

1 Act Play - **How it Might Have Come to be.** 18 minutes

Historical Information from USWCA's history say: A small group of women meeting in Milwaukee, WI in January of 1945 conceived the idea of an organization for women curlers.

Scene description: backdrop is drapes of a distinct dated pattern on the right and left side and a neutral colored panel in the middle of the backdrop. Hanging in the middle are three double sided signs: "Milwaukee/ Wauwatosa, Curling/ University, Club/blank"

Narrator (Jacquelyn) - Scene 1: At the Milwaukee Curling Club one morning during January 1945 after a morning of curling, the ladies sit together before heading home. We have based this enactment on the earliest records of USWCA. Much of this is historical fiction, though based on facts. World War II ended September 2, 1945, so during this time of our story, our country is fighting WWII.

Costumes - wool jackets with big shoulder pads, Glengarries hats, bobby socks, boots (foot wear not that important) - (I have access to the Rome Community Theater for costumes that we need.) -We can talk about costumes.

Cast: Anne Stuhlman, Liz Kaido, Melissa Foote, Audrey Foote

Narrator:

Lady #1: - Anne

Lady # 2: Liz

Lady #3: Melissa

Lady #4: Audrey

Setting - A team of ladies have finished a morning game at the Milwaukee CC (the sign is on display between the two curtain panels) and they are enjoying an after-game beverage. Lady # 1 and #2 are sitting at the table.

Lady #1 Do you really think we could do it?

Lady#2 *Shrug* You got me. Maybe we should wait until the war is over.

Lady #3 and Lady #4 *join them at the table.* What are you ladies talking about?

Lady #1 -We are thinking of curling at another club with other ladies, and we are thinking of forming a lady's curling group.

Lady #3 - There's lady curlers in other clubs? Oh, by the way these new curtains are beautiful. Every curling club should curtains like these.

Lady #4 - They let women go in other clubs?

Lady #2 - Would we need to drive to another club? I'd have to borrow the car? What would I tell Harry? Would I have to tell Harry where I was going?

Lady #3 - Can we go and play and get back in time for me to feed the children's lunch, clean the house and have dinner ready for Hal?

Lady #1 - I'm sure we would be back by the time they come home from school and you'd have time to fix supper.

Lady #4 -Could your mother fix your children's lunch.

Lady #3 - Sure, my mother could fix the children's lunch. I pray for the day when they can eat lunch at school.

Lady #2 - We'd have to take our brooms. I could make a spam casserole and vegetable jello salad to pass.

Lady #3 - Could we actually go in another club? Or would we have to sneak in the back door? We wouldn't tell the men. Right?

All - Noooooo

Lady #1 - I think we need to form an ACL -(everyone reacts with a question) no, wait a minute, - acl - that's part of your knee - the LCA -

Lady #2, 3 and 4 together The LCA?

Lady #1 - The Ladies Curling Association.

All shakes' heads in agreement and then have a little closing. Share a little curling conversation before you leave. Such as: Got to go. Me too. Who is skipping next week? - 15 second ice today- pretty good!, a lot of straw on the ice today!, man - you can really pound that corn broom? You don't believe in tickling the ice!

Lights on table out, light on men sitting at the bar goes on. Cast leaves stage.

Men: Jim Revenaugh and David Palazzoli

Dave - Do you think they're serious? Their own association?

Jim - Don't they need our permission?

Dave - Will they be looking for more ice time?

Jim - Don't worry. Who'll skip for them?

Dave - I don't know about skipping, but we know they can all handle a broom.

Jim - Next - I bet they're going to want their own bonspiel! Ha, ha, ha!

Lights out on the men. Lights on the center stage.

Costumes: suits, corsages, 1940's hats sitting together in a semi-circle at a table

Scene 2: Setting - Table at Wauwatosa Curling Club (sign changes) . Change the hanging sign to show Wauwatosa Curling Club

Cast: Cindy Brown, Barb Felice, Carol Jones, Kathy Palazzoli, Erlene Puleo

Mrs. Steuart Tray, chair - Kathy Palazzoli

Mrs. Burns Nelthorpe - Carol Jones

Mrs. Edward Roth - Cindy Brown

Mrs. Herbert Kochs - Barb Felice

Mrs. Charles Pardee - Erlene

Narrator - Scene 2 Wauwatosa CC February 20, 1946 - this is based primarily on the minutes of this meeting.

Mrs. Stewart Tray (*after her part is spoken, proceeds to knit through the whole meeting.*)- My what a lovely lunch. Ham loaf, instant mash potatoes, jellied vegetable salad, and yellow cake. Did they use one of those new box cake mixes that are available? You know they are brand new in the market. And you can't beat those instant mash potatoes. Since we are still getting to know each other, how about we introduce ourselves. I'll start. My name is Mrs. Steurt Tray, chairman and a member of Wauwatosa Granites.

Mrs. Roth - I'm Mrs. Edward Roth. I'm from here. (pause) Oh you can call me Bernie.

Mrs. Kochs - I'm Mrs. Edward Kochs from Indian Hill. And my goodness (or any expression you are comfortable with.), these curtains are lovely. Milwaukee Curling Club has the same curtains. Beautiful!

Mrs. Pardee - I'm Mrs. Charles Pardee from Appleton.

Mrs. Berns Nelthorpe - I'm Mrs. Berns Nelthorpe, President of the Wauwatosa Granites and we are here to discuss forming The Ladies Curling Association.

Mrs. Kochs - So who will join the Ladies Curling Association?

All - the lady curlers in the area. - (If you would like one to respond and you all shake your head that may be easier...)

Mrs. Kochs - What will we do?

All - Hold a bonspiel.

Mrs. Kochs -Well then, I move that Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Tray act as chair and secretary respectively. (point to Cindy and Kathy)

Someone else tries to second a motion but Mrs. Pardee succeeds every time.

Mrs. Pardee - I second that motion.

Mrs. Roth - All in favor? (*All raise hands.*) Motion carried

Mrs. Kochs - I move that the President, VP and Treasurer come from Wauwatosa Granites. (point to Carol Jones and Kathy Pallazoli)

Someone else tries to second a motion but Mrs. Pardee succeeds every time.

Mrs. Pardee - I second that notion.

Mrs. Roth - All in favor? (*All raise hands.*) Motion carried.

Mrs. Kochs - I move that Mrs. Tray and Mrs. Roth draw up a constitution. (point to Kathy Palazzoli and Cindy Brown)

Someone else tries to second a motion but Mrs. Pardee succeeds every time.

Mrs. Pardee - I second that motion.

Mrs. Roth - All in favor? (*All raise hands.*) Motion carried.

Mrs. Roth - I SUGGEST that two and no more than 5 be on this constitution committee and for convenience's sake they all be Wauwatosa Granites.

Mrs. Pardee - I second that motion.

Everyone - This is only a suggestion and you don't second suggestions.

Mrs. Roth - I move that we adjourn.

All look at Mrs. Pardee.

Mrs. Pardee - *Erlene looks back at everyone and sheepishly say:* I second that motion. How about some cake?

Lights on table out - light on men sitting at the bar goes on. Cast leaves stage.

Men:

Dave - I think they're serious about this association!

Jim - A bonspiel will mean we'll lose prime ice time!

Dave - Did you know my wife was too full from lunch to make my dinner. All she gave me was a piece of stale yellow cake.

Jim - Don't worry. It can't last - no other clubs will be interested. Let it die.

Dave - I'm not so sure, she's asking to use MY broom.

Scenery Change - Flip the signs to show "Milwaukee and University" Club stays the same.

Narrator - I will tell you about Scene 3. On October 23, 1947 The Ladies Curling Association met with 10 delegates from 5 curling clubs; Indian Hill, Wauwatosa Granite, Exmoor, Skokie, and Appleton. They met for lunch at Milwaukee's University Club. During that meeting the constitution and bylaws were adopted and a slate of offices were elected. And then one minute later the newly adopted by-laws were amended. Some things never change. One might consider this the first official meeting of this new organization.

Narrator - Scene 4 - November 10, 1947 the Executive committee met again at the University Club in Milwaukee. Those in attendance were Mrs. Edward Roth, Mrs. Henry French of Wauwatosa Granites, Mrs. Wendschuh of Appleton CC, Mrs. Leslie Gage of Exmoor, and Mrs. Harris Frazier of Skokie CC.

Cast: Donna Caleo, Susan Williams, Barb Revenaugh, Sue Hanson, Cindy Ciaralli

Mrs. Edward Roth (Bernice) - Donna Caleo

Mrs. Henry French of Wauwatosa Granites (Kathryn)- Barb Revenaugh

Mrs. Wendschuh of Appleton CC (Iretta) - Cindy Ciarelli

Mrs. Leslie Gage of Exmoor -(We named her Helen) Sue Hanson

Mrs. Harris Frazier of Skokie CC. - Susan W

Mrs. Roth - Shall we begin our first meeting by introducing ourselves. My name is Mrs. Edward Roth.
You can call me Bernie.

Mrs. French - My name is Mrs. Henry C. French and I am the secretary. Oh, you can call me Kathryn and I curl in Wauwatosa.

Mrs. Wendschuh - I'm Mrs. H.L. Wendschuh from Appleton CC, but you can call me Iretta. And I'm the first treasurer of the LCA, the Ladies Curling Association. And aren't these curtains lovely. I believe Milwaukee CC has the same curtains.

Mrs. Gage - I'm Mrs. Leslie Gage from Exmoor.

EVERYONE FREEZES

Narrator - We are not sure of Mrs. Leslie Gage's first name. For tonight, we are taking poetic license and calling her Helen. That will help the story.

Mrs. Frazier - My name is Mrs. Harris Frazier - that's F-r-a-z-i-e-r" and I'm from Skokie CC.

EVERYONE FREEZES

Narrator - Yup - you got it. We don't know Mrs. F-r-a-z-i-e-r's first name either.

Narrator: The first part of the meeting, according to the minutes, is a bit dry, boring, predictable, and really doesn't lend itself to a dramatic presentation. This is what happened: The constitution was read with one correction. Publicity was discussed. The nominating committee suggested keeping the same slate for a second year. And then the treasurer's work was discussed. Based on the financial records, this is how we imagined this part of the meeting took place.

Mrs. Wendshuh - I'm Mrs. H.L. Wendschuh, the treasurer. I project that in the first year we will amass a generous amount of money. There are 5 clubs each paying \$2 for membership for a total of \$10. Then each club will charge \$.25 for each member. I do believe that within the 5 charter clubs we have about 175 members. And if I have completed my arithmetic correctly that is a whopping \$43.75. This will bring our total income to \$53.75. I have taken the liberty to open an account at the First National Bank in Appleton, WI. Do you find this acceptable?

All - nod heads and agree that this will work well.

Mrs. Gage - When are we having lunch.

Mrs. Frazier - Oh Helen, I hope soon. I'm hungry too. I wish I'd brought my knitting.

Mrs. French - (*Look at watch.*) My children will be home soon for lunch. My husband, Henry doesn't know I'm here.

Mrs. Roth - Ladies, ladies, ladies - we have just a few more items on our agenda.

Mrs. Wendshuh - I will purchase a Treasurers record book for \$1.10, stationary for \$8.50 and postage for 66 cents for a total of \$10.26 leaving us a surplus of \$43.49. Do I have your approval to purchase these items?

All - Oh yes, please do.

Mrs. Wendshuh - And I will make connections with a pin designer. The only problem is our name. Do we want the LCA, Ladies Curling Association as our official name?

Mrs. Roth - Ladies, I think we should think big.

EVERYONE FREEZES

Narrator - "Ladies, I think we should think big." is a direct quote from the record."

Mrs. Roth - I think every lady's curling organization in the whole country - all 48 states should be able to join.

Mrs. Gage - Oh my, I've heard of other curling clubs. Like that one in NYS.... The club's name starts with a "U - U - U". Oh will - I think of it later. So, I think the USLCA would be wonderful...United States Ladies Curling Association.

Mrs. Roth - *Look at Mrs. Gage.* Helen - ready for this idea? Plays note on pitch pipe. *Sings first lines.*

Donna - I am women, hear us roar.

Everyone looks at each other and joins in song

All together - In numbers too big to ignore.

And we know too much to go back and pretend

Cause we've heard it all - not nice

And we've been down there on the ice

(Cross arms) No one's ever going to keep us down again

Chorus - Oh yes, we are wise

But it's wisdom born of pain

Yes, we've paid the price

But look how much we gained

If we have to, we can do anything

raises arm We are strong

two more raise one arm We are invincible

everyone raises both arm - We are woman -

Mrs. Frazier - Someone is going to write a song like that someday.

Mrs. Wendshuh - Bernie, are you saying our name should be United States Women's Curling Association? *As each word is said, the initial is shown on a large 8.5" x 16" card stock.*

Lights on table out - light on the narrator and then the men sitting at the bar goes on. Cast stays put.

Narrator - And here we are 75 years later. *Point to the gentlemen at the bar.*

2022

Jim - Hey, did you catch the USWCA Nationals on the streaming network? Amazing, these girls can play.

Dave - Do you know how much my wife wants to spend on a broom?

Jim - Hey, do you have time for another beer?

Dave - No better not - I've got to get home and have dinner ready for when my wife gets home from curling.