

**SAWGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MINUTES OCTOBER 6, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Linda Bonuccelli (in the absence of President Debbie Zimmerman) at 9:03 am. at Wandermere golf course. A quorum was confirmed.

Linda thanked Herb Brown and his staff and passed a basket asking for tips. Linda reminded the Junior and Senior SAWGA representatives that it is their responsibility to take information from this meeting back to their respective clubs.

Linda has spoken to Eric Hanson, the Numerica Cub representative. He has not yet received authority to sponsor SAWGA events for 2024. NOTE: Subsequently, Linda was notified that Numerica Credit Union will donate \$1,500 to SAWGA next year.

Linda introduced the standing chair women.

The club Junior and Senior Reps. and club presidents were asked to introduce themselves.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the March 2023 meeting as emailed.

Darcia Waples gave the Treasurer's report. If all gift certificates are cashed, we will have \$4,600 in the account. Some of this is carry over from the previous year. We will need \$1,500 for business and operating capital. A motion was made by Jackie Babin and Seconded by Julie Herro to accept the Treasurer's report. It was unanimously approved.

Darcia mentioned she didn't get a check register or any documentation from the previous Treasurer. Darcia audited the previous Treasurer's report.

Leslie Sevigny gave the Sweeps report in the absence of Chair Bobbi Jo Rathvon. Susie Luby will be taking over the job next year, and Debbie Zimmerman will assist. Bobbi Jo and Leslie will be available to help until they are no longer needed.

Leslie mentioned that the preferred week for our championship tournament is the second week in September. Pace of play for the flights 1-3 was 4-1/2 to 4 ¾ hours this year. Small rooms for scoring were a problem.

Sue Meyer gave the SAWGA Scramble report. The event will take place on June 14, 2024 at Meadowwood. Greens fees are undetermined at this time, but we will no longer be required to pay an extra dollar. Costs will be in the flyer. Cart fees will be paid at the course.

Meadowwood has started a discussed to join SAWGA in 2025.

Julie Herro gave the Sweeps 4-6 report. Pace of play was slow, but it was a good year. Members played from the Camas combination tees at Kalispel in an average of 4 hours and 45 minutes (which was an improvement). She doesn't have a recommendation on how to speed up play.

There was a discussion about which tees to use. "Its up to the pro and Sweeps chair."

Lori Walker, Sweeps Representative from KGCC, said that Bobbi Jo provided her with statistics from previous years. The average for play at KGCC was 5 hours and 50 minutes. Lori also explained the process that was used to identify which tees were used for this year's event. There was a discussion about the process used. Further discussion was tabled.

Jackie Babin gave the Numerica Cup Chair report. It was an exciting conclusion this year with Downriver and Qualchan tied for net. Qualchan won in a playoff to qualify for the finals. In the finals, Indian Canyon beat Qualchan for net and Liberty Lake beat Kalispel for gross. Next year we need to clarify which tees are to be used at each course. Jackie encouraged match play participants to give putts and thanked Linda Bonuccelli and Dona Lockyear for their help. She also thanked Jennifer Simpson who will be training next year to take over the Numerica Cup Chair position.

There was a discussion about combination tees and byes as they relate to home course. If there is a bye in a Numerica Cup division, it was recommended that the bye go to the home course team.

Karen Madison moved that in a Numerica Cup division with byes, the home course team will be given the bye. It was seconded by Ronna Ricco and approved by consensus.

There was a discussion about procedures for ties at the end of the season. Jackie recommended leaving at least 2 weeks between the end of the season matches and the playoffs to allow room for scheduling division playoffs. Our rules already provide for a sudden death playoff in the event of a tie at the finals. Further discussion about alternatives to division ties will be revisited at the spring meeting. The Numerica Cup issues will be discussed in committee before the spring meeting.

Sue Lightfoot will be retiring as Web Coordinator. Taryn Hutchins will be replacing her, and Karen Stebbins will assist. Sue was thanked for her years of work on the website. Sue commended Laura Bossart who has always been available to answer questions.

Sue then gave out the annual Laura Bossart award to Leslie Sevigney.

Sue Lightfoot and Michelle Knowles will be chairing the SAWGA Championship Tournament next year. Manito was on the schedule but will be leaving SAWGA. Meadowwood has agreed to be available for the tournament on a one time basis. Fees haven't been confirmed. Courses to be played in 2024 are Qualchan, Meadowwood and Latah Creek. The theme will be Around the World in 18 holes.

There was no unfinished business.

Susie Luby gave the 2023 Championship Tournament report. The goal was 100 players and 106 women participated. Despite the rain, everything worked well. Susie thanked her committee and players.

NEW BUSINESS:

SAWGA received a letter from the Manito CC ladies resigning from SAWGA. Their Board of Trustees required a limit of 1 SAWGA event/year; no events on Fridays and \$125 green fees. The Manito ladies felt that put too much of a burden on other clubs.

Jackie Babin talked about how Manito's resignation impacts Numerica Cup. There will now be 2 divisions with 5 clubs each which means there will be byes in both divisions next year. We will need 12 tee times for each Numerica Cup event. She will work on clubs not playing at their home courses.

Karen Madison mentioned that Dick's Sporting Goods will not honor SAWGA certificates. There was a discussion about which clubs and businesses currently do honor them. SAWGA will accommodate any company willing to take them.

Jackie Babin presented information on a proposed new chair position. She gave the background on the ins and outs of all the form preparation and updates over the years. Cheryl Hull moved to establish a new Forms Chair position. Karen Madison seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Jackie Babin will chair the position, and Terry Zollinger will assist.

NOTE: A job description needs to be prepared for this position.

Darcia Waples gave an update on green fees. She spoke to Mark Poirier who said he will knock one dollar off city course fees if no discount is used by a player. The city will only honor 1 event per year per course for discounts, but SAWGA may choose which event to use. (We previously agreed that SAWGA Championship tournaments will be used first, then Sweeps events, then Numerica Cup).

Jackie will prepare a new fee sheet for 2024.

Caddies during SAWGA events was discussed. They are currently allowed. USGA rules have no qualifiers about caddies according to Linda Bonuccelli. The Presidents are asked to send emails to their members asking whether they want to approve the use of caddies and if so, should there be any qualifiers i.e. must be female, have higher handicap than player, limited to certain events etc.

Vicky Kelly talked about the negative view our city course pros have towards SAWGA. She said civil conversations aren't possible. There are only 3 who will work with us at all. The pros don't think they need SAWGA events to survive, and they don't make money on our events. Vicky suggested that the SAWGA Board approach Mark Poirier, who is the Golf Course Manager for the City of Spokane. Vicky offered to chair a committee and suggests that the Presidents of the City courses be on the committee.

After some discussion, Mary Duhon made a motion to create a committee with 1 representative from each of the 10 courses. Jackie Babin seconded. There were 4 in favor and 13 against.

Diane Malmoe made a motion to create a committee with 1 representative from each of the CITY courses. It was seconded by Terry Zollinger and unanimously approved.

Linda Bonuccelli presented the slate of officers for approval. Karen Madison moved to approve. It was seconded by Diane Malmoe and unanimously approved.

2024 SAWGA Officers:

President: Linda Bonuccelli (Latah Creek)

Vice President: Ronna Ricco (Indian Canyon)

Secretary: Ro Bury (Indian Canyon)

Treasurer: Darcia Waples (Latah Creek)

Numerica Cup Division draws were made:

Division One – Wandermere, Latah Creek, Liberty Lake, Deer Park and Chewelah

Division Two – Esmeralda, Indian Canyon, Kalispel, Qualchan and Downriver

Nancy Blakeney announced that Chewelah will be hosting a 54-hole tournament on September 13-14, and there will be a ladies division.

The spring meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2024 at Wandermere.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Submitted by:
Ro Bury, Secretary