

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE

The Jefferson Women's Golf League was established after several Pinecrest Golf Members chatted about expanding golf opportunities for women in the County. Founders Mary Ardai (future first President) and Gert Scarr (future first Assistant Secretary/Treasurer) met with the Jefferson Golf Course manager, who accepted their proposal with enthusiasm. Wednesday, April 4, 1984 was set as the official start date of our League. Membership dues for the first year were \$10.00, with an additional \$6.00 contribution to the Ringer Committee to subsidize prize money. Every week Members paid \$2.30 for seniors and \$3.75 for non-seniors to play a round of 9 holes from the beginning of April through the end of October. On November 7, 1984, the League held its first Annual Luncheon. With hard work and loyal support of each of its 44 JWGL Members, 1984 proved to be a very successful year.

In these early years of the League, Members golfed anytime between 7:00 am and 10:00 am without reserved tee times. Handicaps were established and each of the Members were placed in one of three flights to make the scoring equitable. A Member volunteered each season to check each score card and manually calculate the weekly winners of each flight. In 1990, the JWGL logo, designed by Kay Stinson, was adopted for official use by the League and in 1995, the League grew large enough to add a fourth flight.

The year 2002 brought many changes to the League. The Membership grew to 140, which necessitated designing a tee-time scheduling program for 10-minute intervals between 7:00 am and 11:30 am. Also, the League adopted a computer system to manage League play and game results. That same year, social activities became self-supporting and the social subsidy money was added to the cash prize funds. Further, three Membership categories were established – Full, Associate and Charter. Charter Membership, comprised of Founding Members, no longer exists in the JWGL, as none of our Founders are active in the League.

Since its inception, the philosophy of JWGL is to return the vast majority of the annual dues to the Membership through social activities, cash prizes and door prizes. The remaining funds collected are used to purchase award pins and to meet other management needs, such as computer license fees, room rentals, food and supplies. This philosophy remains today with our current annual Membership dues of \$35, which has existed since 2014.

In March 2020, the corona virus (COVID-19) descended on the Washington metropolitan area. The pandemic upended life --- and golf --- as we knew it. Jefferson Golf Course was closed from mid-March to mid-May. The JWGL season's beginning was postponed until June 10. Because it was deemed unsafe to gather in indoor spaces and to touch surfaces in public areas, the JWGL Executive Committee decided that golfers could not safely enter scores into the computer located in the clubhouse. Therefore, no scores were officially kept in the JWGL computer system for the entire 2020 golf season and the League played for fun. Since scores were not recorded, prize money was not awarded and the dues paid for 2020 were carried over to 2021. Also, due to the closure of public spaces and the social distancing requirements, all social functions (March Tee, BBQ, summer luncheon and end of year awards luncheon) were

canceled. Despite anxieties and the requirement to wear masks in public, JWGL golfers turned out in good numbers for weekly play in 2020. It was one of the very few activities that was deemed safe. Little did we know then that the pandemic would continue well beyond 2020 into the 2021 golf season.

The safety restrictions required during the pandemic necessitated rethinking how League golfers could record their individual scores in the future. The League took advantage of the “down” time associated with COVID restrictions. Since we could not use the common computer in the clubhouse, the JWGL computer system was updated to provide mobile access from personal devices (phones, tablets, or home computers) to perform the weekly tasks of competitive play, including the ability to secure tee times, to record golf scores and to manage the weekly closing processes without having to enter the clubhouse or to touch a common computer. The updated JWGL system was launched in 2021.