



Hello SNEWGA Member,

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Charles Dickens knew how to capture the world, and he wrote that 161 years ago!

November has arrived, and with that, the end to a tumultuous 2020 golf season. Although the winter holidays are upon us, we can look back at the accomplishments of a year like no other. The year started with fourteen events on the calendar, plus the Spring and Fall meetings. Of those events, all fourteen regular tournaments were held! Given everything that happened with COVID canceling events all over the place, SNEWGA managed to flex at every turn, keeping every event except the Spring and Fall golf outings on the calendar. We even ducked a hurricane!

Many thanks for a lot of hard work go to the board members, current & outgoing, who did whatever was necessary to keep our events going, in whatever manner we could manage: single-carts, double-carts, masks, box lunches, buffet service, beverage carts! Whatever it took, we got it to happen.

Like the Spring meeting, the Fall meeting was held virtually because of ongoing COVID issues. A few highlights:

- Reports from all officers were given. All **tournament results** can be found on the [SNEWGA website](#). While membership declined this year (not unexpectedly), participation in tournaments was very strong, with many events full.
- The **2021 proposed budget** was presented, including a \$5 increase to both member dues and club dues. **Member dues for 2021 will be \$20, and club dues will be \$35.** The proposed budget was approved unanimously by the membership.
- The **Most Improved Player of the Year** was announced: **Emily Doucette** from Manchester CC. Emily dropped her index by a massive 9.6 strokes: from a 21.2 to an 11.6. Congratulations!
- The **SNEWGA Rep of the Year** was announced: **Tina Ruane** from Fairchild Wheeler. This is the first time that Tina has won this prestigious award. Congratulations!
- **Constitution Amendments** Approved:
 - Region Delegates: each region will have four delegates. Delegates are now being elected for a two-year term, with half of the delegates in a region being elected in any given year. This year, two delegates in each region were elected to a new two-year term, while the other two delegates in each region will serve for one more year before their next election. No more than two delegates can be from a single club.

- President's duties: the President will preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. Additionally, she shall represent the Association on other CSGA or similar committees, as needed.
- Nominating Committee: the Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, including a previous President. Shall a previous President not be available, the ex-Officio may appoint an additional eligible Board member to serve on the committee.
- Ex-officio Carole Oat presented the **slate of officers for 2021**, which was approved by membership:
 - Debbie Johnson -- President (new role)
 - Karen Maher -- VP Membership (new role)
 - Tina Ruane -- VP Tournaments (new role)
 - Mary Mesek -- VP Cup Competitions (returning)
 - Lisa Lavoie -- Treasurer (returning)
 - Jane Mathew -- Secretary (returning)
- Additional board members and their roles:
 - Tina Ruane -- Golf Genius admin/trainer (returning)
 - Sherri Gracia -- Public Relations (returning)
 - Leslie Harrison -- Handicap Chair (returning)
- The following delegates were elected by the members present from each region:
 - Region I -- Carol Stoneman, Carol Witkowski, Lisa Neary, Brooke Samuelson
 - Region II -- Mara Dunleavy, Sara LaTerza, Sue Norton, Robin Schemansky
- **Tentative 2021 Tournament Schedule:**
 - Memorial - May 19 at Fairview Farm
 - Team Day - Jun 21 at Oronoque
 - SNEWGA Championship - Jul 14 & 15 at Heritage Village
 - Super Senior/Legends Championships - Aug 16 at Tallwood
 - Member-Member - Aug 23 at Watertown
 - Open Team - Sep 12 at Keney Park
 - Senior Championship - TBD (Aug) at Tashua Knolls
 - Pro Lady - TBD (Sep) at Smith Richardson
 - CT Women's Open (CSGA) - Jun 7-8 at Black Hall
 - CT Women's State Amateur (CSGA) - Jul 21-22 at (TBD)
 - US Senior Women's Open (USGA) - Aug 19-22 at Brooklawn (looking for volunteers!)

It is humbling to have been elected as your next SNEWGA President. I hope to continue the great traditions that have been established by many of my predecessors, while instituting a few of my own.

I would personally like to thank Sheila Allen, our outgoing president, for her patient guidance in getting us through the trials and tribulations of everything COVID, while keeping everyone safe. What she did was no less than outstanding, and we are a stronger organization for having been under her leadership for the last two years.

I hope you enjoyed the 2020 season, with all of its twists and turns--what a ride!--and were able to participate in a few events. And I hope you are looking forward, as much as I am, to seeing what the 2021 season brings!

As always, the SNEWGA board welcomes any feedback, comments and suggestions. Simply reply to this email, and I will present them to the board.

My heartfelt wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season and winter off-season. Let "the year of COVID" be a distant memory and merely a story we regale with others!

Be safe, be well, be warm! Hope to see you in 2021!

Debbie Johnson, *SNEWGA President*