

# **Louisiana Golf Association & Louisiana Women's Golf Association Unification Proposal Questions and Answers**

## **General**

### **Why are the LGA and LWGA considering unification?**

- 1) Desire to bring consistency to statewide governance of the game.
- 2) The LGA has recently been selected by the USGA as one of 59 state and regional golf associations named as an Allied Golf Association, which is charged with enhancing the golfer experience at the state and local level. The new USGA/AGA agreement structure requires the LGA to offer competitive opportunities to all golfers, including women.
- 3) Potential for enhancing member benefits and services for women golfers in the state.
- 4) The difficulty of enough time and resources for the LWGA's dwindling volunteer base to provide a top-notch amateur championship experience for women golfers of all abilities, including juniors, who are the future of the game. In addition, the LWGA sees this unification as an opportunity to improve communication among all golfers via a constantly updated website, better publicity, and electronic filing of championship reminders and entries.
- 5) A unified organization would ensure the continuance of women's championships and the preservation of the history of both associations.

### **Who has represented the LWGA in discussions with the LGA?**

The LWGA Board invited Logan Ray, LGA Executive Director and Carr McCalla, Senior Advisor, to our meeting at the Mid-Amateur/Senior Championship at Le Triomphe last October. After that meeting the LWGA Board voted unanimously to proceed with talks toward the unification of the LWGA and the LGA, citing the LWGA's challenges of a small volunteer base and desire to improve the future of women's golf in Louisiana.

A Transition Committee was appointed by President Sandra Smith and includes: Sandra Smith, Mary Capouch, Corre Stegall, Mary Edwards, Pam Washington, Paula Karam, and Julie Harrison. After collecting questions and concerns from the Committee and receiving written answers and support from the LGA, the Transition Committee met in Baton Rouge March 10 to review all. Monday, April 2, Sandra Smith, Mary Capouch and Corre Stegall met with Logan Ray, Carr McCalla and Lew Ward (8 years LGA President) at OakWing Golf Club in Alexandria. We covered a lengthy agenda in a five-hour meeting that was extremely productive. There is nothing but good will and willingness of the two associations to have a seamless unification, which we agree is best for the game in Louisiana.

### **What is the process and timing for unification?**

Information will be shared with the membership via word of mouth and this printed document. Questions will be answered at the Four-Ball Championship at Koasati Pines April 30 – May 1. Transition Committee members Sandra Smith, Mary Capouch and

Corre Stegall will be glad to answer questions via phone or e-mail at any time. A vote of LWGA Member Clubs (1 vote for each club as per LWGA By-Laws) will take place at the Amateur Championship at Southern Trace, Tuesday, June 26 at the LWGA Meeting. Given a positive vote, unification of the two associations would take place beginning January 1, 2019.

### **What does the LGA bring to the women's side of the game in Louisiana?**

Currently, all women who are members of LGA member clubs are members of the LGA, which updates and issues USGA Handicap Indexes and provides a myriad of other services and opportunities for its members, including:

- 1) Conducting Championships and USGA qualifiers. All women's championships would have staff support, including championship scheduling, future site selection, communication with host club, course set-up, marking the golf course, on-site rules officials, etc. Players will have the ability to file entries online on the LGA website.
- 2) Audubon Trail Discount Card. Through a partnership with the Audubon Golf Trail (AGT), LGA members are entitled to one complimentary cart fee on an annual basis at 10 AGT facilities. The AGT Discount Card is a digital card downloadable to your smart device.
- 3) USGA Handicap Index & GHIN/LGA Mobile App. LGA members can post scores, check Handicap Indexes and calculate their Course Handicaps anywhere. The same features apply on the LGA website and at LGA Score-Posting kiosks.
- 4) Free Golf Digest subscription – annual sign-up.
- 5) Affinity Travel benefits – “Members Only” Gateway to Travel and Entertainment discounts. Access to discounts on over 700,000 hotels nationally and worldwide. Savings up to 70% on bookings for business or leisure. *Affinity* also allows LGA Members to purchase sporting events, concert tickets, and much more at discounted prices, 15-30% off retail.
- 6) Sullivan Golf & Travel. Sponsors a “Members Only” trip to the United Kingdom and Ireland each year. LGA members receive a 5% discount on all golf tours/trips to a variety of destinations.
- 7) Club Member Benefits:
  - USGA Tournament Management powered by *Golf Genius*, provided free of charge as a member benefit.
  - USGA Course Rating and Measuring Services free of charge.
  - Discounted StealthMedia LLC Tournament Scoring Materials and Services.

### **Board Representation and Communication**

#### **Initially, how many women would serve on the LGA Board?**

There are currently 18 LGA Board Members and three officers (President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer). The Board Members are from each geographic division in Louisiana as provided by the By-Laws and serve a maximum of two three-year terms. The LGA is willing to amend their By-Laws to accommodate at least two

women to serve on the Board at the outset of unification. After unification, women will be eligible for regular Board positions from each division in Louisiana as those positions become available.

**Who will answer any questions LWGA golfers might have during the transition?**

Given the adoption of unification, the above-mentioned Transition Committee will act as a resource group for any questions and concerns of women golfers for a period of time after the two associations become one.

**Scholarship Fund & Treasury**

**What will happen to the monies remaining in the LWGA Treasury?**

Once all LWGA financial obligations are met, all remaining monies will go into the LGA account. The LGA will create budget line items for women's initiatives just as they currently do for men's initiatives.

**What will happen to the Linda and Dick Batti Scholarship Fund? Will donations still be accepted by the LGA?**

The LGA is in the process of changing their tax status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3). The scholarship fund will remain intact and will continue to yield scholarships; that fund will not be mingled with any other LGA funds. Donations can still be made to that fund, and as soon as the 501(c)(3) designation is received, those donations will be tax-deductible.

**Championships**

**Will the LGA have a staff person for women's championships?**

All championships will be managed by the LGA Director of Championship Operations. Scheduling and staffing will be done as they are for men's championships. Concern for the integrity and excellence of the conduct of the men's championships will be incorporated into the women's championships. The LGA is aware there are certain aspects important to our women's championships that should to be maintained.

**LWGA Archives**

**Where will LWGA history and championship archives be preserved?**

A new LGA website will be up and running at the beginning of 2019. There will be a place provided for the LWGA's rich history and all championship archives.

**Miscellaneous Good News**

**The 2018 LGA Net Amateur Championship, August 25-26 at Bayou Oaks at City Park (South) in New Orleans will include womens' divisions! Women may apply to play online at [www.LGAqolf.org](http://www.LGAqolf.org). Registration opens June 1 with an entry deadline of August 14.**

The LGA is partnering with the PGA Gulf States Section for a Louisiana Junior Tour initiative with Boys and Girls divisions to hopefully begin in 2019. This will give more competitive opportunities for juniors of various abilities.