

Great Organizations Have Great Leaders

As a retired school administrator, I have learned that one important aspect of leadership is a shared vision that seeks to improve the organization while honoring the work that occurred in the past. No matter what organization you are leading, business, educational, recreational, this requires a delicate balance of nurturing the old culture while creating a new one. The leadership of CWGA has a vision to move CWGA to one of the premier women's golf clubs in the region. Their vision, strategies for communicating, inclusive practices, willingness to share leadership, implementation of programs to improve golf skills as well as to celebrate our accomplishments have already had an impact on realizing this vision.

As a relatively new member of CWGA, I decided the best way to write this article was to talk with the leaders of our association. Co-Presidents, Janet Ferguson and Alice Galloway and Co-Vice Presidents, Amy Day and Carol Riley met with me to talk about their leadership roles. If you have read any of my previous articles, you already know that I believe CWGA is a great women's golf club. Great organizations have great leaders and ours are no exception. Recognizing the strengths of our club and its members, they have created a pathway of shared leadership that has resulted in enhancing communication systems, increasing play time and improving golf skills for our members, creating a system for organizing supplies and equipment and promoting the celebration of our successes past and present.

Both Janet and Alice believe that one of their most important roles as presidents is to mentor future leaders of CWGA. They meet with and support committee leaders, but also trust the leadership of those committees to follow through and complete their assignment without micromanaging. They also include Amy and Carol as vice presidents in management activities and have given them the important role of leading the 50th Anniversary activities throughout the season. These four women create an amazing leadership team that is inclusive of all members and that spreads the workload to the many amazing members that plan and lead various work assignments and activities throughout the year.

Great leaders, like our co-presidents and vice presidents recognize the strengths and weaknesses of themselves and others so that they can recruit members to help carry out the vision. One just needs to look at the long list of CWGA leaders that fulfill the many tasks and activities. Some of the accomplishments that have helped realize the vision are the completion of a new website to enhance communication, the addition of a Tuesday sanctioned playtime, the plan to offer clinics for our players when the teaching pro arrives, increased membership, and the updating of our by-laws to name a few. In addition, it is important to recognize the many members who lead the activities that bring us together to play golf, improve our game, and have fun along the way.

At one point in our discussion of leadership, these four women expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to lead CWGA. They expressed the desire to pay it forward to this golfing community of women and to personally model a CWGA citizen who has fun playing golf, but also works to improve their skills. Now it is our turn to express our gratitude to Janet and Alice

for mentoring all future leaders, especially Amy and Carol, our future presidents, and for stepping up to lead CWGA with vision, energy, persistence, and a willingness to honor the past while making changes that moves CWGA on a path toward a premier women's golf club!