



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear USWCA Members and Friends,  
As we move through the heart of the curling season, I would like to share highlights from our recent winter meetings and the exciting events that followed.

The Board gathered in Natick, Massachusetts where we were graciously hosted with the support of Broomstones Curling Club. Our time together was productive, as we continued the important work of refining our Standing Rules and procedural documents, an ongoing effort that reflects our commitment to clarity, consistency, and good governance, while ensuring that our organization remains strong and well-positioned for the future.

At the conclusion of our meetings, we turned our attention to one of the most anticipated events of the season — the National Bonspiel. The Opening Ceremony was held at Broomstones Curling Club, and competition was hosted at both The Country Club and Broomstones Curling Club, showcasing excellent facilities and the collaborative spirit of our curling community.

Events like these remind us that while governance and structure are essential, it is the friendships, shared experiences, and love of the game that truly define our organization.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the meetings, supported the Bonspiel, and continues to give their time and energy to our sport. I look forward to all that the remainder of the season will bring.

Good Curling,  
Ann C. Kirkpatrick, President



## OLYMPIC CONNECTIONS

History was made at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano-Cortina when Team USA curler Cory Thiesse became the first American woman curler to win a medal at the Winter Olympics. She also set a record for the most ends played by a single curler in a single Olympic Games, totaling 193 ends.

Cory is a member of the USWCA through her membership at Duluth Curling Club. Her mother, Linda Christensen, serves as USWCA Facilitator and is on the Scot Tour committee. Korey Dropkin, the Mixed Doubles partner with whom Cory won the silver medal, is the son of USWCA Parliamentarian Shelley Dropkin. So exciting for all of us!



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## OUTGOING SCOT TOUR UPDATE

Out of nearly 50 applicants, 20 women have been chosen to represent the United States on the Scot Tour. Travel plans are being finalized both here and in Scotland. The U.S. team will depart from Newark, NJ, on October 25 and return on November 15. Teams have been put together balancing both curling experience and regional representation. Several teams are working to find a time to practice or bonspiel together before their Fall departure date.

The teams are as follows:

### **Team Purple –**

Kathy Pielage, Madison Curling Club,  
Kathleen Dean, Cleveland Skating Club  
Elaine Ritchie, Broomstones Curling Club  
Alana Malik, Bowling Green Curling Club

### **Team Green –**

Nancy Powers, St. Paul Bonnie Spielers  
Naida Leslie, Nutmeg Curling Club  
Sara Hein, Centerville Curling Club  
Tammy Hoffman, Circle City Curling Club

### **Team Red –**

Jen Tschumakow, The Country Club  
Kristin Smith, Milwaukee Curling Club  
Jen Mogavero, Charlotte Curling Club  
Heather Getty, Four Seasons Curling Club

### **Team Orange –**

Elizabeth Demers, Detroit Curling Club  
Lisa Rauliuk, Granite Curling Club of Seattle  
Chris Battat, Canadian Club of Boston  
Lisa Miller, Schenectady Curling Club

### **Team Yellow –**

Leslie McGregor, Chicago Curling Club  
Terri Gleason, Wausau Curling, Club  
Nancy Mutz, Denver Curling Club  
Ann Kirkpatrick, Belfast Curling Club



The Scot Tour is part of a long history of exchange between the USWCA and RCCC dating back to 1955. These tours have fostered international goodwill and have become a highlight for women curlers in both countries. The USWCA team is excited to visit clubs throughout Scotland, engaging in friendly matches and cultural exchanges. In 2031, the Scots will send a group of female curlers here to tour and play local USWCA clubs.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### April 2026

- 5 & Under Open Bonspiel, Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale, Michigan, April 18-19

### September 2026

- 44th Senior Bonspiel entries due September 2
- Grant applications for the Fall Meeting due September 5
- Fall Meeting, Royal Oak, Michigan, September 11-13

### October 2026

- 6th Super Senior Bonspiel entries due October 15 (tentative)
- Outgoing Scot Tour begins October 25

### November 2026

- Outgoing Scot Tour continues through November 15

### December 2026

- 78th National Women's Bonspiel entries due to Regional Coordinators December 1
- 44th Senior Women's Bonspiel, Wauwatosa Curling Club, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, December 2-6

### January 2027

- All dues payments due to USWCA Comptroller, January 15
- Super Senior Bonspiel, Plainfield, New Jersey, January 11 - 15

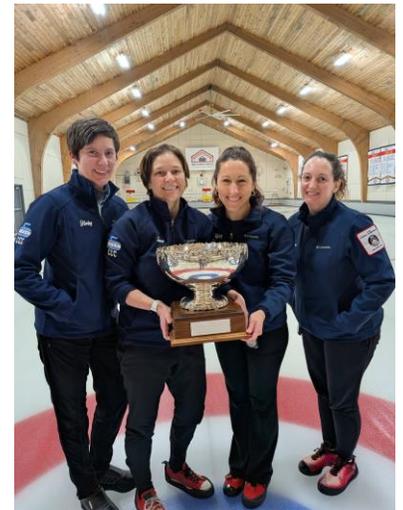
### February 2027

- Junior Bonspiel, Nutmeg Curling Club, Bridgeport, Connecticut, exact dates to be determined
- 78th National Women's Bonspiel, Charlotte Curling Club, Charlotte, North Carolina, February 10-14
- Winter Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina, February 14-16

## BEANTOWN ROCKS THE NATIONAL BONSPIEL

This February, 128 women curlers from USWCA member clubs from across the country discovered the many ways Beantown Rocks at the Broomstones Curling Club and The Country Club, Wayland and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. The 32-team event began on Wednesday evening February 18th and continued through Sunday afternoon. In between draws, the teams visited the New England Aquarium, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and ate cannoli in the North End.

The first event winners (for a second year in a row) were Team Yaple from Chicago Curling Club. Congratulations to (photo, from left to right) skip Haley Yaple, vice Sara Gaum, second Kailey Meyer and lead Kerry Myers.



## SUPER SENIOR BONSPIEL

The Fifth Super Senior National Bonspiel "Women with Brooms" was a huge success. It was held at the Rice Lake Curling Club October 28-30, 2025. Thank you to the on-site Chairs, Patti Fox and Marsha Shuda for a fantastic bonspiel! We began with a 'meet-and-greet' on Monday evening, enabling curlers from the 24 teams to get to know one another prior to playing together.

Besides competition, we were treated to tours of NorSwiss Dairy Farm (milking over 3,400 cows), a pre-banquet cocktail party featuring Wisconsin Old Fashioneds, tours of a local distillery and a hike at Marsha Shuda's beautiful property.

Congratulations to the First Event winners - (photo, from left to right) Katy Mercer Rink: Katy Mercer, Skip and Carol Negus, Vice (Cleveland Skating Club), Thora Eriksmoen (Members at Large) and Sapa Carlson.

For more winners and photos visit <https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel>



## 43RD USWCA SENIOR WOMEN'S BONSPIEL

Senior women (aged 55+) enjoyed celebrating “Spicy Senior Belles” at the 43rd Senior Women’s Bonspiel on December 10-14, 2025, hosted by the Grand Forks Curling Club. There were 24 teams participating on 4 sheets of ice, representing twenty-two curling clubs across the country.

Congratulations to the First Event winners, the Longee rink from Chicago Curling Club of Northbrook, Illinois. (Photo, from left to right) skip Laurie Longee, third Susan Bennett, second Dee Buckowich, and lead Susan Marten.

For a full listing of event winners, visit <http://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel>, and search social media using hashtag #uswcasb2025.



## CIRCUIT UPDATE

This season we had 53 individuals join the Circuit and 23 Bonspiels. With the new scoring system in place, we have been able to get the results up to the website sooner than in years past, updating the scores as bonspiels send in results. Latest is available here <https://www.uswca.org/uswca-circuit-results>.



Our goal with the USWCA Circuit is to support women’s bonspiels at our member clubs by attracting more teams to them 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! All funds collected go back as prize money to the Circuit Curlers, by region. A maximum of a player’s top 3 bonspiels will count toward points. This year we have been running a pilot program where only one person on the team needs to be a member of the Circuit in order to earn points, though we still encourage players to get other members of the team to sign up.

**The next Circuit season will start on May 1, 2026, and will run until April 30, 2027.**

USWCA Member Women Curlers pay \$30 per season - register at <https://www.uswca.org/circuit-individual-application>. USWCA Member Clubs pay \$100 per bonspiel - register at <https://www.uswca.org/participating-bonspiels>. If you have any questions, please email chair Shannon Zwick: [shannon@norfolkcurlingclub.org](mailto:shannon@norfolkcurlingclub.org).

## THE ALL-AMERICAN

Is your club one of the 40 USWCA member clubs that has hosted an All-American Event? If not, it’s time to start! One way is to combine your club with another USWCA member club. This could give the opportunity for women at a smaller club to experience a “no pressure” type bonspiel. Don’t let the name “All-American” fool you, this event is for all players at every level of experience to compete. Teams are drawn up by player experience so it should be a level playing field. Men are allowed but only as the front end of a team. One example, this year Bowling Green, Detroit and Kalamazoo joined for a 2-day event. They had 48 women participating! If you are an arena club, you may look into a USWCA grant for offsetting ice fees to host an event. The All American pins are provided by the USWCA.

Questions? Contact Kristin Smith at [kshknitnut@gmail.com](mailto:kshknitnut@gmail.com). She chairs the All-American Committee and will be happy to guide you on how to hold your All-American event. For more information, visit our website, <https://www.uswca.org/all-american>.



## NEXT YEAR'S BONSPIELS

The **44th Senior Bonspiel**, "What a Pair", will be held at Wauwatosa Curling Club, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (Mid States Region) from Wednesday, December 2 - Sunday, December 5, 2026. Located in the greater Milwaukee area, 'Tosa', one of the original USWCA Charter Member Clubs, is excited to be hosting this timed, 8-end, 32 team event. The last day for entries is September 2, 2026. Invites will go out soon!

Visit <https://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel> for the latest information.

The **6th Super Senior National Bonspiel** will be held at the Plainfield Curling Club, South Plainfield, New Jersey, January 11-14, 2027. The last day for entries is October 15, 2026.

Details and entry information will be available on the USWCA website <https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel>.

The **78th USWCA National Bonspiel**, "Come Fly With Us", will be hosted in the Central region by the Charlotte Curling Association in Charlotte, NC from Wednesday, February 10 to Sunday, February 14, 2027, just before the Winter USWCA meeting. This will be a 32-team event consisting of timed 8-end games.

The latest information is available on the USWCA website <https://www.uswca.org/national-womens-bonspiel>.



## 5 & UNDER UPDATE

The Five and Under Bonspiel Committee sponsored 3 events in the 2025-2026 season. The USWCA provides the event pins and promotes these events across the USA to all organized curling clubs. Be sure to check out the USWCA website <https://www.uswca.org/5-year-and-under> to see the first-place winners in each event from this season.

The Committee is working to finalize bonspiel sites for the 2026-2027 season in all regions. Current confirmed bonspiel sites are:

### East Region

- 5U Open: Nutmeg CC, date TBD
- 5U Women: Philadelphia CC, date TBD

### Central Region

- 5U Open: Circle City CC, date TBD

### West Region

- 5U Open: Coyote CC, date TBD
- 5U Open: Frogtown CC, date TBD

A reminder to all clubs wishing to apply for the National 5U Bonspiel club selection to check the USA Curling website <https://www.usacurling.org/5-and-under-national-championship> for the April deadline submission date. USWCA club reps and 5U women curlers can contact the 5U Bonspiel Committee directly with any questions they may have at [dawnakahm@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnakahm@yahoo.com).

## JUNIOR BONSPIELS

The Junior Bonspiel Committee sponsors four USWCA member Junior Bonspiels annually across the country, one in each region: East, Central, Mid States, and West. Next season's East Bonspiel will be held at the Nutmeg CC in February 2027. Exact dates have yet to be determined. Circle City will host the Central Bonspiel. No date has been selected. A location for the West Region's bonspiel has not been determined.

As an event sponsor, the USWCA provides winner and runner-up pins for 4 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 Gifts and Grants section of the USWCA website. 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. Junior Bonspiels are open to teams of juniors 21 years of age and younger. 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 Andie McDonald [andieamcdonald22@gmail.com](mailto:andieamcdonald22@gmail.com) for more information.

For the latest information, visit the USWCA Junior Bonspiel website: <https://www.uswca.org/juniors>.

### 5 & UNDER BONSPIEL RESULTS



Schenectady Curling Club hosted the East Region 5 and Under Open bonspiel January 16th - 18th. There were 18 teams competing which included mostly teams with both men and women, or men only. The winning team was all women! Congratulations to Team Skavina from the Albany CC: pictured from left to right: Rachel Skavina (skip), Kassandra Burkhart (vice & Albany USWCA Rep), Colleen McGrath (second) and Shannon Gorman (lead).



### JUNIOR BONSPIEL RESULTS

The Junior Bonspiel for the West region was hosted by the Granite Curling Club in May of 2025 in Seattle. Information regarding this bonspiel was listed in the Fall 2025 WRep sheet.

The Junior Bonspiel for the Central Region was cancelled for this season.

The Philadelphia Curling Club hosted the Eastern USWCA Junior Bonspiel December 12-14, 2025. The 3-day spiel hosted nine teams, with at least one developmental team participating in a bonspiel for the first time. The A-Event winner was Team Laufer from Bucks County Curling Club: Charlie Laufer (skip), Jonathan Lassoff (vice), George Harrison (2nd, not pictured), and Zach Kaufman (lead).



## NEW MEMBER CLUBS

We are pleased to announce that 2 new member clubs have joined the USWCA this year, bringing our membership to **84 total USWCA clubs as of January 2026**. Please welcome them!

North End (Boston, MA, East Region)

Capital Curling Club (Bismark, ND, West Region)

View the complete list of member clubs on our website: <https://www.uswca.org/club-listing>



## HOT MERCHANDISE

The USWCA has unveiled an exciting, **expanded collection of official merchandise**, created in partnership with Tilson Bay Company. Our updated online store features fresh apparel designs, commemorative items, All American, pride-themed apparel and customizable gear for teams or clubs to use for **events and bonspiels, junior curling, and fundraising efforts**.



The newest merchandise blends comfort, tradition, and community spirit — Reflecting the heart of the USWCA mission, **with 20% of all sales returned directly to USWCA programs**, helping fund initiatives that support women and youth curling nationwide!

Newest Apparel Options:

- **Women's Relaxed Jersey V-Neck Bella + Canvas Tee:** four designs and multiple colors - \$20
- **USWCA-branded Gildan Softstyle Tees:** four designs and multiple colors - \$20
- **Heavyweight Comfort Colors Long Sleeve Tee:** ten color options, unisex - \$26
- **Port & Company Ladies' Tie-Dye Sweatshirt:** Cloud design, four designs and various colors - \$42
- **Soft Knit Hoodie:** four designs and multiple colors - \$46

For a comprehensive list of products please visit the Tilson Bay Company's USWCA merchandise website. All prices include shipping fees within the United States. <https://tilsonbaycompany.chippily.com/USWCA/>

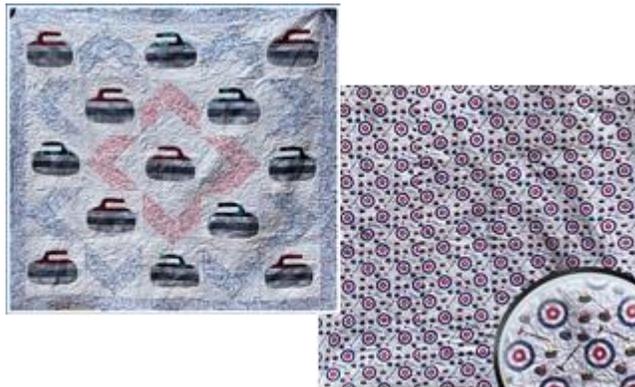
Please shop and share within your club and community. Printable flyers are available on the USWCA website. Visit <https://www.uswca.org/merchandise> to view our traditional pins and stationary.



## QUILT FUNDRAISER

The Financial Stewardship Committee would like to thank Ilene Barbree, from the Wine Country Curling Club, for generously donating a quilt last Fall to be used as a fundraiser for the USWCA. The committee is pleased to announce that the new owner of the quilt is Sylvia Perry from Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Thanks to all who contributed toward this successful program. For next season, the Financial Stewardship Committee is looking at more options to be used for raising funds. In the meantime, one can always make a donation by going to the USWCA website and clicking on the 'Heart' icon labeled Donate, or by going to [www.USWCA.org/make-a-donation](http://www.USWCA.org/make-a-donation).



## ELECTIONS RESULTS

At the Board of Directors Meeting held on February 18, 2026, officers were elected for the 2026-2027 season:

President Bethany Rivera (Detroit CC),

First Vice President Julie Denten (Coyotes CC),

Second Vice President Kristin Smith (Milwaukee CC),

Secretary Suzanne York (Detroit CC),

Treasurer Kelly Zahn (Windy City CC 2026-2028)

Parliamentarian Shelley Dropkin (St. Paul CC 2026-2028).

Continuing in their terms are:

Comptroller Elizabeth Demers (Detroit CC 2025-2027)

and USWCA/USCA Liaison Tracy Lawless (Milwaukee CC 2025-2028).

## HELP WANTED

The USWCA is seeking to fill two volunteer positions. We need people interested in curating content for our social media platforms and posting based on our established policy. We also need a person to develop content aligned with both the USWCA and USA Curling that will benefit both organizations. Does this sound like you? Please contact Tracy Frazee, [communications@uswca.org](mailto:communications@uswca.org).

## GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Gifts and Grants Committee continues to financially support curling by women and youth, including Junior Travel Assistance. At the Winter Meeting in February 2026, the Board of Directors approved three requests presented by the Gifts and Grants Committee.

This season, **\$900 in grants were awarded** to:

- Junior Girls Team Ivey - Portage CC, Kettle Moraine CC, Steven's Point CC - \$300
- Junior Boys Team Hester - Granite CC - \$300
- Junior Girls Team Stilp - Potomac CC - \$300

Thank you to all who helped increase our funding through donations and purchases of promotional items.

Club representatives please encourage applications for Gifts and Grants for your clubs. It can be for travel for juniors and women, but also for coaching, helping your club be ADA compliant, and events that help a broader group.

Applications are reviewed twice per year during the Fall and the Winter meetings. **The next deadline for consideration is September 5, 2026**, just before the Fall 2026 meeting, which starts September 11, 2026. Applicants will be notified of their grant application status following each meeting. Funds will be released when receipts and pictures 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."

## THANK YOU, DONORS

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals for their generous gifts to the USWCA: Leslie Cooke, Shelley Dropkin, Peggy Jacobs, Margie Knitter, Naida Leslie, Jen Mogavero, Jacqueline Schmidt, Susan Williams, and Twila Yednock.

The USWCA is a non-profit organization and could not meet its mission without the generosity of its membership. Donations are made to support the incoming Friendship Tour, the incoming Scot Tour, Gifts and Grants, USWCA's General Fund and the Jean Borland Memorial Fund for Youth Curling. Donations can be made through <https://www.uswca.org/make-a-donation>.

## BENEFITS OF USWCA MEMBERSHIP

The USWCA is comprised of capable, committed women dedicated to the expansion of the sport of curling. Our members are talented volunteers who collaborate to bring new ideas and direction which help grow this wonderful sport. Our objectives are to build friendships, have fun, and promote fantastic curling. The USWCA promotes women's and junior curling programs.

A full color brochure is available which summarizes our programs. It is ready to download and print. Share it with your club members, the men at your club, and anyone who wants to learn more about the USWCA. Visit the website <https://www.uswca.org/brochure>.



## USWCA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Surf the website

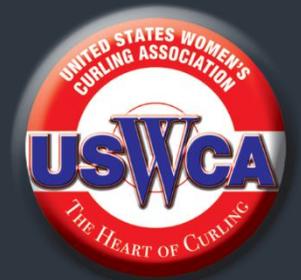
[www.uswca.org](http://www.uswca.org)

for our brochure and latest news.

You can also follow the USWCA on Facebook

(group name: United States Women's Curling Association).

Join the conversation on X (formerly Twitter) - USWCA handle: @HeartofCurling - at any USWCA event.



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

Visit us at:

[www.uswca.org](http://www.uswca.org).

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