

# *Rhode Island Women's Golf Association*



June 7, 2013

Dear RIWGA Members,

As you know, the Board of the Association has been discussing a potential merger with the RIGA. Both organizations have been ironing out the details of what a unified Association would look like, and we have made great progress. A unified Association will serve the interests of all golfers in the state; women, men and juniors of all abilities. It also allows the RIWGA to preserve its' heritage and traditions. Women's major tournaments will be known as RIWGA championships. For example, the championship will be the Rhode Island Women's Golf Association State Amateur. We will retain all of our trophies, such as the Julie Greene Championship Trophy and the Glenna Collett Vare Trophy. Our history will be maintained on the RIGA web-site.

As for the day to day operation of women's tournaments, the current tournament schedule will remain unchanged – THERE WILL BE NO PACKAGES. A women's players committee will be formed to oversee the tournament schedule. It is essentially the same as our current tournament committee. This committee will be composed of 8 to 10 women who will work with an RIGA staff member to determine tournament formats and details. The RIGA will be adding a staff person to run women's events.

Regarding the governance of a combined Association, a joint committee composed of both RIGA and RIWGA members was formed to review the RIGA by-laws and revise them to accommodate the RIWGA. Frankly speaking, very few revisions were necessary to ensure gender neutrality along with appropriate representation from the RIWGA. Currently the RIGA board is composed of one representative of each member club, as well as all past presidents of the RIGA. The by-laws will be amended so that all past presidents of the RIWGA will be members of the RIGA board. There is no gender restriction as to member club representatives thus women may fill these vacancies as they naturally occur, it is up to the member club to determine who their representative will be. The operating committee of the RIGA has unanimously approved these changes, and it will be voted on by their board at their annual meeting. They had a preliminary discussion at last year's annual meeting and all present were in favor of a merger.

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The RIWGA board will be voting on the issue, as per our by-laws, at our August meeting. The board would like to hear from our members on this issue. We will have an open comment period running from Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> through Monday July 8<sup>th</sup>. The board will review them at our July meeting. Comments must be made in writing and may be submitted to me via regular mail or email at the following addresses:

Judy Davis  
26 Larchwood Dr.  
Rumford, RI 02916  
[Judydavis144@verizon.net](mailto:Judydavis144@verizon.net)

Please include your name and contact information on all correspondence.

This is an exciting time for the RIWGA and for golf in Rhode Island. The board is looking forward to hearing what our membership has to say on this important matter.

Regards,

Judy Davis  
President, RIWGA