



## PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As I sit here writing to you, I can hardly believe my term as your leader has almost come to an end. When I agreed to take on the position of Vice President, I knew I was making a three-year commitment to the league. Now I have almost completed two years of volunteering and wonder where the time went.

Firstly, I want to thank most sincerely every member of my Board, Wendy Odell, Janice Hoover, Sandi Chester, Carol Bidwell, Suzanne Stone-Griffith, Peggy Bakos and my advisor, Cathe Kropp. I would also like to include Ruth Irving who served as Secretary for a brief period, and Kay McCollom who served as Special Tournaments Chair until recently. What an exceptional group we had in 2025. Our discussions at Board meetings were always thorough and meaningful and decisions were ultimately taken with what we felt were in the best interests of the members of our association. I promised everyone at the beginning of my Presidency that I would always have an open-door policy and listen to any and all concerns or criticisms that came before me. I hope you feel that I accomplished that and responded fairly to those of you who brought various matters to my attention.

Along with my Board, I had another great group of volunteers who functioned as 2025 Committee Chairs, Representatives and Assistants. This was a big group and the support they gave the Board was invaluable, so I feel they must have my recognition: Connie Culley, Sally Drennen, Kay Cruise, Nancy Sartor, Christine Smith, Judy Fick, Bonnie Stutzman, Jo Ann Ellison, B J Murray, Barbara Turriff, Ellen Avenoso, Eila Sallaberry, Joan Chyall, Janet Robinson, Donna Sehn, Barb Verbus, Yvonne LeCornu, Lynn Wenzel, Brenda Brown, Reenie Romey and Bonnie Westra.

The year got off to an exceptionally good start with the 3 Jills and a Jack tournament in January. This has become such a popular event that the Board decided it should remain on the calendar annually rather than rotate with another event. Next up we had the President's Cup, our Matchplay Championship, and the winner was Maggie Falconer.

We then moved on to the Club Championship in March. This Strokeplay Championship is always an extremely popular event with three divisions for various levels of handicap and dare I say, "age". Our Championship winner this year was Helen Graham, and our Tournament winner was Mary Ribacchi. There was no Legends Division in 2025 as it was discontinued due to limited participation. However, as many of our members have moved into that category over the past twelve months, and with input from a group of those ladies, the Board decided to reinstate the Legends Division and it will continue, even if there is a small number participating.

Next up we had our annual Member/Guest, The Quail Classic. The 2025 event was chaired by Cathe Kropp who did an outstanding job organizing her committee. Members enjoyed three days of fun and golf, starting with the Welcome Party on Sunday evening, hosted by Nancy Sartor and Deb Finn. The food was great, the DJ was an enormous success, and everybody enjoyed some wonderful camaraderie prior to the start of the tournament. I just hope I can provide as much enthusiasm and entertainment as I chair the Quail in 2026.

May brought the Member/Member tournament which again was very well supported. This is a two-day partner event which in the future will alternate with the Solheim "type" tournament. We also participated in the Saddlebrooke Women's Classic at MountainView/Preserve (MVP) in May. This tournament gives us an opportunity to get together with the members of MVP and Saddlebrooke Ranch for a very social day of golf before the snowbirds fly away to cooler climates. Each club hosts every three years, and our association has the pleasure of hosting in 2026. This multi-club event takes some effort to organize so if the chairs come calling for assistance, please consider helping them out.

July took us to the summer Member/Guest when many players from our neighboring clubs came to enjoy our wonderful golf course. Next up was LAGOS – an annual event hosted by the 18ers and 9ers in alternate years where the ladies gather to play nine holes of fun golf with lunch afterwards in the Vistas.

Here we are, having just completed our final major of the year, the Cactus Classic. We were lucky with the weather and the after party was a great success. Congratulations to our three-day Net Champion, Carol Evans. Flight winners were Saguaro – Jan Bukes, Cholla – Kay Cruise, Ocotillo – Jo Ann Ellison, Hedgehog – Lynn Stewart, Prickly Pear – Mary Ribacchi and Barrell – Nancy Sartor.

Here I would like to thank all those who chaired the above events: Ellen Avenoso, Jennifer Waggoner, Kay Sullivan, Maggie Falconer, Judy Briney, Helen Graham, Kay Kunze, Deb Ousley, Lisa Graff, Geri Sandilands, Nancy Huffman, C J Johnson, Patty Mawe, B J Murray, Lynn Wenzel, Teresa Jenkins and Joan Chyall. To those of you who served in various capacities on all our committees, you have my sincere appreciation. Without you volunteering in support of the SBWGA, we would not be able to function and organize ourselves for the reason we all come together – to enjoy playing the game of golf in the company of our friends here in Saddlebrooke.

It goes without saying that I have a special word of thanks to our wonderful staff, Mike Roddy, Jane Chanik, Molly Fullerton and Mike Phillips, also Trisha Rogers and the F&B staff. I worked with Trisha during my term as Vice President as we decided menus and ran the monthly luncheons. So please, when you see any of these people, thank them for all they do on our behalf.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all our sponsors for 2025 – we realized a budget which was in excess of \$16,000. This is an incredible number, and the generosity of our local vendors gave us the opportunity to enhance many aspects of our operation by providing additional funds which we applied to lunch subsidies, prize money for special tournaments, after parties for two of our major events and other sundry tournament enhancements. Please let our sponsors know how much we appreciate their support whenever you use their services.

I want to mention here the matter of the Bylaw amendment which was voted on and passed recently. This came about when the Nominating Committee approached the Board and said they were getting negative responses from everybody they called in their search to present a slate of Officers for 2026, and they could not fill some of the positions. They spoke with various 2025 Board members to see whether maybe changing seats would accomplish their task of filling the slate. However, that idea did

not materialize as Board members did not feel what they were being asked to consider was a good fit with the kind of expertise they each brought to the table.

So, a suggestion was put forward that if the Bylaws were amended to allow a sitting officer to be proposed for an additional year, which might solve the problem. I spoke with our Parliamentarian, Jo Ann Ellison, who, I might say, was most helpful in this regard, and she suggested language to put before the membership for a vote. My thanks to all who took the time to have their say and the vote was passed overwhelmingly by 58 to 1. So, with the new Bylaw in place, the Nominating Committee was able to complete their task of filling the slate for 2026 and your new Board was elected at the recent General Meeting and luncheon. This change should provide Nominating Committees in the future with sufficient latitude to engage the services of sitting Board members for a longer term, if they so desire, rather than restricting them to one-year terms with only one-year extensions. Perhaps it is time to review the Nominating Process in its entirety, but I will leave that up to the incoming Board to discuss.

In closing, I want to say thanks to all our SBWGA members for allowing me the privilege of being your President this past year and who have made the year as your leader such a wonderful experience. I have enjoyed working with my Board who are a great group of talented and successful ladies each of whom brought an amazing level of expertise to the Boardroom and I thank you all for your constant encouragement and support.

Wendy Odell has been a great Vice President and someone who was willing to jump in and help when something needed to be done. She never hesitated when I asked for a favor, like running a meeting or two when I was out of town! I know she is anxious to get going in her new role as President of our association and I wish her every success as she takes over the baton for the next year.

Thanks again for your confidence in me and I wish you all continued good health and happiness.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Maire Ryan  
President  
SBWGA Board 2025