

Golf

NEWGA celebrates 90th anniversary golf season

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Joyce Bassett / Times Union

Wendy Dominick, district chair of the rules and competitions committee for the Metropolitan Golf Association, gave a presentation to the Northeastern Women's Golf Association on the new USGA golf rules.



The 2017 documentary "The Founders," chronicles the creation of the Ladies Professional Golf Association by telling the story of 13 amateur women golfers who battled the odds to create a professional organization of

golfing women.

The movie, which airs occasionally on Golf Channel, also tells the story of Babe Didrikson Zaharias, the greatest female athlete. When you watch the movie you will understand why the winning teams of the inaugural Aurora Games in August will be vying for the Babe Didrikson Zaharias trophy.

When it came to golf, Zaharias was one of the LPGA founders and the organization's big draw for attracting crowds and sponsorships.

The LPGA was founded in 1950 and is in its 69th year. Total prize money is now up to \$67 million. It's a world-class organization that continues to strive to be bigger and better, with purses and benefits to match its global popularity.

About 20 years before the establishment of the LPGA, an amateur group was founded in the Capital Region "to further the advancement of the game of golf, to recognize and develop skilled amateur women golfers, to promote good sportsmanship and friendly rivalry among members, and to foster the best traditions of the game of golf," according to the group's website. That group is the Northeastern Women's Golf Association.

The six founding clubs of the organization are Albany, Colonie, Mohawk, Schuyler Meadows, Troy and Wolferts Roost. Today the organization includes 23 member golf clubs.

New this year is Fox Run in Johnstown. Troy returned to the organization this year after a short absence.

NEWGA president Donna Heskett says plans are in the works for more clubs to join.

The women who currently serve on the organization's board are striving to live up to the traditions established by members through the years, she said. Joining Heskett on the 2019 executive committee are



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Eighty golfers participated Tuesday in the season-opening NEWGA event, a four-player scramble, at Country Club of Troy.



TANGUAY

peaked at about 180 in the late 1990s and fell to a low of just over 100 in 2013.

“We are excited our first event includes 80 of our members, it’s a strong turnout to start the season,” said Heskett, who plays out of Burden Lake and is in her second year as president.

NEWGA kicked off its 90th anniversary season Tuesday with a four-player scramble at Troy. Two teams from Ballston Spa captured top honors: Low Gross (68) Beth Bassett, Kathy Harkins, Donna Nevulis and Kathryn Oppedisano. Low Net (63)

Patricia Joseph, Heidi Harkins, Suzie Mansfield and Susan Kahler.

The organization held its spring meeting April 28 at Shaker Ridge.

Nancy Kroll, Jane King, Peg Squazzo, Kathy McLaughlin, Judy Mysliborski, Mary Assey, Caroline Merritt, Linda Kolnick and Mary Corrigan.

Thanks to a new website and a growing outreach to clubs, membership continues to remain steady. Early in the season the group has about 100 members and expects to reach at least 120 members as the season progresses.

Membership

Area holes-in-one

PLAYER	COURSE	HOLE	YARDS	CLUB	CAREER
Duncan MacKenzie	Albany	9	146	6-iron	3rd
Botsy Rosenberger	Frear Park	2	94	9-wood	1st
Edward Wasserman	Normanside	17	138	7-iron	3rd

Pro shops can submit holes-in-one by fax (518-454-5416) or email (pdougherty@timesunion.com)

Guest speaker was Wendy Dominick, district chair of the rules and competitions committee for the Metropolitan Golf Association. She gave a presentation on the new golf rules which took effect this year.

The organization’s next event is an individual stroke play competition, ringer format, June 4 at Van Schaick.

Golf driver giveaway

Janet Tanguay of Amsterdam won the Times Union's Tour Edge driver giveaway. Her name was selected in a random drawing of 20 women and a few men (on behalf of their friend or wife) who submitted an email explaining why they wanted a new driver. Many of the stories were heartfelt and amazing. Thanks to all who participated.

State championships

Registration for the 2nd Annual NYS Women's Amateur and Senior Amateur Four-Ball Championships is open through June 15 at 5 p.m. The event will be held June 23 at Raven-wood in Victor, with a practice round June 22. Register and check out other tournaments at <https://nysga.org/championships-schedule>

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