

Windy City Tee Times

January 2014 Newsletter



President's Message: 'New Year, New You'

EWGA AHQ has designated a theme to each month throughout 2014. January's theme is 'New Year, New You'. Inspired by this theme, the Polk County, FL Chapter shared some good ideas to help you get ready

for the upcoming golf season:

- Empty your golf bag and take stock
- Throw out any broken, old, unused items
- Clean your club heads and grips with a little soap and water
- If your grips are smooth, consider re-gripping them
- Replace old shoes – or at least install some new spikes
- Put new tees and balls in the bag, along with a new golf glove

All things we can do to get golf ready even if it is snowing (again).

February's theme will be 'I "Heart" Golf'. Visit our Facebook page during the month of February and share your reasons for why you love golf. In 2013, 863 EWGA members nationwide 'Shared their Love of the Game' by recruiting 1,206 new members. Chicago's very own Liz Talman and Karen Perlman were among the top 50 with Liz tied for 5th place and Karen tied for 33rd. Congratulations ladies.

I'm particularly looking forward to May, not just because it marks the start of our golf season with Spring Fling, but because it is 'Nine & Un-Wine'd' month. Though we can get a little taste of what that might mean by participating in the Drinks & Links events scheduled for January, February and March. Visit the events section on our webpage (<http://www.ewgachicago.org/Events/>) for more information.

2014 is a special year for the Chicago Metro Chapter as we celebrate our 20 year anniversary, starting with this year's Kick-Off event. I hope to see many of you there.

Meanwhile, I have a golf bag to clean out, golf shoes to buy and Playoff football to watch.

Stay warm

Shirley



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Drinks and Links!

By [Kelly Storm](#)

Join us for a two-hour clinic at Links and Tees!
Links and Tees
Addison Links and Tees
880 W Lake Street, Addison IL

On three different nights from 7:00-9:00pm:
January 22, 2014
February 19, 2014
March 19, 2014

Only 25.00 dollars!
(pay directly to Links and Tees on the night of the event)

- Unlimited golf balls!
- Use of short game area!
- PGA instruction!
- Beer/wine with light appetizers!

New Payment System

By [Julie Suh](#)

We have outgrown our old system for event and league registrations. Under the old system, the Billing Coordinator had to manually match and confirm payments for every registration. Also, the large volume of registrations has made it impractical to manually process payments by check. Other difficulties have included checks lost in the mail, incorrect payment amounts, and having to follow up with registrants who have not paid.

For 2014, you will see changes to the registration and payment process. Events and leagues will continue to be listed on our website as before. But now the "Register Online" button will take you to an external registration website called **EventSpot**. Those of you who participated in the Solheim with a Twist / Recognition Dinner in October 2013 will have already used this website.



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New Payment System Continued:

The main advantage of using EventSpot is the automatic matching and confirmation of registration and payment. Members will receive an automatic email confirmation upon successful registration and payment.

With this transition to EventSpot, there will be some changes to our chapter's policies and procedures:

- The biggest change is that all payments must be made by credit card. As such, payment for each league and event will have to be transacted separately (no combined payments).
- Credit card payment will be processed directly on the EventSpot registration page via an integrated service called **ProPay**. Registrants will no longer be taken out to the PayPal website to make payments.
- Registration for events and Session 2 leagues will open on the 1st of the month preceding the event or league start date. For example, registration for a Session 2 league starting in July will open on June 1. This is so that members can spread out payments for events and leagues over the course of the season. Registration for Session 2 leagues may require a password (and/or may be done by email invitation) for the first two days registration is open, depending on whether the league fills up at Kickoff.
- Refunds for cancellations will be subject to a 3% administrative fee to cover the credit card transaction fee. Refunds will be made by check.
- Site captains will no longer be able to login to obtain registration lists. Registration lists will be emailed to site captains upon the close of registration, or by request.

Registration for free/ pay-at-the-course events (e.g., Just Golf events, Biggest Handicap Loser) and volunteer signups will continue on the old registration system.

Even with our test run in October, we may hit some bumps in the road with this transition to EventSpot and ProPay. We appreciate your patience and understanding in advance!



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Handicap Questions

By [Joan Adamczyk](#)

Q: "Am I required to keep a Golf Handicap as a member of EWGA?"

A: No. It is not a requirement for any golfer to keep a handicap index. In fact, many golfers do not. However, if you want to play in tournaments and group events that ask for a handicap, it comes in very handy and is sometimes required.

The Chicago-Metro Chapter now asks for your handicap index for most chapter-wide events where prizes are played for – and some 18 hole leagues are using handicap index information to award members in session-long contests.

The Handicap Committee also rewards members for most improved handicaps through our very popular, "Biggest Handicap Loser Challenge", and awards members for posting most rounds in the season.

This coming season, The Handicap Committee is adding a new challenge! If you keep a handicap index and post at least one round during the 2014 season, you are eligible to win valuable prizes when you attend the Fall Recognition Event.

If you activate your free GN21 account through your EWGA membership log in, it requires no action other than posting every score, every time you play.

If you choose to keep your handicap index through another system, you will want to register your account with the Handicap Committee to qualify. Simply email the information, (handicap recording website, membership name, and account number), to: handicap@ewgachicago.com

So – there is much more to keeping a handicap index than for the very smartest reason - that it helps you understand how your score compares when playing with others of different golfing abilities.

If you have another question for The Handicap Committee that we can answer in an upcoming newsletter, feel free to send them to: handicap@ewgachicago.com



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Events, Events, and More Events

By [Sue Miller](#)

The **March 15th** Kick Off fast approaching! We have a new site for the event: Ashton Place in Willowbrook. Registration will open within the first week of February for the first event of the 20th Anniversary year.

We also have some Just Golf events scheduled:

On **May 18th** join us at Swan Lake Resort in Indiana for a joint event with the Central Indiana and Fort Wayne EWGA Chapters. Thank – You Cheryl Justak for coordinating this event. This is day 2 of the Chix w/ Stix Weekend at Swan Lake Resort.

On **June 22nd** Pat Golen is hosting a Just Golf event at Calumet Country Club.

Thanks to the members who have volunteered to be Event Captains for the following golf events:

Rumble w/ Milwaukee @ Thunderhawk on **May 25th** - Julie Suh

Chapter Championship @ Bartlett Hills on **July 20th** - Ali Rogala

North-South Challenge @ Old Oak on **Aug 3rd** - Dorothy McElligott and assisted by North Side Captain - Stephanie Lippian

Fall Finale @ Maple Meadows on **Sept 28th** - Carrie Ruzicka

Solheim w/ a Twist @ Arrowhead on **Oct 19th** - Jennifer Hill



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We are still looking for Event Captains for:

Spring Fling @ Chevy Chase on **May 4th** - (Site Captain Needed)

Meet a Member @ Klein Creek on **June 8th** - (Site Captain Needed)

2014 Match Play Tournament - (Site Captain Needed)

Responsibilities would include:

1. Monitor event registration
2. Be primary contact with the golf course
3. Promote the event to members via league captains and eblasts
4. Set up golf pairings
5. Email registrants with event details and tee times
6. On-course golf competitions and prizes

If interested in volunteering please contact Sue Miller at:

<mailto:golfevents@EWGChicago.com>

For info on these events check out the Events page of the website:

<http://www.ewgachicago.com/golfevents.php>



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Member Services News

By [Cristine Marik](#)

Welcome & Congratulations!

We are excited to welcome some new members to our Chapter. In addition, congratulations are in order for members celebrating their anniversaries with the Chicago Metro Chapter this month.

Welcome to Our New Members!

Rebecca Farr
Ed Heiser
Renee Saban
Danielle Sorresso

Happy Anniversary!

10 Years
Lizz Chung
Jennifer Watson

15 Years
Susan McCrary

We are so happy you are part of our Chapter!

Volunteer Opportunities Available...Are you interested in representing EWGA Chicago at our booth at the upcoming golf shows in February? We will be attending both the Tinley Park Golf Expo and the Chicago Golf Show. Volunteer openings and additional information are posted on our website. To sign up, visit <http://www.ewgachicago.com/volunteerList.php>



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2013 Membership Campaign Results

Let the celebrations begin! On a national level, there were 863 members who "Shared Their Love of the Game" by recruiting 1,206 new members to join EWGA during 2013. Here in Chicago, we had 16 members spread the word about EWGA and recruit 26 new members! **Congratulations (AND THANK YOU!) to our 2013 recruiters!** Recruiters eligible for Nike Golf prizes (based on the number of members recruited) will be receiving their awards in the next few weeks.

Alice Davitt (1 new member)
Carol Burgen (1)
Cathy Fuller (2)
Jayne Austin (1)
Julie Suh (1)
June Courtney (1)
Karen McClure (2)
Karen Perlman (3)

Katherine Royce (1)
Kip Probst (3)
Liz Tallman (5)
Mara Wasar (1)
Patsy Albright (1)
Rosemary Rocha (1)
Shan Atkins (1)
Susan Cheng (1)

The 2014 membership campaign is already underway. Make your plans now to **"Share Your Love of the Game"** by encouraging your friends to join EWGA and begin playing golf with you!



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Member Benefits Update

Golf Magazine Subscription

Beginning early 2013, **GOLF Magazine** was announced as a new corporate partner for EWGA, and all EWGA members now receive a one year (12 issues) subscription. If you have a change of address, please send your notice to: *GOLF Magazine*, Box 62426, Tampa, FL 33660-0001 or call (800) 876-7726.

Real Savings for EWGA Members with GEICO

Your EWGA membership could save you up to 8% off already low insurance rates. Visit <http://www.geico.com/landingpage/go51.htm?logo=70387> to find your local GEICO representative, or call (800) 368-2734 for your free, no-obligation rate quote to see what you can save today. **When calling or visiting your local GEICO representative, be sure to mention your membership with EWGA.**

Member Benefits at Golf Galaxy

Take advantage of our EWGA member benefits and shop at Golf Galaxy. This year's discount card is available electronically. Here's the link.

http://www.ewgachicago.com/EWGA_Golf_Galaxy_discount_card.pdf

Happy Shopping!!!



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