

**ZONE 3 – WESTERN WASHINGTON AND ALASKA
REPORT TO THE PNGA WOMEN’S COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

I served as volunteer for the WSGA Men’s Best Ball Championship in May. While this wasn’t my first time as a volunteer, it did remind me how important it is for all of us to serve in order to support our Associations and how important it is to fulfill any commitments made to do so. The WSGA staff has enough to do for our Championships without having to step in for volunteers who cancel at the last minute or when there is a lack of sufficient numbers of volunteers. I was able to put in a couple of last minute calls to friends whose spouses were playing and recruit them to fill in for cancellations. It is also a lot of fun. Most of the players are so jazzed about the competition that their enthusiasm is contagious. When the call for volunteers comes out next season, I know I will be spreading the word far and wide ... maybe if we all do that there will be enough volunteers and the staff won’t have to wear multiple hats.

I reached out to a random sample of women Club Representatives in Zone 3 to solicit their thoughts, concerns, and ideas about how we can fulfill the Women’s Committee vision. As of the date of this report, I have not had any responses to my e-mail requesting input. I’ve also chatted up women in my own Club to ask why they don’t play in WSGA/PNGA events. The reasons are varied, including the belief that they are not “good enough” to play in “serious” tournaments, that they’re too stressful, lack of time, inconvenience and traffic when they are in town and the cost when they are out of town.

Participation in 2015 WSGA Women’s Championships overall was down by a very small number (-18) compared to 2014. However, four out of seven Championships showed an increase in the number of players. The Women’s Best Ball and the Mid-Amateur both showed a decline in the number of players (-30 and -11, respectively). The Best Ball was postponed from May to September, which probably contributed to the field being 30 players smaller. The Washington State Women’s Golf Association and the Seattle Women’s Golf Association both comprised of private clubs in the state and city, respectively, host state and city championships each year. Participation in these championships has historically been quite high. In 2015, the WSWG State Championship had approximately 80 players, the WSWG Senior Championship had about 112 players, and the SWGA City Championship had approximately 90 players. These events may also be having an impact on the number of players signing up for WSGA events since they are held in close proximity date-wise to WSGA events.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Link
Zone 3 Representative
Rainier Golf and Country Club