



## **Fun & Friendships– Our 2016 theme**

***By Jodenne Scott, 2016 EWGA-PDX president***

Hello everyone! I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member who voted for the new 2016 Board. I am honored to be one of the eight members to represent **YOU** in this incredible Association on all levels -- national, regional and local.

I'd like to take just a quick moment to share just why I joined EWGA in 2012. My loving husband first suggested that I find a woman's golf league. He had hurt his back one summer and we didn't get to play at all that year. I searched and found several leagues at courses I enjoyed playing at, but I really didn't want to be tied to just one course all year long. That's when a very dear friend of mine suggested I come with her to the EWGA Kickoff.

Wow! I was so excited to see all these organized weekend events and several leagues to choose from and to finally be able to establish (and understand) a handicap! This was definitely the **FUN** I was looking for. Not to mention that I had the winning ticket to join for the first year – for free!

I played at several different leagues that year and was able to get to many of the weekend events. The fear of playing with someone you've never met vanished instantly for me because every league was so kind and inviting those **FRIENDSHIPS** developed quickly. Each Monday I looked forward to playing with new friends at RedTail. Wednesday's there were my friends from The Reserve. And Charbonneau on Thursdays

But it was also the social hour(s) after each league, where we could reconnect with everyone and see how their week was going or what they had planned for later. Sometimes we congratulated them for a promotion or lived through them vicariously because they were retired. Sometimes it was giving them a hug and a "what can I do for you?"

This brings me to our theme for this year: **Fun & Friendships**. These are the last two elements listed in the EWGA Core Values. The other values -- honesty, integrity, respect, honor and sportsmanship -- are, in my opinion, the very essence of every golf game. But it's the **Fun & Friendships** you make on and off of the course that mean something to me. They are my core values also as a person and I hope you share the same values. We are not an association of "cliques" and we do not need to write new "policies" because of one incident. We are an association of women who have joined together to play the game of golf in a fun, friendly and supportive manner.

Here are the other very talented, outgoing, organized individuals who will be assisting me with a **Fun & Friendship** year:

- **Susan Weiner – Events director**
- **Leslie Riester – Golf Programs director**

- **Marilyn Morfitt – Member Recruitment director**
- **Holly Danks – Communications director**
- **Allison Lindsay – Marketing director**
- **Cherie Maas-Anderson – Member Services director**
- **Judi Speck – Finance & Records director**

Other members helping in key volunteer roles for the coming year are:

- **Audrey Schumacher – Secretary**
- **Mary Pat Wlazik – League chair**
- **Bonnie LaFord – Education chair**
- **Suzy Off and Janet Orzechowski – Match Play co-chairs**

I would just like to close with one final thought. Many of our members have been a part of EWGA for more than five years. Take a moment and think back as to why **YOU** joined EWGA.

Do you still feel and believe in the reasons you joined? I am willing to bet one of those reasons was also to make new friends. Well, 2016 is the time to dust off those **Friendships** values and invite another friend to play golf or go to our Kickoff. Who knows, she may end up having the winning ticket and down the road volunteer to be president of the best EWGA Chapter in the nation!