



UNITED STATES
WOMEN'S CURLING
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2024

WREP SHEET

News from the USWCA March 2024 Meeting and Committee Highlights

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As my presidential year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the events of the past year. I am proud of the three successful bonspiels that were welcoming and inclusive for all our members. We have demonstrated time and again the strength and unity of our organization. As I bid farewell, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and pride. As I pass the torch to the incoming president, Terri Gleason, I do so with confidence. To each and every member of USWCA, I extend my deepest thanks for your unwavering support and dedication. It has been a privilege to serve as your president.

In the Spirit of Curling.

Kelly Stephens

OUTGOING SENIOR FRIENDSHIP TOUR 2024

Sixteen lucky ladies were chosen by lottery for the 2024 Friendship Tour during the USWCA National Bonspiel Banquet. The Tour is composed of four women from the four USWCA regions and the members are as follows: Doris Bellinger (Mayfield), Diane Boles (Madison), Sandy Earl (Bowling Green), Marsha Edmunds (Broomstones), Karrie Gottschild (Chicago), Colleen Halpine (Arden Hills Cairn Lassies), Susan Hansen (Utica), Julie Johnson (St. Paul), Phyllis Kirchner (Kettle Moraine), Jan Kriebel (Columbus), Nancy Lindsey (Denver), Mary Melton (Belfast), Barbara Sheerin (Cape Cod), Kim Susens (Wausau), Cindy Wilson-Nordskog (Duluth), and Pamela Wortley (Racine). The Tour will kick-off in Toronto on November 3rd and end in Montreal on November 14 visiting eight curling clubs. The Canadians are putting together a fantastic itinerary that is sure to make lasting memories.

Follow the Tour news on social media using hashtag #USWCAFriendship2024 and on our website <http://www.uswca.org/2024-Friendship-Tour>



NEXT YEAR'S BONSPIELS

The 42nd Senior Bonspiel, "Gallery Hop," will be held at Columbus Curling Club, Columbus, OH, in the Central Region. The games will be held Wednesday, January 15 to Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Columbus has 3 sheets of ice, so this will be a 24-team bonspiel.

The entry fee will be \$400; the entry deadline is September 4, 2024. Visit

<https://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel> for the latest information. Follow the excitement on social media using hashtag #uswcasb2024. Please note the date change: the Bonspiel will be held January 15th-19th, 2025 rather than the usual November/December time period.



The 4th Super Senior National Bonspiel will be held in the West Region. Details and entry information will be available in the summer on the USWCA website

<https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel>.

The 76th National Bonspiel, "Curl Wisconsinably" will be hosted in the Wisconsin Region at the Madison Curling Club, Madison, WI, from Wednesday February 19 to Sunday,

February 23, 2025. Visit <http://www.uswca.org/national-womens-bonspiel> for the latest information.

Follow the bonspiel news and plans on social media using hashtag #uswcanb2025.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 2024

- Junior Bonspiel, Denver Curling Club, May 25-26

September 2024

- Last day for Senior Bonspiel entries, September 4
- Last day for grant applications for the Fall Meeting, September 13
- Fall Meeting, Grafton, Wisconsin, September 27-29

November 2024

- Senior Friendship Tour to Ontario and Quebec, November 3-14
- Junior Bonspiel, St. Paul Curling Club, St. Paul, Minnesota, date TBD

December 2024

- 76th National Women's Bonspiel entries due to Coordinators December 4 (tentative)
- 5 & Under Women's Bonspiel, Albany Curling Club, date TBD
- 5 & Under Women's Bonspiel, Racine Curling Club, January 24-25

January 2025

- Senior Bonspiel, Columbus Curling Club, Columbus, Ohio, January 15-19
- All dues payments due to USWCA Comptroller, January 15

February 2025

- 5 & Under Open Bonspiel, Broomstones Curling Club, February 14-16
- National Women's Bonspiel, Madison Curling Club, Madison, Wisconsin, February 19-23

April 2025

- Junior Bonspiel, Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale, Michigan, April 2025

NATIONAL WOMEN'S BONSPIEL CELEBRATES 75 BONSPIELS



This February, 128 women curlers from USWCA member clubs from across the country raised their glasses in Cheers to 75 Years with the Bonnie Spielers at the St. Paul Curling Center, St. Paul, Minnesota. The 32-team event began on Wednesday evening February 14th and continued through Sunday afternoon. In between draws, the teams visited The St. Paul Cathedral, Paisley Park and the Snoopy Exhibit at the Charles Schulz Museum. While enjoying the many food and beverage venues the area had to offer.

The first event winners were the Montgomery rink from the Madison Curling Club. Congratulations to skip Angie Montgomery, vice Stephanie Erstad, second Anne Gravel, and lead Kris Lund. Visit <http://www.uswca.org/national-womens-bonspiel-2024> for a full listing of event winners and search social media using hashtag #uswcanb2024.

SUPER SENIOR BONSPIEL RESULTS

THE 3rd Annual USWCA Super Senior Women's Bonspiel took place March 12-14, 2024 at the Cincinnati Curling Club. More than 80 women participated on 20 teams from across the US. Deb Coviello, the On-Site Chair, and the Cincinnati CC provided a wonderful venue with great ice, food and hospitality in the "Queen City". A huge Thank You for hosting us! Curlers represented 29 USWCA Clubs plus 2 Members-at-Large.

Congratulations to the First Event Winners - Carol Wood (skip, Rochester), Carol Voss (Potomac), Janet Clifford-Brown (Cincinnati) and Carol Hassemmer (Madison). The four had never curled together before - that is the fun of the Super Senior - sign up as an individual and curl with others from across the US.

Pictures of the winners of the 4 Events are on the 2024 Super Senior Bonspiel page <https://www.uswca.org/super-senior-womens-bonspiel-2024> - along with a photo of the entire group. The 4th Annual Super Senior Bonspiel is scheduled for 2024-25 curling season.

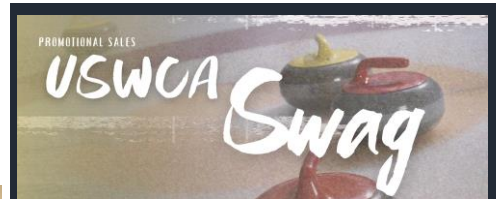
We are still looking for a host USWCA club in the West Region - if your club is interested in hosting this event, please contact Star Pfiffner mspfiffner@aol.com. This is a 2 day midweek daytime event.



SENIOR WOMEN'S BONSPIEL RESULTS

Senior women (aged 55+) joined in a "Senior Safari" at the 41st Senior Women's Bonspiel on November 29 - December 3, 2023. Hosted by the Cape Cod Curling Club, on-site chair Krista Longnecker did a wonderful job planning and running the Bonspiel for the 24 teams selected to compete.

Congratulations to the First Event winners, the Vanderleest rink from the Racine Curling Club of Racine, Wisconsin. Pictured left to right are skip Barb Vanderleest, vice Gail Armstrong, second Pam Wortley, and lead Paula Kalke. For a full listing of event winners, visit <http://www.uswca.org/senior-womens-bonspiel-2023>, and search social media using hashtag #uswcasb2023.



The USWCA Promotional Sales Committee has partnered with Tilson Bay to bring you new USWCA swag. Twenty percent of all proceeds will go to the USWCA to support our programs.

Share the news with your clubs and other curlers! USWCA items are available year round online. You can order individual and team items to help support the USWCA, Juniors, Grants and 5 & Under programming. We can also assist you with custom designs, team uniforms and bulk orders for an event or fundraiser. Visit <https://www.uswca.org/merchandise> to download a flyer to share or post at your club.

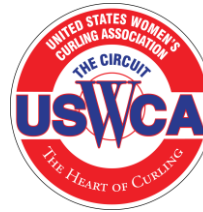
Don't miss out on the latest in USWCA fashion. Order here: <https://tilsonbaycompany.chipply.com/USWCA/>

And visit <https://www.uswca.org/merchandise> to view our traditional merchandise.



CIRCUIT UPDATE

This season we had 73 individuals join the circuit and 23 Bonspiels. We are still awaiting some results before we are able to calculate the totals and divide out the cash back to those who registered for the circuit. Once the season is complete, you can see the results on the website, <https://www.uswca.org/uswca-circuit-results>.



The goal of the Circuit is to support women's bonspiels at our member clubs by attracting more teams to fill them 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! 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 money.

The new season will start on May 1:
USWCA Member Women Curlers \$30 per season
USWCA Member Clubs \$100 per bonspiel (\$75 before Oct. 1)

Individuals can register at <https://www.uswca.org/circuit-individual-application> and clubs can register their bonspiels at <https://www.uswca.org/participating-bonspiels.aspx>.

If you have any questions please email Shannon@norfolkcurlingclub.com. Visit <https://www.uswca.org/uswca-circuit-results> for this year's winners.

ALL-AMERICAN BONSPIEL

Did you know that approximately 45 curling clubs participated in an All-American event this year? Did yours? If not, let's see how we can make it happen. The minimum number of teams is three. A simple round-robin with maybe a double knock-out could work for your club if your female curlers numbers are low. Associate members (men) may also participate in your All-American. An associate member would have to pay the \$7.00 dues to participate, and they may only play in the front end of the team. You may also run it as your league night. A draft-type team selection would be necessary to meet the All-American requirements. The other opportunity is to combine with other USWCA member clubs. A short weekend if your club calendar permits. If you'd like to have an All-American event but you are not sure how it can work, please reach out to Kristin Smith, kshknitnut@gmail.com. She is the All-American chairperson and would be happy to help your club host an All American. For more information on the All-American, visit our website, <https://www.uswca.org/all-american.aspx>.



NEW MEMBER CLUBS

We are pleased to announce that 5 new member clubs have joined the USWCA this year, bringing our membership to 76 total clubs. Please welcome them!

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

- Billings Curling Club** (Billings, Montana, West Region)
- Cambridge Curling Club** (Cambridge, Minnesota, West Region)
- Colonial Curling Club** (Worcester, Massachusetts, East Region)
- Dallas Fort Worth Curling Club** (Irving, Texas, West Region)
- Rhineland Curling Club** (Rhineland, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Region)



ELECTION RESULTS

At the Board of Directors Virtual Meeting held on March 10, 2024, officers were elected for the 2024-2025 season:

President Terri Gleason (Wausau CC), First Vice President Ann Kirkpatrick (Belfast CC), Second Vice President Bethany Rivera (Detroit CC), Secretary Dawn Nonn (Madison CC), Treasurer Kelly Zahn (Windy City CC 2024-2026). Also elected was Parliamentarian Shelley Dropkin (Broomstones CC 2024-2026).

Continuing in their terms are Comptroller Tammy Hoffman (Circle City CC 2023-2025) and USWCA/USCA Liaison Tracy Lawless (Milwaukee CC 2022-2025).

FROM THE BOARD

Great news for Super Seniors

The Board of Directors voted on March 10 to make the Super Senior Women's Bonspiel a permanent event. The 2024 event in Cincinnati had 80 women. Clearly, our members want to keep curling! Our thanks to the women whose vision brought this event to life.

THANK YOU, DONORS

The Board of Directors would like to thank the following for their generous gifts to USWCA: Maureen Guay, Leslie McGregor, Diana Jankowski, Leslie Cooke, Doris Eberlein, Peggy Jacobs, Susan Williams, Peggy, Rotton, Kathleen Hyslop, Wendy Hope Berger, Elizabeth Demers, Patricia Cobb, Carolyn MacLeod, Margaret Knitter, Jacquelyn Schmidt, John Winderbaum, The Bowling Green and Mayfield Curling Club, Diane Firari, Cheryl Drake, and Lavonne Berg.

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

Coming this summer, another way to give to USWCA. There will be an option to send a financial donation on the fall survey when making reservations for the meeting in Milwaukee. One click, One check, One envelope. Watch for this section of the reservation survey next summer. And in advance, thank you for your generosity to USWCA.

Upcoming raffle. This lovely tapestry, from the estate of Beverly Sponagule, a member of the 1976 Scots Tour, will be raffled next year. Tickets will be available at the fall meeting in Milwaukee. Representatives will be encouraged to take tickets back to you club members to sell. Drawing will be later in the curling year. The tapestry measures 24" x 30" x 4" and includes pins, patches and a map of Scotland.



DUES UPDATE

Over the last several years, the USWCA has expanded programs and benefits which are provided to our members. These include a new Super Senior Bonspiel for members 65 years and older, expanding the club bonspiels participating in the Circuit, expanding the number of Five & Under bonspiels held across the country, and adding a runner-up pin for the All-American. Even with such growth, the organization has not changed its dues in ten years, which have remained at \$7 per member and \$15 per club. With the intention of becoming more current with the value which the organization provides to its members, the Board of Directors voted to increase Club Dues from \$15 per club to \$25, beginning with the 2024-2025 season. Member dues will remain at \$7/person at this time.

5 & UNDER BONSPIELS



The Five and Under Bonspiel Committee sponsored 3 events across the USA in the 2023-2024 season. The USWCA provides the event pins and promotes the events across the USA to all organized curling clubs. Be sure to check out the USWCA website <http://www.uswca.org/5-year-and-under.aspx> to see the first-place winners in each event from this season.

The Five and Under Bonspiel committee is working to finalize bonspiel sites for the 2024-2025 season in all regions. Current confirmed bonspiel sites are:

East Region

5U WOMEN Albany CC,
December 2024

5U Open Broomstones CC,
February 14-16, 2025

Wisconsin Region

5U WOMEN Racine CC,
January 24-25, 2025

5U OPEN Madison CC,
date TBD

The 5U Bonspiel Committee is continuing to build a program that will connect 5U women with other 5U curlers between USWCA clubs. This program will also provide information to 5U curlers of other Women Bonspiels opportunities in addition to our regional events.

We encourage USWCA clubs to consider hosting smaller friendly bonspiels with nearby clubs for their 5U women curlers.

USWCA club reps please continue to advise your club's 5U women curlers that they can contact the 5U Bonspiel Committee direct with any questions they may have to dawnakahm@yahoo.com

JUNIOR BONSPIELS

The Junior Bonspiel Committee sponsors three USWCA member Junior Bonspiels annually across the country: (1) East (1) Central & Wisconsin (two regions combined), and (1) West. 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. The 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 Leslie Cooke osumamma@hotmail.com for more information.

Junior Bonspiels scheduled for the 2023-2024 Curling Season:

EAST: Cape Cod Curling Club, July 23-26, 2023 (Completed)

CENTRAL: Midland Curling Club, March 9-10, 2024 (Completed)

WEST: Denver Curling Club, Golden, Colorado, May 25-26, 2024

Junior Bonspiels Scheduled for the 2024-2025 Curling Season:

EAST: Utica Curling Club, Whitesboro, New York, date TBD

CENTRAL: Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale, Michigan, April 2025

WEST: St. Paul Curling Club, St. Paul, Minnesota, November 2024

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

JUNIOR BONSPIEL RESULTS

The Midland Curling Club held their USWCA-sponsored Junior Bonspiel March 9-10, 2024, in the Central Region. They had a total of 10 teams in the Competitive Division and 6 teams in the Novice/Triples Division. Teams attended from Ayr, Ontario, Leamington, Ontario, Detroit, Michigan, Bowling Green, Ohio and Midland, Michigan.

The champion was the Team Marcin/Stratton from Bowling Green and Leamington, Ontario.

Fun was had by all, and the spirit of curling was strengthened between the teams from the US and Canada.



(L to R), Kyle Stratton (skip), Natalie Hollands (vice), Cole Stratton (second), and Peyton Marcin (lead).

GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Gifts and Grants Committee continues to financially support curling by women and youth, including Junior Travel Assistance. At the Virtual Winter Meeting in March 2024, the Board of Directors approved three requests presented by the Gifts and Grants Committee.

This season's grants were awarded to

Team Neil – Broomstones and Plainfield \$200

Juniors Ava Schapmann and Jessica Morgan – Duluth and Rice Lake \$100

Junior Jin Lazor – Bowling Green Curling Club \$50

The committee would like to thank everyone whose donations and purchases helped increase the funding for Gifts and Grants. Club representatives, please encourage applications for Gifts and Grants for your clubs. It can be for travel but also for coaching and events that help a broader group

Applications are reviewed twice per year during the Fall and the Winter meetings. The last day to apply for consideration at the Fall 2024 Meeting will be two weeks prior the Fall Meeting, September 13, 2024. 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."



USWCA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Surf the website

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).

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



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.**

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>.