans for the 2009 events. A complete schedule should be available later this fall.