



# NEWSLETTER

Women's Maine State  
Golf Association

Volume 9—Issue 6

Oct-Dec 2009



Our New President

Nancy Pratt

Please let the membership know I am open to suggestions throughout the winter if anyone wants to get in touch with me.

nancy@harrisgolfonline.com



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From the editor:

Sorry for the delay in this newsletter.

Even with golf season over I found my time sparse.

This year was filled with many great events.

Included in this issue are the reports and minutes from the fall meeting in Sept as well as some new exciting things for 2010

Please email me anything you would like included in the next newsletter.

Enjoy,

Liz Coffin

**WMSGA  
ROCKS!**

## Breach of Rules Information

See page 13

## Implementing Skins as an option for the 2010 WMSGA Golf Season

See page 12 for more details

## Lost Putter

Odyssey with a black shaft

Did anyone find a putter?

Please email Marilyn Rice

marmgb@aol.com



PLEASE!!

WOW

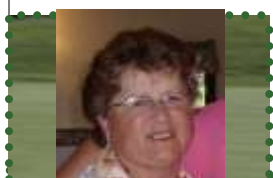
Hole in one!

Sept 22 Waterville

Janice White

Oct 6 Belgrade

Mary Brandes



This Newsletter is dedicated to Janet Drouin

Let's remember how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to play some of the finest courses in Maine.



## Report of the Administrative Assistant

September 22, 2009

Waterville Country Club

Where did the summer go? As bad as the June and July weather was, the summer just flew!

Here are some statistics for the 2009 golf tournament season.

Individual members: 391 and that is -8 from 2008.

New individual members: 55 and that is -8 from 2008.

Club members: 78 and that is -3 from 2008, but we have already welcomed one new club member for **2010...Megunticook GC in Rockport and Essie Sexton is the club rep!**

As we finish up the regular season tournaments, we have had 1874 individual entrants and in 2008, at the end of the regular season, we had had 1895 individual entrants. That is -21. I should note that there was only one tournament that was cancelled due to rain (Rocky Knoll) and there were 2 tournaments rained out in 2008.

There were 14 ladies who played in our tournaments as guests this year and there were 15 who were guests last year.

The total generated by the 50-50 Raffle for the regular season is \$1324. That is an increase from 2008 of \$138. Thank you for your support!

Today I will distribute the vouchers earned for the regular season tournaments to the ladies who are here **and I will mail the remaining vouchers. Today's tournament and the remaining year end tournaments will** be in a separate voucher pool and I will mail those vouchers after the October 13<sup>th</sup> tournaments. The point value for the regular season vouchers and for the year end tournaments will not be the same since they are separate pools. I encourage you to use all 2009 vouchers before December 1, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jean W. Young*

## Budget Committee

Even though the needle points to empty during these poor economic times, **Women's Maine State Golf Association has managed to keep their head** above water as of this date. Without the dedication of the members playing every Tuesday our finances would not be desirable. Also, the myriad of golf clubs that continue to support us is another imperative aspect. **We extend a big "THANK YOU" to all of them!**

I suspect that next year the budget committee will have to come up with some creative ways to increase revenues and decrease expenses.

Many thanks to the committee members for their efforts, our astute treasurer, Madeline Kilmister and all the WMSGA members for another successful year.

Helen D. Plourd, Chair





## Prize Committee Report

September 22, 2009

1. Weekly tournaments  
Nothing ordered
2. Metropolitan  
Natanis team tied with Turner team
3. State Championship

Ordered were:

Replica-Helen Payson- pewter tray

First day low net winner-pewter tray,  
in memory of past members

Senior replica-pewter bowl

Junior replica-pewter cup

Vouchers for all the winners were  
given, to be used in the pro shop

The traveling prizes and low net  
tray were engraved and the bills were sent to  
the treasurer, unless paid for by the winner.

4. End of year awards

Vouchers were given to the three gross  
and net winners and the most improved

5. Other

Hole-in-one Shirley Huff

Respectfully submitted

Marcia Blake, Co Chair

Shirley Fifield, Co Chair



## **2009 Year End Stats**

\$9,370.00 Prize Money

1,312 Points Awarded

\$7.14 Point Value

### Low Gross Average (7 Tournaments)

1<sup>st</sup> Liz Wiltshire-Natanis-78.714--\$50

2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Coffin-Bangor Muni-81.000--\$35

3<sup>rd</sup> Helen Plourd-Rockland-82.000--\$25

### Low Net Average (7 Tournaments)

1<sup>st</sup> Norma Michaud-Springbrook-66.429--\$50

2<sup>nd</sup> Karen Richardson-Turner-68.714--\$35

3<sup>rd</sup> Carole Cook-Bangor Muni-69.429--\$25

### Most Improved (7 Tournaments)

Jody Lyford-Hermon-24.6 HI to 17.0 HI--\$25

### Most Points

1<sup>st</sup> Norma Michaud-Springbrook--32

Tie 2<sup>nd</sup> Liz Coffin-Bangor Muni--26

Tie 2<sup>nd</sup> Arlene Davis-Natanis-- 26

### Most Tournaments Played

Shirley Kile-Waterville--20



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RATING COMMITTEE - 2009

The rating committee has had a very successful year, although the weather did present us with some interesting challenges and lots of rescheduling of dates.

We have completed new ratings for the following courses:

Rocky Knoll  
Western View  
Lakewood  
Castine  
The Tarrantine Club  
Waterville (white tees)  
Rockland  
Boothbay

We are planning to do new ratings for Megunticook, Penobscot Valley and Dexter this fall, weather permitting.

My thanks to all of the members of the committee who have given of their time this season and **a special “thanks” to Kathy Copp for all of her assistance to me during this, my first season as rating chair.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis M. Gaul

WMSGA Rating Chair

## WMSGA RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2009

We had a fairly active season this year, with a few rules questions and decisions. They were all solved with the help of my committee and at the State Championship in Augusta, Pro Peter Hatfield was helpful with several rulings there.

I want to thank my committee members for their support and hope they will stay on another year with me. If any one would like to take the lead for the Rules Comm. I would gladly step down, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted

Ilse Pfander, Chairwoman



## 2009 Annual Report-Hospitality

Not much to report, just the same ole stuff.

Hope you all have a healthy, enjoyable winter. Keep in touch if you would like to have a card sent to a fellow member —etc., etc.

Janice Ogier, Chair.

Grievance Committee Chair, Peg Buchanan, reports no activity in 2009





## Tri-State Championship

Helen D. Plourd, Captain

Tri-State 2009 was exciting, and a celebration that will be long remembered with Maine capturing the Tri-State Championship. The ride has been an arduous **one for the last eight years, but the “Dark Horse” team came home with the victory.** Maine had a total of 149 points, Vermont 143 and New Hampshire 113.

Each team member had a place on the team, and their astute playing out did the opponents. They all had a mission that I was not cognizant of which was to surprise me with the best birthday present I could ever have by defeating their opponents. Their goal became a reality, and as their captain, I was overwhelmed with their success. My emotions could not be retained, but the tears were a symbol of a jovial demeanor.

The celebration of my birthday will be a birthday that I will always cherish. (seventy years) Not only did they give me the gift of winning, but a book that depicted my fifty-six years of golf, and a personalized pair of golf shoes that sport our colors of blue and white. The birthday party with **more gifts, and playing the card game “screw your neighbor” was above reproach! I thank all the team members** for their generosity and friendship.

**This year was a captain’s reverie come true, and I am already looking for** a repeat performance next year at Waterville Country Club. You all did me proud, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Being Irish, I hope we can **continue the “Luck of the Irish.”**

**Team Members: Dale Hannon, Viola Kemp, Debby Gardner, Kathi O’Grady,**

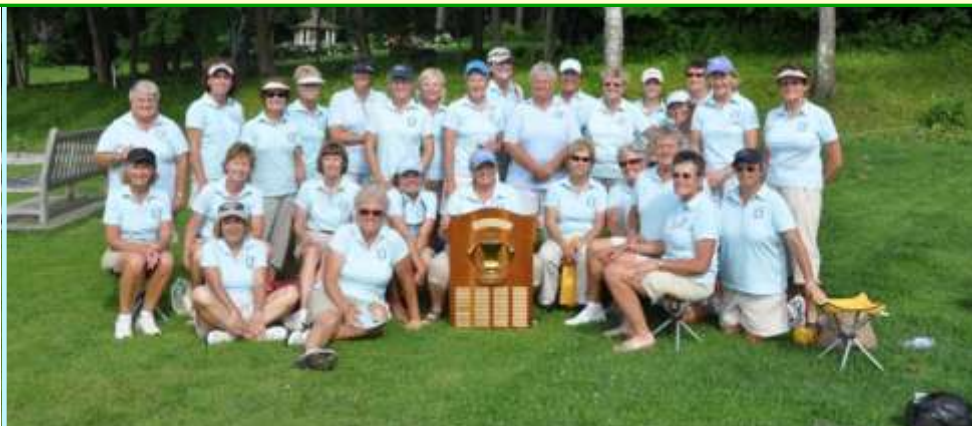
Micki Meggison, Cecily Whiting, Rose Lyons, Marie Cates, Liz Wiltshire,

Helen Plourd, Shirley Kile, Bern Michaud, Marianne Lee, Pam Johnson,

Natalie Graceffa, Meriby Sweet, Gail Gleason, Charleen Wiseman, Madolin

Fogarty, Diane Herring, Sherrie Thomas, Marlene Viger, Catherine Studley,

Donni Witham, Claudette Amoroso, Peg Buchanan, Sharon Nelson, Judy Edgecomb, Norma Michaud and Bobbi Berry.





## Report on the NEWGA for the year 2009

Respectfully submitted by Terry Hamm-Morris, NEWGA Representative

The New England WGA tournament was held at Metacomet Country Club in Providence, Rhode Island on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of July with a practice day on the 6<sup>th</sup>. This tournament is held every year within the first two weeks of July, the location for 2010 will be Green Mountain International Golf Club in Killington, Vt. The exact date has not been announced but will be made known at the fall NEWGA meeting.

As many of you know one has to qualify with a handicap of 17.4 or less to play in the NEWGA tournament. In 2008 eleven women from Maine played and this year we had fifteen participate. Eight of those players are repeat players and have traveled quite a distance to represent Maine in this competition.

We are allowed to have 18 players to represent the state. We have, when I last checked, 126 women in WMSGA that qualify under the handicap rules. We are doing much better but could use a few more players to send a full team. Keep in mind that Maine finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the team portion of the Championships this year with only 15 players. There is a cut after day 2 to the top 70 players and ties. We had 5 women make the cut, Alexa Rancourt, Sable Oaks, Julie Aurie, Country View, Kate Merrill, Toddybrook, Susan Gilpatric-Smart. Webhannet and Stephanie Babin, Biddeford-Saco.

Alexa finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Division, Ruth Colicci won the low net award for day one, Susan Gilpatric-Smart, low net day three.

We all had a great time whether shopping, eating out or playing golf. Personally I enjoyed meeting and volunteering to help Pat Keough and Lori Depersio. My favorite job among the many I did was riding around the course and conspicuously looking at my watch as if to time players. We were determined not to have the 6 hour rounds as we had in 2008. I think the players will agree that it was a well run tournament, we felt welcome in the (mostly all male) club, the rounds moved along well and Rhode Island did a great job.

I am preparing and making notes in order to do as fine a job or better when the tournament is in Maine in 2012. I will also volunteer to help in Vermont in order to further my experience in organizing and running this tournament.

My thanks to all the ladies, young in spirit and young in years, that supported Maine and made my experience so enjoyable. You were all terrific.



**We're on the web**  
[www.wmsga.org](http://www.wmsga.org)





### CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

The 2009 WMSGGA Championship was held on July 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> at Augusta Country Club in Manchester. Eighty-four golfers, including two juniors, participated in the three-day event. The course was in excellent condition. A terrific group of volunteers helped with registration, provided a sumptuous array for breakfast and acted as spotters on the course to make sure the tournament ran smoothly. The Country Club staff including the Pro Shop staff, the greens superintendent and the dining room staff also made sure every detail was taken care of. The press and local news provided good coverage, starting before and continuing throughout the tournament.

The banquet was delicious and well attended. That evening the low net award for the first day of play was presented to Kristin Kannegieser. The awards ceremony was also well attended by participants and their fans.

Congratulations to Alexa Rancourt, our 2009 Helen Payson Memorial Championship Winner: Debby Gardner, our Senior Champion and Alexa Rancourt, our Amy Rice Junior Champion Trophy Winner.

Our thanks go to the participants for all the positive feedback. Good luck to Bath Country Club as they begin **preparations for next year's tournament.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Johnson

Augusta Country Club Representative



### 2009 TOURNAMENT REPORT

Jean Young and Charleen Wiseman have fielded various comments, suggestions and **complaints about this year's schedule of events.** I have reviewed them and have taken them into consideration as I prepared the 2010 schedule. I hope overall that everyone has enjoyed the 2009 season and the places and events you have participated in.

The 2010 Schedule is finished. I am still receiving the Tournament Confirmation forms back from the courses and will fill in the missing information as I receive it.

The 2010 Championship will be held at Bath Country Club on July 26th, 27th and 28th. I am looking forward to it and am sure it will be a great event.

I have signed contracts back for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Championships. They will be hosted at Penobscot Valley Country Club, Sunday River Golf Course and Old Marsh Country Club, respectively.

It has been a pleasure for me to create the Tournament Schedules for the last two seasons. In the process of doing so, I have created relationships with the various club owners. It is important for WMSGGA to maintain a great relationship with the club owners in order to continue to have the opportunity to play at their great courses. As players, we should always remember to thank the staff of these courses whenever we play.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pratt, Tournament Chairman



## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President—Nancy Pratt (778-3613) nancy@harrisgolfonline.com

President—Elect--Diane Herring ( 848-0762) nutcub@aol.com

Secretary—Pam Johnson (622-6472) pamj52@yahoo.com

Treasurer—Maddie Kilmister (622-7456) Mkilmister@aol.com

Past President—Charleen Wiseman (326-4105) charleenwiseman@roadrunner.com

Past President—**Linda "Birdie" Pearse (763-4177)** clpearse@tidewater.net

Member-At-Large—Denise Hennessey (873-3756) dhpond@wildblue.net

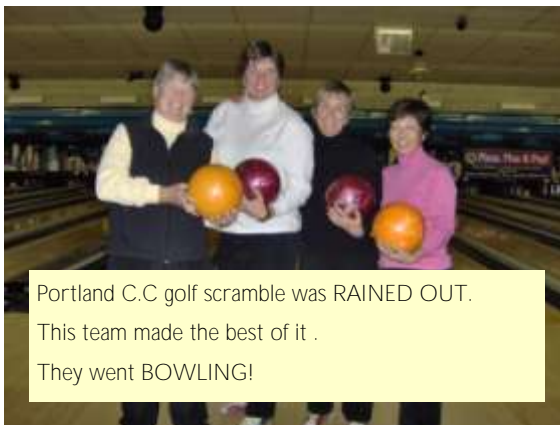
Member-At-Large—Esther Sexton( 763-3348) eps@midcoast.com

Member-At-Large—Helen Plourd (596-0934) plourds@gmail.com

Member-At-Large—Deb Wiley (942-1471) DearLee615@aol.com

Member-At-Large—Dale Hannan (861-6100) golf4dale@hotmail.com

F.Y.I.



Portland C.C golf scramble was RAINED OUT.  
This team made the best of it .  
They went BOWLING!

Deb, Jane, Sue and Gail at Rockland

Submitted by Arlene



For comments, suggestions or news items you would like to see in a newsletter.

Please contact

Liz Coffin

33 Hillside Drive

Hampden, ME 04444

E-mail: towle44@aol.com

Phone: 207-947-1564



We're on the web

[www.wmsga.org](http://www.wmsga.org)



Attention Club Reps! Please print and post the newsletter at your club.





## WOMEN'S MAINE STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

### WOMEN'S MAINE STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

WATERVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

Country Club Road, Waterville, Maine

September 22, 2009

President Charleen Wiseman called the Association meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

A moment of silence was observed for deceased and infirm WMSGGA members.

Roll Call: Executive Board present: President Charleen Wiseman, President-Elect Nancy Pratt, Secretary Pam Johnson, Treasurer Madeline Kilmister, Past President Birdie Pearse, Members-at-Large Liz Coffin, Diane Herring, Helen Plourd and Administrative Assistant Jean Young. Thirty-two clubs were represented. Eight Committee Chairs were present and three Past Presidents were present.

Helen Plourd moved to dispense with the reading of and to accept the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Birdie Pearse. Motion passed.

Helen Plourd moved to dispense with the reading of and to accept the Minutes of the last Executive Board Meeting as written. Motion seconded by Birdie Pearse. Motion passed.

Treasurer Maddie Kilmister presented a financial report that was distributed to all members present. The report included:

- An Income Statement for the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2009 showing total revenues of \$72,416.38, with Estimated additional projected for September-December of \$22,300.00 ending with a total for 2009 of \$94,716.38 and expenses of \$65,507.29 with Estimated additional projected for September-December of \$30,325.08 ending with a total of \$95,832.37. This leaves a net income of (\$1,115.99).
- A Balance Sheet showing total Assets of \$63,112.24 with Total Liabilities of \$19,335.29 and a Fund Balance of \$43,776.95.

**Anita Thayer moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Bernadette Michaud. Motion Passed.**

Most Committee Reports were published and distributed. Specific comments and issues were addressed by several Committee Chairs.

- Tournament Chair Nancy Pratt presented the tentative 2010 schedule. Nancy said the schedule is complete except for one date and she was waiting to hear back from several clubs as to whether they would be Shot Gun or Tee Times. She took into consideration suggestions and complaints that had been fielded from the 2009 schedule and tried to implement those changes to the 2010 schedule. The 2010 Championship will be held at the Bath Country Club and she had signed contracts for future championships with Penobscot Valley Country Club, Sunday River Golf Course and Old Marsh Country Club.
- Rules Chair Ilse Pfander reported there were a few decisions during the season that she and her committee had to deal with and was helped by Peter Hatfield at the State Championship at Augusta Country Club with several rulings there. She encouraged everyone to read their rule book over the winter, and said she would gladly step aside if anyone was motivated to take her position.
- Budget Chair Helen Plourd reported that the WMSGGA had managed to keep their head above water during the poor economic times thanks to the dedicated members playing every Tuesday and the golf clubs willing to support the tournament schedule. She encouraged everyone to thank their clubs for participating. She asked that Committee Chairs get their budgets for 2010 to her to enable the Budget Committee to plan accordingly.
- Junior Chair Dale Hannon reported she is working on developing a tournament in the future for a Senior-Junior Scramble. She said there were 5

junior members and the WMSGGA needs more as well as members from the 20-30 year old age group. She urged members to mentor and encourage juniors and young women from their clubs to participate.

- Administrative Assistant Jean Young reported that there was a slight decrease in membership – 391 which was 8 less than 2008, as well as a slight decrease in new members – 55 which was also 8 less than 2008. There was also a reduction in individual entrants to tournament though the weather in the first half of the summer may have been a contributing factor. There was more money generated from the 50-50. She distributed vouchers for year-end prizes and would mail the ones not picked up at the meeting.
  - State Championship Chair Pam Johnson reported on the Championship. She thanked the 84 participants and her committee and volunteers for all their hard work. She said they had been blessed with three days of sunshine. She congratulated State Champ Alexa Rancourt, Senior Champ Debby Gardner and Junior Champ Alexa Rancourt. Charleen Wiseman read a letter she received from Ann Probert thanking everyone for being so welcoming to her as a new member and participant.
  - NEWGA Chair Terry Hamm-Morris reported that the Maine contingent finished second overall. The 2010 NEWGA will be held at Killington, VT.
  - Tri-State Chair Helen Plourd proudly displayed the trophy that Maine won and brought back in 2009 after eight long years. She said it was one of the best years yet especially having celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday during the tournament stay. She thanked all the team members and hoped there would be a repeat performance at Waterville Country Club in 2010.
  - Hospitality Chair Janice Ogier asked that she needed addresses whenever anyone needed a card sent out.
- Prize Chair Marcia Blake gave a list of prizes that had been ordered for 2009. She congratulated Shirley Huff for her Hole-in-one. She said she would like to apprentice someone for the coming year to step into her position.

Charleen Wiseman thanked all Committee Chairs for all their hard work and dedication.

Unfinished Business:

**Maddie Kilmister urged people to cash in their vouchers from 2008 so she could balance the books. She said that any vouchers not cashed in from 2007 would be contributed to the Junior Fund.**

New Business:

Proposal # 1: Due to the increasing number of golf courses that are choosing not to waive the user fees (green fees) for their own members who play in WMSGGA tournaments, we propose that it will no longer be standard procedure for WMSGGA to assume that user fees are waived and unless an exception is made, the user fee will be paid by members of the host club.

Rationale: Golf courses are finding it increasingly costly to close their courses to allow WMSGGA tournaments and with the financial difficulties many courses are encountering, all WMSGGA tournament participants need to pay the WMSGGA user fee of \$15. Also it is very confusing for members when some courses waive the fee and some do not waive it. It should be uniform for the entire schedule. Also, we could possibly lose some very good courses from our schedule if this proposal fails. (Boothbay, Waterville, Penobscot Valley, Hermon Meadow, Old Marsh, Lakewood, Sunday River, Bangor Muni and Belgrade)

Submitted by Charleen Wiseman and Jean Young. After much discussion regarding the clubs losing revenue when they host a tournament and whether or not it should be the same for every club the Proposal was moved by Jean Cassidy and seconded by Dale Hannon. Motion Passed.

Proposal # 2: Reserving golf carts for WMSGGA tournaments will no longer be the responsibility of WMSGGA but will be the responsibility of the individual wishing to reserve a cart.

Rationale: WMSGGA has been put in the position of trying to keep its members happy and golf courses happy when it comes to reserving golf carts. Members become unhappy when they withdraw from a tournament with little or no notice and find that the golf courses expect to be paid for a reserved golf cart. Golf courses become unhappy when they have golf carts reserved and (in some cases) have to go to some expense to provide extra golf carts, and find that the persons who reserved them do not show up. The solution is to get WMSGGA out of the golf cart reservation business and let individuals become responsible for dealing directly with the golf courses.

Submitted by Jean Young, Maddie Kilmister and Charleen Wiseman. After much discussion about what a nightmare it might be for pro shops to receive so many calls and keep everything straight, the Proposal was moved by Joyce Mazerolle and seconded by Helen Plourd. Motion defeated.

A suggestion was made that for the coming season people who had outstanding bills for carts reserved could be listed in the Newsletter to encourage prompt payment.

Year-end Prizes were awarded by President Charleen Wiseman.

Low Gross Average:

1 <sup>st</sup> Liz Wiltshire	78.714	\$50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Liz Coffin	81.000	\$35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Helen Plourd	82.000	\$25

Low Net Average

1 <sup>st</sup> Norma Michaud	66.429	\$50
2 <sup>nd</sup> Karen Richardson	68.714	\$35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Carole Cook	69.429	\$25

Most Improved Golfer:

Jody Lyford

Starting Index of 24.6 and Ending Index of 17.0      \$25

There was \$9,370 of Prize Money and 1,312 Points awarded with a \$7.14 Point Value each. Norma Michaud had the most points with 32 and Liz Coffin and Arlene Davis tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 26 points each. Shirley Kile played the most tournaments for the year participating in 20!

Other Business:

A suggestion was made by Joyce Mazerolle that the WMSGGA should look into online registration for tournaments in the future.

Charleen Wiseman noted that she attended the Maine Golf Hall of Fame induction and noted that there were no women inducted in 2009. She had applications available for nominations for the future.

Results of the Election of Officers on the Executive Board:

President              Nancy Pratt

President-Elect      Diane Herring

Members-at-Large      Denise Hennessey, term expiring 9/30/11

Esther Sexton, term expiring 9/30/11

Dale Hannon, term expiring 9/30/10

Charleen Wiseman thanked everyone for their support during her term as President. She introduced Nancy Pratt as the new President. Nancy presented Charleen with a pin as out-going President for her dedication.

Helen Plourd won the 50-50 receiving \$73.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Johnson

Secretary WMSGGA



## Implementing Skins as an option for the 2010 WMSGA Golf Season

In an attempt to raise additional money for our association and to provide a different form of competition and fun, the executive board has voted positively to provide the option to enter a skins game at the regular weekly tournaments scheduled for the 2010 golf season.

The weekly application form will include a box to check off if you are interested in participating in the skins game. The cost will be \$5.00/tournament. You would pay the \$5.00 skins fee when you send your weekly application form to Jean Young. If you decide to participate, your check would be in the amount of \$28.00 to WMSGA.

Skins would be awarded for the “low score” on a hole. If two tie, all tie. Both gross and net skins would be awarded. 10% of the overall entry amounts received weekly would be retained by WMSGA and would go in to the general fund. The remaining 90% would be paid out to the skins winners in the form of a WMSGA Voucher. If there were no winners, all money collected would go in to the general fund of WMSGA. Vouchers for skins won would be awarded at the end of the golf season.

## Prize Committee Chair needed!

Anyone interested please email  
President Nancy  
[nancy@harrisgolfonline.com](mailto:nancy@harrisgolfonline.com)



Active season for posting scores in Maine ended on Oct. 27th.



*Bath Country Club July 26-28, 2010 WMSGA CHAMPIONSHIP*

Coming soon to the WMSGA web site and the next newsletter will be details for places to stay.



## Breach of Rules

Charleen Wiseman received phone calls from members in the 2009 golf season regarding breaches of the rules of golf, so I thought this would be a good way to remind our members of how to report and handle a situation whereby a competitor is breaching any of the rules of golf.

Under the Tournament Rules and Regulations, Section 12, Grievance Policy of our Member Handbook, the WMSGA member charging a competitor with a violation would:

Notify the Grievance Committee Chair or a member of the committee at the tournament site. If none of those players are at the tournament where the breach has occurred, the incident can be reported to the professional in the clubhouse in an attempt to settle the dispute there.

If not, the complaining member would put in writing the grievance, including all details, the date, time and place of the incident.

The Committee will then set a date to meet with the person accused to hear her response to the complaint.

The Committee will then decide on a sanction, if any.

Further, under the WMSGA By-Laws Conduct Clause, Section 2, “By majority vote of the grievance committee present at such a hearing, the member may be reprimanded, suspended, expelled from membership, or the charges may be voided . . . “

Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration of other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

Many golfers break the rules because they have never learned them. However, if you play in an official competition you have a duty to the field to abide by the rules and to penalize yourself for any infraction. Whether you intend to break the rules or do so unknowingly does not make a difference. If you don't correct your score and you sign an incorrect scorecard the ultimate penalty is disqualification. Many rules go unnoticed because neither the player nor the marker knows them. However, if you are a marker or a fellow competitor and see an infraction, you have an obligation to the other players in the competition to call the penalty. In the event of a disagreement, you can refuse to sign the card as marker. It is then up to the competition committee to decide the outcome.

Nancy Pratt, President