



UNITED STATES
WOMEN'S CURLING
ASSOCIATION

Winter 2023

WREP SHEET

News from the USWCA February 2023 Meeting and Committee Highlights

SCOT TOUR AT LAST

Ever wondered why anticipating a celebrated event seems to make time slow down? Well, try waiting ten years and then add an extra year and nine months for the legendary Scot women to arrive for the USWCA Women's Scot Tour. It was indeed a long wait and well worth the time and planning to greet the Scottish women at the airport. So began a Tour spanning from MN, CO, WI, IL, OH, MI, ME, NH, and to MA. Every club, 13 total, and region brought a strong sense of camaraderie in gathering and curling... serving to build stronger friendships for this global sport. Every club the Scots visited could not believe the graciousness and kindness shared with a touch of the local culture. The Scot women truly enjoyed every city and club they visited.

The Skips and teams were named after the Lochs throughout Scotland: **Coruisk** (Skip Vicky Gumley), **Maree** (Skip Ann Gibb), **Etive** (Skip Janine Wilson), **Ness** (Skip Fiona McLaren), and **Katrine** (Skip Anne Shaw). On the Tour, these worthy opponents visited clubs in nine states for a total of 21 roaring games ... and came away victorious scoring 719 stones to the US 536. The USWCA women may have lost in scoring, but certainly gained lasting friendships with invitations to visit Scotland and most Scots plan to return to the US for a visit. ...Continued on page 3



2022 SENIOR FRIENDSHIP TOUR A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The USWCA clubs in the Northeast welcomed 16 women from the Maritimes and Ontario to the 2022 Senior Friendship Tour. Host clubs Schenectady, Albany, Utica, Norfolk, The Country Club, Cape Cod, Nutmeg, Philadelphia, and Potomac each offered a different experience for our northern friends. From the Opening Dinner in Albany to the Closing in Potomac, the women enjoyed curling and sightseeing. One special highlight was a private tour of the Women's Memorial in Washington D.C. set up by committee member Nadyne Krienke.

At the start, the Canadian curlers didn't know each other, but it didn't take long before they were a solid group of curlers and friends. Several curlers returned to The Country Club for a mixed spiel this winter and were hosted by women they met while they were here. ...continued page 2.



In this issue:

PAGE 1

- Scot Tour at Last
- 2022 Friendship Tour

PAGE 2

- Senior Women's Bonspiel
- National Bonspiel
- Super Senior Bonspiel
- 2022 Friendship Continued

PAGE 3

- Senior Friendship Tour 2024
- All American
- Scot Tour Continued

PAGE 4

- Next Year's Bonspiels
- 5 and Under Bonspiels
- Junior Bonspiels
- Norfolk Junior Bonspiel

PAGE 5

- Donations
- Quilt Raffle Winner
- Memoriam
- Mark your Calendar
- USWCA Promotional Sales

PAGE 6

- Update From Governance
- Seeking Candidates
- Circuit

PAGE 7

- Gifts and Grants
- USWCA on Social Media
- Support the USWCA
- Election Results

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SENIOR WOMEN'S BONSPIEL

The senior women (age 55+) competed in the "Diamonds and Denim" themed 40th Senior Women's Bonspiel on November 30 - December 4, 2022. Hosted by the Racine Curling Club, a total of 16 teams completed in the 8-end bonspiel at the 2-sheet club.

Congratulations to the First Event winners, the Call Rink from the Detroit Curling Club of Ferndale, Michigan. Pictured left to right are skip Laura Call, vice Ann Gabhart, second Suzanne York, and lead Shelly Bahr. For a full listing of event winners, visit <http://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel-2022>, and search social media using hashtag #uswcab2022.



NATIONAL WOMEN'S BONSPIEL ROCKS THE SWAMP



This February, 128 women curlers from USWCA member clubs from across the country came together to "Rock the Swamp" with the Bowling Green Curling Club at the Black Swamp Curling Center, Bowling Green, Ohio. The 32 team event began on Wednesday evening and continued through Sunday afternoon.

In between draws, the teams visited Lake Erie, the National Museum of the Great Lakes and the Toledo Museum of Art while enjoying the many venues for food and beverage the area had to offer.

The first event winners were the Longnecker rink from the Cape Cod Curling Club. Congratulations to skip Krista Longnecker vice Matina Heisler, second Marinna Martini, and lead Liz Abeltin.

Visit <http://www.uswca.org/national-womens-bonspiel-2023> for a full listing of event winners and search social media using hashtag #uswcabn.

SUPER SENIOR BONSPIEL ROCKED IT

The 2nd Annual Super Senior Women's National Bonspiel took place January 17 - 19, 2023 in Paoli, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Curling Club hosted 16 teams to a great "Rockin' It Philly Style" bonspiel with three days of curling, great food and ice and wonderful hospitality. They even hosted a sightseeing day following the bonspiel for those who wanted to see some Philly sights like the downtown historic area. Thank you to Philadelphia CC for a great spiel and a special thank you to the Chairs - Lisa McCann and Rosemary Morgan - who did a fabulous job.

This is a new USWCA bonspiel for women 65 years of age and older. Games are six ends, and you can sign up as an individual with one other curler from your club or with a composite team from different regions.

Congratulations to the First Place team - Sally Augustin (St. Paul), Robin Flavella (Philadelphia), Paula Kalke (Racine), and Joan Blanchard (St. Paul). For more information on the bonspiel and pictures of the winners of the four events, visit the the 2023 Super Senior Bonspiel page <https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel-2023>



2022 SENIOR FRIENDSHIP TOUR Continued...

Many thanks to all the host clubs that stood fast through the yearlong COVID delay for offering up such warm welcome, keen ice, wonderful food, and hospitality. Thanks to the committee and volunteers as well.

For more of the stories from the Tour and to see it visually summed up, visit <http://www.uswca.org/2021-friendship-tour>. There are daily pictures posted of the adventures.

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP TOUR TO CANADA IN 2024

Curling Canada has extended an invitation to the USWCA to host 16 US curlers for the 2024 Senior Women's Friendship Tour to the Ontario and Quebec provinces. Tentative dates for the tour are Nov. 3-14, 2024. The Tour is anticipated to be 12 days in length including travel to and from Canada. No budget has yet been set but past tours have run approximately, to \$1500-\$2000 per participant, excluding airfare.

Applicants must be age 50 by May 1, 2024. Stick curlers are welcome. The online application will be available on the USWCA website beginning on September 15, 2023. The deadline to apply is December 15, 2023. There is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by USWCA members of a particular club. Past participants of outgoing Friendship or Scot Tours are ineligible. Note that applicants will need submit two letters of recommendation, one from their current Club president or other Club officer and one from their USWCA Representative. Names will be selected by lottery early in 2024.

As more information becomes available, the committee will post updates on the USWCA website <https://www.uswca.org/2024-Friendship-Tour> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/140673956033173>.

For any questions, please feel to contact Tour Chair Debbie Horn debrahorn130@gmail.com.

SCOT TOUR AT LAST continued...

As this is an alternating five year program, the next road trip will be when the USWCA women travel to Scotland and do their curling best to "bring home the Marguerite Roberts Quaich," ... which is very much how the Scots felt as they took "home, the Quaich!"

Special recognition to the Scot Captain, Shirley Jeans and Co-Captain, Anne Gibb, whose leadership made their tour exceptionally smooth and super easy for the USWCA to host. We thank them for being leaders on and off the ice and thanks to all the Scots who share in our love of curling. Only two words for everyone: Good Curling!

Visit the Tour website:
<http://www.uswca.org/2021-tour>.



THE ALL-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

by Jacqui Napoli, Broomstones Curling Club

I have a special place in my curling heart for the All-American event that the USWCA sponsors every year at my curling club.

It was my first bonspiel event, my first event win and my first pin.

The USWCA has been sponsoring the All-American since 1966. It is a women's intra-club event designed to bring all skill levels of women curlers together: experienced and new curlers, skips-in-training (aren't we all?) and brand-new leads.

The USWCA (your curling association) may seem to be a remote thing to the average club curler. Maybe you haven't curled in the marquee USWCA events: Super Senior, Senior Women's, 5 and Under, National Women's. Maybe you haven't signed up for Circuit events because you don't bonspiel often. I get it, work, children, elders...some seasons, life is busy.

The All-American is accessible. It should be on the calendar at every USWCA member club. Whether it is scheduled as part of your women's league, or as at my club, a stand-alone women's in-house weekend bonspiel event. A weekend of good curling, good food, a few good laughs and the sorority of women. As USWCA Rep I was happy to continue this tradition in my club. I hope every USWCA member club, and every Rep finds their own path to celebrate the USWCA and women's curling by hosting an All-American event annually.

For more information on the All-American, visit our website, <https://www.uswca.org/all-american.aspx>. If you have any questions regarding hosting an All-American event at your club, please contact Kristin Smith (All-American Chair) at kshknitnut@gmail.com.

NEXT YEAR'S BONSPIELS

The 41st Senior Bonspiel, "Senior Safari," will be held at Cape Cod Curling Club, Falmouth, MA, in the East Region. The games will be held Wednesday, November 29 to Sunday, December 3, 2023. Cape Cod has 3 sheets of ice, so this will be a 24-team bonspiel. The entry fee will be \$400; the entry deadline is September 1, 2023.

Visit <https://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel-2023> for the latest information. Follow the excitement on social media using hashtag #uswcab2023.

The 3rd Super Senior National Bonspiel will be held in the Central Region. Details and entry information will be available in the summer on the USWCA website <https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel>.

The 75th National Bonspiel, "Cheers for 75 Years" will be hosted in the West Region by the St. Paul Bonnie Spielers at St. Paul Curling Club, St. Paul, MN, from Thursday February 15 to Sunday, February 18, 2022. Applications will be available in September.

Visit <http://www.uswca.org/national-womens-bonspiel> for the latest information. Follow the bonspiel news and plans on social media using hashtag #uswcanb2024

NORFOLK JUNIOR BONSPIEL

The Junior Bonspiel in the East was held at Norfolk Curling Club, Norfolk, CT. Organizer Jonathan Barbagallo said, "We had 10 teams participate. Because of the challenges of the draw, we had a traditional bracket where all but 2 teams made the finals on Sunday morning. There were no separate competitive / developmental divisions.

Teams included players from Broomstones, Norfolk, Philly, Schenectady, Cape Cod, Nutmeg, Potomac, and Rochester. Winning the event was Team Neill from Broomstones.

In the photo from L-R is Tyler George, Elijah DeRomanis, Ben Skoog, & DJ Neill. They played with 3 after their 4th was sick and missed the bonspiel."



5 & UNDER BONSPIELS

The Five and Under Bonspiel Committee sponsored five Events across the USA in the 2022-2023 season. The USWCA provides the event pins and promotes the events across the USA. Be sure to check out the website <http://www.uswca.org/5-year-and-under.aspx> to see the first-place winners in each event from this season.



Looking forward to the coming year, we will be surveying our women members who are 5 and Under curlers. We are talking with the host clubs of 5 and Under Women's events about scheduling 1- or 2-day 'spiels that might be a better fit for busy women curlers.

The survey will be sent to all the club Reps in March. When they receive it, we ask that they distribute the survey or provide our committee with a contact list (email) of your 5 and Under women members. The contact list can be sent to Dawn Brauningner at dawnakahm@yahoo.com. All emailed surveys will be sent as a "bcc with no attachments". Although this survey is voluntary the more participation we have will help us to provide a format that will help meet the needs of 5 and Under Women curlers.

In another change for the coming year, the minimum age for all USWCA 5 & Under Bonspiels (both our Open and Women's bonspiels) will be 21 to participate. Specifically, you must be 21 by the first day of the 5 and Under event. This is due to the age limit for the USA Curling 5 and Under National Bonspiel.

JUNIOR BONSPIELS

The Junior Bonspiel Committee sponsors three USWCA Junior Bonspiels annually across the country: one in the East, one in the combined Central & Wisconsin regions, and one in the West. As an event sponsor the USWCA provides winner and runner-up pins for four events, an inscribed plaque for the first event winners and advertisement of the bonspiel on the USWCA website. Travel assistance funds and funds for host clubs with arena ice are available through the Gifts and Grants Committee. See the article on page 7 for more information. Clubs that are hosting a USWCA-sponsored junior bonspiel must be a member of the USWCA. Bonspiel participants do not have to belong to a USWCA member club. The Junior bonspiels are open to teams of juniors under the age of 21.

One date is set for next year

EAST: July 23 - 26, 2023, Cape Cod CC, Falmouth, Massachusetts

If your club is hosting a junior bonspiel in the next couple of years and would like the USWCA to be a sponsor please contact Leslie Cooke osumamma@hotmail.com for more information.

For the latest information, visit the USWCA Junior Bonspiel website:

<http://www.uswca.org/juniors.aspx>

USWCA ANNOUNCES DONATIONS

USWCA is a non-profit organization; all donations, which are tax-deductible, are welcomed. Donations can be received through the mail or from the association's website (<https://www.uswca.org/make-a-donation>) using PayPal. Donations have been made to the Scot Tour, Friendship Tour, Gifts and Grants, general fund and Jean Borland Memorial Fund for Youth Curling.

We would like to thank the following for their generous gift to USWCA: Judy Maier, Shelley Dropkin, Anne Vanic, Patricia Cobb, Doris Eberlein, Leslie Cooke, Wendy Berger, Catherine Offinger, Margie Knitter, Naida Leslie, Tracy Lawless, Carolyn MacLeod, Susan Williams, Martha Mozzarella, Jacquelyn Schmidt, Peggy Jacobs, Mayfield CC and Bowling Green CC. And a special thank you to Dello Roehl for her generous gift given in memory of Nancee Melbee.



QUILT RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Kelly Zahn from Windy City Curling Club, winner of the Scot Incoming Tour Quilt raffle. The quilt, "Aim for the Stars", was crafted by Past President Diane Firari. The drawing was held at the Social Soiree event Thursday night of the National Bonspiel in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Shown in the photo, from left to right, President Leslie McGregor, Kelly Zahn, and First Vice-President Kelly Stephens.

USWCA PROMOTIONAL SALES

The USWCA Promotional Sales committee has partnered with TilsonBay to bring you newly redesigned USWCA swag. Stand out in the crowd with these beautiful, bold and one-of-a-kind USWCA designs-- perfect for the league curler, member at large and Circuit 'spieler.

We invite you to check out the merchandise and can't wait to see you and your team sporting the latest in USWCA fashion.

What are you waiting for?

<https://tilsonbaycompany.chipply.com/USWCA>



IN MEMORY

We are sad to announce the passing of Carla Casper on February 20, 2023. Carla was president of the USWCA from 2000-2001. She served as Liaison to the USCA and was Reference Committee chair for many years. On the ice, Carla skipped four teams to the Wisconsin State Championship. She was a member of the 1986 Scot Tour and Team USA's 1988 Olympic team in Calgary, where she played second, along with Lori Mountford, Erika Brown and Lisa Schoeneberg.

Her obituary can be found at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/carla-casper-11167810>

MARK YOUR CALENDER

July 2023

Junior Bonspiel East, July 23 – 26, Cape Cod CC, Massachusetts

September 2023

Senior Bonspiel entry deadline September 1

2024 Senior Friendship Tour Application site open for entries September 15

Fall Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, September 15 – 17

November 2023

Senior Bonspiel, Cape Cod Curling Club, Massachusetts, November 29 – December 3

75th National Women's Bonspiel entries due to Coordinators November 29

December 2023

2024 Senior Friendship Tour Application deadline December 15

February 2024

National Women's Bonspiel, St. Paul Bonnie Spielers, St. Paul Curling Club, Minnesota, February 15-18

March-April 2024

Winter Meeting, virtual, date TBA Minnesota, March 10-12

SEEKING FACILITATOR

The USWCA is seeking candidates for the Facilitator position to investigate and resolve conflicts. This individual is expected to attend Fall and Winter Meetings and will receive a \$200 travel stipend per meeting.

To learn more go to: https://www.uswca.org/Data/Sites/25/media/about-us/code-of-conduct.-problem-process.-facilitator-9_18_22.pdf. For more information or concerns, contact Governance Chair Carolyn MacLeod, cmacleod17@gmail.com

UPDATE FROM GOVERNANCE

DEIA SUB-COMMITTEE FORMED

The Governance Committee received approval to form a special sub-committee for diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. This group will focus on action, outreach and awareness around the association's efforts. We encourage everyone to read the USWCA Inclusion Position Statement adopted in February 2017. <https://www.uswca.org/Data/Sites/25/media/about-us/inclusion-position-statement-09112018.pdf>

USWCA APPROVES MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

In September 2022, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy. It applies to all our officers and the chairs of event committees where minors can participate. Read the full policy on our website, https://www.uswca.org/Data/Sites/25/media/about-us/maps-policy_safesport-training-9_18_22.pdf

USWCA ADOPTS CODE OF CONDUCT

In September 2022, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a Code of Conduct:

In keeping with the United States Women's Curling Association (USWCA) mission and the Spirit of Curling, we acknowledge the importance of treating all individuals with respect and seek to ensure that our membership is courteous and gracious in our discussions and operations as an organization, as well as during USWCA-sponsored events.

Note: This includes Circuit events but only off-ice problems that may occur between USWCA members and not problems directly associated with the bonspiel/games.

The Board adopted a related Problem Resolution Process, explaining the options someone may use if they have a concern. Both are included in the document on the website: https://www.uswca.org/Data/Sites/25/media/about-us/code-of-conduct.-problem-process.-facilitator-9_18_22.pdf

CIRCUIT

Most of the women's bonspiels throughout the country are now on the USWCA Circuit, although we always welcome more. Our goal is to support women's bonspiels at our member clubs by attracting more teams to them (fill 'em up!) and support women curlers in the Spirit of Curling -- meeting other women curlers, involving newer curlers in the sport, improving skills through friendly competition and awarding cash prizes!

Cost:

USWCA Member Women Curlers \$30 per season

USWCA Member Clubs \$100 per bonspiel (\$75 before Oct. 1)

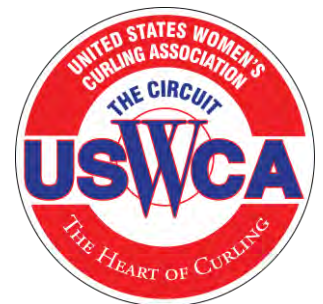
Many women tell us that they forget to sign up for the Circuit before their first game (necessary for the bonspiel points to count) so we are adding NEW FEATURES:

- You can still enroll on-line at <https://www.uswca.org/circuit-individual-application>, but this Summer we will roll out a QR code at Circuit Bonspiels so that you can sign up through your phone or PC before your first game.
- New reports will simplify the 'admin' functions by reporting to the Circuit team so we can share 'stats' throughout the season via the USWCA website and Facebook.

Note: ALL FUNDS COLLECTED go back as prize money to the Circuit Curlers (per region).

A maximum of your top 3 events will count toward points.

80% of participants receive prize \$\$



GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Gifts and Grants Committee continues to financially support curling by women and youth, including Junior Travel Assistance. At the February 2023 Winter Meeting in Bowling Green, the Board of Directors approved six requests presented by the Gifts and Grants Committee. This year grants were awarded to:

- Ryorchuk junior team from St. Paul Curling Club
- Gruenzel junior team from St. Paul Curling Club
- Gartner junior team from Cape Cod Curling Club
- Hibbing Curling Club junior program
- Olson junior team from Four Seasons Curling Club
- McPhee junior from Madison Curling Club

Applications are reviewed twice per year, during the Fall and the Winter meetings. The deadline for consideration at the Fall Meeting is September 1, 2023. Applicants will be notified of their grant application status following each meeting. Funds will be released when receipts are received. Applications can be submitted with receipts for an event that has already taken place.

To find the application and for more information about the application process, visit our website, <https://www.uswca.org/gifts-and-grants> or from the home page <https://www.uswca.org> choose "About" and then choose "Gifts and Grants."

SUPPORT THE USWCA

Did you know? There are many ways you can support the USWCA.

Sign up your men as USWCA members! Any male who curls at a USWCA member club may join as an Associate Member of the USWCA for \$7 each.

Make a cash donation! Visit <http://www.uswca.org> and click "Make a donation."

ELECTIONS RESULTS

At the Board of Directors Meeting held in Perrysburg, Ohio on February 25, 2023, officers were elected for the 2023-2024 season:

President Kelly Stephens (Coyotes CC), First Vice President Terri Gleason (Wausau CC), Second Vice President Ann Kirkpatrick (Belfast CC), Secretary Karen Cole (Coyotes CC), Comptroller Tammy Hoffman (Circle City CC 2023-2025)

Continuing in their terms are. Treasurer Bethany Rivera (Detroit CC 2022-2024). Parliamentarian Carol Wood (Rochester CC 2022-2024) and USWCA/USCA Liaison Tracy Lawless (Milwaukee CC 2022-2025).



USWCA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Surf the website

www.uswca.org

for our brochure and latest news.

Twitter handle: @HeartofCurling
Follow us on Twitter, and join the conversation at any USWCA event including the handle in your tweet.

You can also follow the USWCA on Facebook
(group name: United States Women's Curling Association).



The USWCA is the nation's oldest national curling organization.

Visit us at:

www.uswca.org.

Our Mission is to:
Develop, nurture and promote the sport of curling among today's women and all youth.