2017 Contributor to Women’s Golf Honorees

DDWGA Founding Trustees

In celebration of the DDWGA’s Silver Anniversary, your 2017 Trustees thought it appropriate to break from tradition and recognize the group of ladies that started the DDWGA, below are Cathy Jefferson’s reflections on our formation:

During the winter of 1991, Diana Schwab and I, while attending a rules seminar in Cincinnati, had a conversation during the lunch break about how the current situation involving Dayton golf excluded a good many women from participating in what was then the "city golf championship". Alice Burton ran the tournament held at the city golf courses. In order to participate in the competition, you had to be a resident of Montgomery County. At the time, I, was not, nor were several other fine area players. So, the discussion led to the re-establishment of a district golf association.

The main talking points included who would be eligible for the events, from where we would draw our constituency, and that tournaments would not be limited to gross competition, but include net prizes as well. Because Diana and I both had belonged to public courses, we were denied entry into the Women’s Ohio State Golf Association’s State Amateur. So, we were adamant that our constituency be drawn from public and private clubs. We also were mindful of the area from which we would be drawing our players. Cincinnati and Columbus had women's organizations, but there was nothing north of Dayton until you got to Toledo. So it was that the Dayton District Women’s Golf Association was born of players who lived within a 50-mile radius of Dayton, with the exception of south. Any course/club not included in the Cincinnati organization would be eligible to join ours.

We approached Alice Burton, Florris Fortune (Diana's cousin), and Thea Chiles (Vandalia) to become board members. Thea Chiles, using her experience with the Sister Cities Association helped construct our by-laws. I helped to establish the treasury and applied for our tax exempt status with the IRS. Betsy Reynolds came on board as Tournament Chair and organized our first season of tournaments. By the spring of 1992, we had our first tournament at Jamaica Run and a slate of events for the summer.