**HISTORY OF THE TWDGA** by Debbie Lang

**75 YEARS 1920-1995**

**Although 1995 marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Toledo Women’s District Golf Association, the first city tournament for women was conducted in 1918.**

**That first city Championship was held at The Country Club. Mrs. A. B. Newell defeated Mrs. F. H. Seymour (her mother) in the finals to win the championship. Mrs. John Cameron was president of the league.**

**The following year, no tournament was held, but in 1920, Mrs. Cameron was again elected president and the organization was given the name Toledo Women’s District Golf Association. Miss Helen Tillotson (later Mrs. Helen T. Fallis) went on to win the championship that year and a total of thirteen District titles. The original clubs were: The Country Club, Inverness, Sylvania, and Toledo Golf Club.**

**In 1924, with Mrs. E. J. (Betty) Wilkinson as president, the District invited clubs from nearby towns to join the organization. That year the championship tournament became known as the District Championship.**

**In the 1940’s, District members participated in a Tri-City tournament with teams from Cleveland and Detroit. This became an annual event (for a period of years) in which twelve qualifiers from each area competed as a team. The competition seems to have ended in the sixties.**

**In the early 1950’s, a Betty Wilkinson Day was established to honor Mrs. Wilkinson who was a founding member, served as a five-time District President and was also Honorary President for a number of years. As part of Betty Wilkinson Day, Past Presidents of the District were invited for lunch and a putting contest. In addition, a trophy was awarded to the tournament winner.**

**Among other special tournaments played over the years were an annual Pro-Lady, the President’s Cup (a team event), a Tournament of Champions and a Two-Day Medal. Although, these events were dropped, a scramble was added in the mid-80’s.**

**A Senior Championship (for those members 50 and over) was instituted in 1956. The first title went to Mrs. Clyde Fisher. In 1965, Page Stranahan, Virginia Secor Stranahan and Helen Tillotson Fallis donated a silver bowl to be awarded annually to the winner of the Senior Tournament. They also donated two charms for the event. One went to Teen Peck for low gross, the other to Esther Bassler for low net.**

**In 1972, the District honored one of its most dedicated members, Lena Brundage by holding a day in her honor. Mrs. Brundage, a charter member of the District, held every office over a period of years. A silver bowl is awarded, in Lena’s name, to the low net winner of the annual tournament. Debbie Lang won the first event.**

**After many years of playing the District Championship as match play, a new format (a combination of match and stroke play) was tried in 1973. This format was not continued but in 1976 a Stroke Play Championship was held in addition to the Match Play Championship. Sharon Keil won that event. Sharon Keil has won eleven Stroke Play Championships and thirteen Match Play Championships (as of Spring 1995)**

**Good golf and keen competition have always been a hallmark of the TWDGA. Many District members have competed on the state and national levels. A number of District Champions have also won the Ohio State Women’s Championship. This list includes: Helen Tillotson Fallis, Mary Hauck, Neoma Copic Horgan, Peggy Kirk Bell, Barbara McIntire, Carol Diringer, Lorraine Abbott and Sharon Klump Keil.**

**Over the past seventy-five years, the Toledo Women’s District Golf Association has grown from the original four member clubs to twenty-two at the beginning of 1995. Membership continues to prosper as well with approximately two hundred women involved in the organization.**

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