

TWDGA History 1995-2020

In the last 25 years, the game of golf has seen tremendous changes. The equipment used now enables golfers to hit the ball farther with clubs “fitted” to the player; golf balls are specific to how you hit; shoes are soft spiked or spike-less. Technology now offers the players the use of GPS through a variety of devices, range finders and watches. Golf course maintenance has become a science and colleges offer degrees.

While the level of women’s participation has increased at the professional level, partially due to the Korean and other foreign players, fewer women are playing the sport at a local level. Unfortunately, the TWDGA membership has decreased. As we celebrate our 100 year Anniversary, we have 120 active members, 10 senior members, and 2 honorary members. Despite the decrease in our numbers, the TWDGA continues to offer weekly competitive events at 21 of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan finest clubs.

From 1995 to 2020, the TWDGA has had many noteworthy events. Our members volunteer their time and financially support many area golf related events: The Marathon Classic (formerly the Jamie Farr Classic), Glass City Girls Golf Tour, US Junior Amateur Championship, University of Toledo Women’s Golf Team events, US Open Qualifier, and the Evans Scholarship. Our members look forward to assisting with the Solheim Cup that will occur at Inverness Country Club in 2021.

Five of our members have been inducted into the Toledo District Hall of Fame:

- Neoma Guerin (Inducted 1962)

Neoma began playing golf at age 12 at the Toledo Golf Club. Over the course of 5 decades, she claimed numerous local, state, and regional tournaments. She won the 1941 Ohio State Championship; the Ohio State Public Links Championship; 3 TWDGA titles; 2 TWDGA Senior Championship titles; and a State Senior Championship. Neoma played on the Florida tour in 1940 and was 1 of the top 16 golfers in the US with Babe Zaharias, Patty Berg, and Peggy Kirk. She was inducted into the DeVilbiss High School Hall of Fame in 1996. Neoma was a lifetime member of the TWDGA and the Toledo Golf Club. Neoma passed away in January of 2007.

- Jan Taylor (Inducted 2001)

Jan dedicated over 32 years of service to the game of golf. In addition to playing the game, she began serving the Toledo Chapter of the PGA in 1969; in 1972 joined the staff of the TDGA and served as Executive Director until 1986; and served on the USGA’s Committees for Women’s Handicap Procedures and Course Ratings Manual. Jan was considered a rules expert and has officiated the NCAA Women’s Championship and USGA Mid-Amateur Championship. She was the recipient of the Burt Silverman Award and inducted into the Ohio Golf Hall of Fame in 1994.

- Sharon Keil (Inducted 2002)

Sharon was considered by many of the time as Toledo's Foremost Lady Amateur. She won the TWDGA Match Play 15 times, the TWDGA Stroke Play 11 times (both were TWDGA records). In state competition she was Match Play Champion in 1970 & 1973 and Stroke Play Champion in 1982 & 1983. Nationally, she qualified for over 40 events. Sharon founded the Babe Zaharias Classic in 1985 to benefit the American Cancer Society. In 1992, the Toledo Junior Golf Association established the Sharon Keil Girl's Player of the Year Award in her honor. Sharon holds the ladies' course record of 69 at Sylvania CC

- Martha Mallott (Inducted 2018)

Martha was active both as a player and coach for many years. She was the Defiance College Head Women's Golf Coach from 1997 – 2000; Head Girl's Golf Coach at Defiance High School from 2000-2012 and 2015-2016. Martha became an LPGA member in 2001 and was Director of Golf at Eagle Rock Golf Club 2011 – 2015. She also qualified for several USGA Championships. She was Secretary of the LPGA Midwest Section from 2014 – present. She had many playing accomplishments thru grade school, high school, & college. Locally, Martha won numerous TWDGA major events: she was Player of the Year 3 times; Medal Play Champion 7 times; and Match Play Champion 3 times and Runner-up 7 times.

- Sally Robinson (Inducted 2018)

Sally was a 4 year letter winner in golf while attending Bowling Green State University and won a Most Improved Player Award. She joined Chippewa GC in 1984 and won their Women's Club Championship from 1984 – 2006. Sally has dominated the TWDGA major tournaments by winning the Senior Championship 3 times; Match Play Championship 12 times since 1988 and Runner-Up 6 times; Stroke Play Championship 12 times since 1990, and the TWDGA Player of the Year 11 times since 2004. Sally continues to be an active member of the TWDGA and has been our Tournament Scheduler for the past 15+ years.

As we look ahead to the coming season, the Covid19 Virus has significantly impacted the game we love. At the time of this writing (May 2020) the season is moving forward with the parameters set in place by our Ohio and Michigan State Governors: social distancing of at least 6 feet, pins are permanently in the cup to avoid touching it; one person per cart; and no rakes in sand traps. Despite the Coronavirus, we are able to celebrate our 100th year season!