

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Women's Western Golf awards 'Woman of Distinction' Honor to Two Association Directors**

Northfield, Ill., October 9, 2014 ... The Women's Western Golf Association's Woman of Distinction award was first presented to **Patty Berg** in 1994. It is awarded to women who have displayed leadership qualities, involvement and commitment to the game on either the amateur or professional level. The honoree will have participated in, won a tournament or have been actively involved in the Women's Western.

This year Directors **Susan Wagner** and **Audrey Peterson** were tapped to receive the award. Together they bring over 70 years of volunteering their time, energy and talent to the Women's Western Golf Association and its Foundation.

**Susan Wagner** has served as a WWGA Director since 1977, the year the 77<sup>th</sup> National Amateur Championship was held at Flossmoor Country Club, her then home club in Flossmoor, Ill. Wagner did not start playing golf until her mid-20s and although she never became a competitive player, she has always enjoyed the game and delving into its history; for over 20 years she served as Flossmoor Country Club's Historian. She has held numerous offices in the WWGA serving as the President in 1997-1998.

In 1997, when websites were relatively new, working as a team, she and her son Bob moved the Association into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century creating the WWGA's website; in the beginning it was two pages, today the award-winning website has over 200 pages and it is continually updated.

In 1999, with the help of past USGA President and WWGA Director Judy Bell, Wagner initiated utilizing the USGA's Tournament Pairing Program (TPP) and has served as Pairings/Scoring Chairman for the Association's Amateur, Junior and Senior championships for many years, past and present. In 2007 she developed a Directors personal website.

Wagner's passion has always been history and public relations; she has served as the National Public Relations Director and is currently the National Media Director for the WWGA; she also serves as the Women's Western Golf Foundation's Public Relations coordinator. With 37 years of experience and familiarity with all aspects of the Association, she has become well-known as the WWGA's Historian. Her tireless enthusiasm for committee responsibilities include producing the Annual each year (a 48 page book highlighting the history and tournament play of the Association's National Amateur and Junior Championships), the Public Relations brochure and several pre-tournament information booklets. Wagner also serves on the Site Committee which is instrumental in negotiations and securing tournament venues.

She is presently the Association's Recording Secretary and for years has chaired and served on numerous Administrative and Tournament Committees.

Since 1999 she has represented the WWGA as a member of the USGA Regional Associations Committee and promoted and pursued partnering with the Western Golf Association that took place in June 2011. Her dedication, leadership and knowledge of the WWGA are exemplary; many say she is one of the major 'cogs in the wheel' of the Association.

Another main 'cog in the wheel' is **Audrey Peterson** who was elected a Director in 1980. She started playing golf as a young teenager; her older brother was an excellent golfer and got her started in the basics; ultimately she played competitive amateur golf in her home State of Wisconsin. On the local and state level she played countless times in the state's Women's Match Play Championship where she consistently was in First Flight; she was Runner-up in the Women's Madison City Tournament several times, always in the Championship Flight. With daughter Tina, she won the state's "Women's Mother-Daughter Championship."

On the national level, she recalled, "*My husband Pete and I won a humongous first place trophy for a 3-day medal husband-wife tournament at Doral (in Florida.)*" In 1963 she competed in the Women's Western Open when it was held at Maple Bluff Country Club (in Madison) winning the 5<sup>th</sup> Flight Consolation; she remembers receiving a set of steak knives as her award! She also played in two WWGA Amateur Championships during the 1970s.

Internationally, Peterson was a member of the Eisenhower 'People to People Golf Team' playing against club members from New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Travel was always something she and husband Pete loved to do, playing golf at clubs and resorts across the U.S. and abroad. When they played Muirfield Golf Club in Scotland, they were guests of the wife of the Scottish Supreme Court Justice.

At her home club, Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, she was a 3-time Women's Club Champion and participated for years as an Interclub Team member.

In 1980 she played in the WWGA's second Senior tournament at The Breakers in Florida. She would have participated in more Senior championships but opted to volunteer her time to the administrative side of tournaments instead.

Since becoming a Director, Peterson has been actively involved in all aspects of the organization. She has chaired the Amateur, Junior and Senior Championships; served as President in 1991-1992 and has chaired numerous committees including the Site Selection since 1992. She currently serves as Parliamentarian for the Association and has been actively involved with the Foundation. In 1988 she was instrumental and helped with the total revision of the WWGA Bylaws and continues, to this day, to be the "Bylaws Guru" for the Association.

Other recipients who have received the award on the professional level include: Louise Suggs, Nancy Lopez, Peggy Kirk Bell, Betty James, Wiffi Smith, Carol Mann, Kathy Whitworth and Mickey Wright. Amateur recipients: Carol Semple Thompson and WWGA Directors: June Beebe Atwood, Alice Dye, Judy Bell, Ann Upchurch and Co McArthur.