



Ocean State Women's Golf Association, Inc.

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
25th Anniversary Celebration
2019 Annual Banquet
November 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 3, 2019 **Time:** 4:00 p.m.

Place: RI Shriners Imperial Room
One Rhodes Place
Cranston, RI

Present:	Pat Dickson	President
	Shirley McGuire	Vice-President
	Luanne Googins	Treasurer
	Erin Mernick	Recording Secretary
	Maureen Ford	Corresponding Secretary
	Trudy Dufault	Tournament Director
	MaryAnn MacLaughlin	Tournament Co-Chair
	Peg Cherenzia	Tournament Co-Chair

Guests: 96 Members

Social Hour:

- The evening began with check-in and raffle ticket sales while members reconnected with friends and enjoyed cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres. A Look Back in History and Unsung Heroes presentations were on display in the reception area.

Surprise Event:

- Maureen Ford was the entertainment (and exercise) for the evening providing Salsa dance lessons for members before dinner. Everyone had a fun time and mentioned what a great idea it was. Thank you, Maureen!



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- **Call to Order:**

- Pat Dickson called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

- **Introductions**

- Pat welcomed everyone to the 25th Anniversary Celebration and 2019 Anniversary Celebration.
- She started with a “shout out” to Maureen for starting off the evening with a great surprise.

- **President's Address:**

- **Pat Dickson:**

2014 – We celebrated our 20th Anniversary – I was the Vice-President and it was the final year of my running the banquet. That was the year of the black shoe bags – anyone besides me still has theirs?

2015 – That was my first year as President and I called that speech the Year of Transition. It marked the beginning of significant changes for women's golf in Rhode Island. Suddenly, there were more choices as to where to spend your time and money. We adjusted both our formats and at times our locations to this new reality. We had to replace and learn to use a new handicap system after the one we had used for so many years was discontinued by the USGA. We figured it out and adjusted. We had to navigate the change to new online systems for emails and invites like today's banquet. And you have adjusted. We saw golf undergo the largest number of rule changes in decades. And we have all adjusted. I promised you we would bring the organization soundly into the 21st century. And we will be completing that cycle this year – my last as President.

2019 – And now at this occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Ocean State Women's Golf Association, as we celebrate that adjustment, we also honor and celebrate so much more. The amount of effort that went into starting this Association is too large to be quantified. The number of women who served as Board members, committee members, volunteers, and just played golf at our tournaments has easily numbered over 500. Think of that – 500 hundred women over the past 25 years working and coming together to enjoy the competition and companionship that is so much a part of this outdoor sport that we all love.



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2020 – This will be the year we complete the transition to offering all services online. Now understand we will still allow those who want to do things old school, by paper and snail mail will still be able to for a while, but starting in January, these are the changes you can expect:

- Registration and Online Payment for Membership
- Changes to the BYLAWS to reflect our changes – including voting online so that more members (and I am talking to you Snow Birds) have the opportunity to take part in our governance.
- Registration and Payment for Tournaments – with the same timelines of opening and closing weeks before each tournament.
- Moving the entire Scholarship Application Process Online, to assist in easier and timely applications.

We are so lucky this year to have an active election process – though consistency and experience is necessary to run such a large and active Association, the more variety we have on the Board the more we move forward and continue to grow each year.

We are strong in numbers – both in membership – more than 200 and in non-members who play and enjoy our tournaments.

We are active in scope and size – 30 Tournaments and literally thousands of foursomes have played under the OSWGA umbrella this year.

We are concerned and committed to the future of golf. Our scholarship fund is healthy and we continue to give money to those who are furthering their education. Our new bag rule tags are popular throughout the State and now through the spread into Florida by our snowbirds and their appearance at LPGA Amateur events throughout the country. Just this week The RI FIREBALLZ team played at the National Championship and women were taking photos of our rules to bring home to their friends and leagues. I call it the ripple effect – when we share and help each other play – we just have more opportunities and friends to play with.



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We are financially healthy and because of that, we are lucky enough to move forward with these changes and continue to provide our members with the best possible golf experience we can.

Thank you.

- **Introduction of the Board:** Pat introduced the existing board members and asked them to stand and be recognized.

▪ Shirley McGuire	Vice-President
▪ Luanne Googins	Treasurer
▪ Erin Mernick	Recording Secretary
▪ Maureen Ford	Corresponding Secretary
▪ Trudy Dufault	Tournament Director
▪ MaryAnn MacLaughlin	Tournament Co-Chair
▪ Peg Cherenzia	Tournament Co-Chair

- **Introduction of the Candidates for Office:**

▪ Vice-President	Carolyn Maney Brenda Martin
▪ Corresponding Secretary	Maureen Ford Jane Jordan
▪ Recording Secretary	Barbara Sitter

- **Candidate Speeches:** Some candidates chose to address the membership, while others decided not to speak.

Carolyn Maney: Since retiring from teaching in 2003 I have been active in my favorite sports including bowling, tennis, skiing and especially GOLF. I have been a member of OSWGA for about 8 years and enjoy the competition and camaraderie. I believe it to be a very well-run organization and would like to participate further. I do not head "south" during the winter and will be available to attend monthly meetings of the board in the off season. Since 2006 I have run a golf league at Crystal Lake Golf Club in Burrillville, RI. Also, I am a past president of my bowling league in Whitinsville, MA. Both of these positions entailed the planning and coordination of end of season banquets. I will work on your behalf and be open to suggestions from membership. Hopefully I can bring new ideas to the board and recruit new members to fill our ranks so we can stay strong for another 25 years! Thank you for your consideration.



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Brenda Martin: As a member of OSWGA for over 13 years, I have made many new friends and have come to appreciate the hard work and dedication of Trudy, our Board of Directors and Committee members to make each tournament a fun, competitive experience for women's golf. I would be honored to represent our members as Vice President to continue the spirit of camaraderie and the quest for integrity and equality in women's golf that this organization represents. Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Ford: Just prior to retiring from teaching, I started taking ballroom dance lessons in an effort to teach my H.S. students to dance. Those lessons eventually lead me to a 20 year career teaching Ballroom Dancing where I am currently employed by "The Dancing Feeling".

Prior to joining OSWGA I was a member at Potowomut GC and what used to be RIWGA. I played with them for about 9 years, 3 of which I was the tournament director for RIWGA.

In an effort to give back to the OSWGA organization, which has provided me with lots of friends, laughs, and good times, I took on the position of Corresponding Secretary for the past two years. I have approached the job with earnest dedication and I believe I have done it well. There is a definite learning curve associated with all of the OSWGA positions and I have just gotten to a point where I know the what's, where's, and when's of the job. I have the files organized just the way I need them to function effectively and I would very much appreciate your vote so I can continue to efficiently maintain this position.

Jane Jordan: Vote for me! Don't really have much to say other than I have professionally managed an office, I enjoy being a member of OSWGA I would like to be more involved and I think this is good starting point. Vote for me!

Barbara Sitter: I am excited to be able to run for Recording Secretary and to volunteer my time as part of the Ocean State Women's Golf Association board. Although I am currently running unopposed, I take this election process seriously. In 2019, I started my first year of retirement after a 30 year career in Pharmaceutical Research and Development as a Scientist. Upon retirement, I knew that I would be looking for opportunities to get involved in the OSWGA. I have been an active member of OSWGA and have been playing golf since the age of 10. I am thrilled that the Recording Secretary position became available at this time and look forward to representing OSWGA.



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- **Explanation of Voting Procedures:** Pat explained that voting would take place after dinner. The votes will be tabulated as we begin the raffle portion of the evening. We will interrupt the raffle to announce the results and congratulate the winners. In the event of a tie, there will be a run-off vote.

- **Recognition:** Pat recognized the winners of the major tournaments.

Hole-in-One	Chris Trenholme - Cranston Country Club, Hole #15
Amateur	Maureen Ford
Four Ball Championship	Maureen Ford and Ann Moran
Par Three	Maureen Ford
Club Championship	North Kingstown
Player of the Year	Maureen Ford
Players' Champions	Gross: Wendy Ossman NET: Joyce Picard

- **Committee Chairs and Members:** Pat recognized the committee chairs and the members of the committees who volunteer to help the association.

Handicap Chair - Chris Trenholme
Statistician - Donna Jennings
Website - Wendy Ossman
Nominating - Carolyn Brown
Rules Co-Chairs -
 Kathy Mis
 Kris Kennedy
Photography - BettyJean Shadeck
 Helping Sandra Harper
Appeals Chair - Shirley McGuire (VP)
Appeals Members
 Kathy Mis
 Deb McMahan
 Sue Pouliot
 Karen Cabral
Tournament Co-Chairs
 Mary Ann MacLaughlin
 Peg Cherenzia



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- **Recognition of Volunteers:** Pat recognized and thanked all of our volunteers for their help and support throughout the season. Without their help, the season would not have been such a huge success.

The list of 40 tournament volunteers was read aloud while Ann Moran and Maureen Ford presented each of them with a thank you gift.

- **25th Anniversary Trudy Dufault Service Award:** Shirley McGuire addressed the membership noting that there was one person left to recognize this evening.
- **Shirley McGuire:**

All of us know that Trudy is a co-founder of this Association.

Recognition has always been important to her. Establishing a memorial for Nathalie Price, the Trudy Dufault Service Award, and volunteer appreciation are all things that matter to Trudy. And so, Trudy has a special award to present this evening.

There is a person who dedicates a lot of extra time and effort to support the Association.

- She gets very involved in every aspect of the day-to-day operation making sure that all projects get completed.
- She's a vision person. She steered us through the RIGA merger, holding fast to our ideals to provide friendly but competitive golf to ALL women in Rhode Island.
- She has been very supportive in the transition of new board members to assure their success and ability to thrive on the Board.
- She was the motivation behind Constant Contact, which allowed us to improve our communication.
- She took on the task to review and update the current By-Laws.
- She actively recruited new members by addressing other golf associations at their annual kick-off meetings.
- She established a marketing strategy utilizing OSWGA "branded" bag tags designed to engage potential members.

So, you get the gist of the depth of her involvement, and her determination that the OSWGA will continue to grow and flourish for years to come.



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And so, without further ado, Trudy would like to present a special 25th Anniversary - Trudy Dufault Service Award to Pat Dickson.

● **Trudy Dufault:**

Pat, the members and I would like to honor you on our 25th Anniversary and to let you know that we appreciate your dedication to the OSWGA through your continuous service, this year and over the many years that you have served on the Board. Thank you!

- Trudy presented Pat with a beautifully engraved desk clock on behalf of the OSWGA.

- **Scholarship Raffle:** Shirley McGuire, along with help from Claudia Cooper and Hope Murphy, pulled the winning tickets and delivered the baskets.

Trudy Dufault won the special raffle of a gift card/money tree.

● **Election Results:**

- By the close vote of 50 to 40, the Vice-President elect is Carolyn Maney.
- Maureen Ford has been elected to a second term as Corresponding Secretary.
- And by unanimous vote, Barbara Sitter is the new Recording Secretary.

Pat took a moment to recognize and thank the outgoing board members: Shirley McGuire and Erin Mernick.

- **New Business:** There was no new business.

● **Closing Remarks:**

- Pat thanked everyone for their support and participation throughout the season.
- She reminded everyone that membership for the 2020 golf season will open January.
- Then closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and joining in the festivities to celebrate the 25th Anniversary.
- She wished everyone a happy and healthy off season.
- The meeting adjourned so that everyone could be home in time for the ***Patriots!***



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- **Schedule Next Meeting:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at the Cowesett Inn, 226 Cowesett Avenue, West Warwick RI.
- **Adjournment:**
 - The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Happy Holidays!
Celebrating 25 Years

Respectfully submitted
Erin Mernick
Recording Secretary

