

THE WAVE

75th Anniversary Edition

Volume XXIII, Issue 1

www.wavelandga.com

March 2026

League Signup

- Registration must be submitted by Tuesday, March 31. Online signup only!

- See league schedule at www.wavelandga.com/schedule

- Tee Times will be online and hosted by the Waveland website.

- Be an active member of the WGA! Play the WGA tournament, sign up for match play and the skins games, make use of the many IGA benefits such as GHIN access and the course GPS phone app.

- Be there at 7:40 am on July 26 before our WGA tournament for a 75th anniversary group photo!

Spring Meeting April 7th

Sign Up Online via Emailed link !!!

Our spring meeting will start with social hour at 6PM on April 7th at the Waveland clubhouse. League sign-up continues to be done online. The email announcing that registration is open has the link allowing you to register and pay dues at a secured site using credit card or Paypal. Sign-ups are due by Tuesday, March 31, 2026, to secure your spot in the league. Our waiting list will be given the opportunity to signup after that date.

Team captains need to get with Cory Schultes, WGA Vice President, at the Spring meeting or contact Cory with an email to league.chairman@wavelandga.com to fill any open spots on team rosters.

The WGA board will be holding our regular raffle at the Spring meeting. Attendees will receive one free

raffle ticket, and additional tickets can be purchased at the meeting. Good Luck! *Note* - the board adds money to the raffle prize fund as another way to give back to the members.

Our president, Greg Bentley, will be running the meeting. The agenda includes introducing our WGA board, the 2026 Waveland staff, a review of rules changes for 2026, a presentation by the Iowa IGA and conducting raffle drawings. The meeting portion of the Tee Off will start promptly at 7:00pm. The league will again provide snacks, a keg of beer, and a special attendance gift to commemorate our 75th year!

From the League Chairman

Welcome back to the Waveland Golf Association for the 2026 season! This is a huge year for us — we're celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the WGA and the 125th year of Waveland Golf Course. It's pretty cool to be playing on the oldest muni west of the Mississippi during such a big milestone. Congrats to the 2025 League Champs, Sons of Pitches on their playoff victory last year!

I've been working on automating parts of the weekly scoring and payouts and hoping to have the

weekly results and prize money updated by Wednesday night each week.

- Score Deadlines: Get those scores into the Golf League app by 10:00 PM on Tuesday night.

- Booking: Tee times for the following week go live on the Waveland website every Tuesday at 7:00 AM.

- Subs: If you're a sub, send a picture of your scorecards (include the full names of the players) to league.chairman@wavelandga.com

or TEXT to the WGA line at (231) 942-4653.

- Match Play & Skins: Make sure to check the boxes for Match Play (we've got Scratch and Handicap brackets) and the Skins game when you sign up.

Let's have a great 75th season out at Mother Waveland. See you on the course!

Cheers,
Alex Rooney

WGA Club Championship

The only thing hotter than the scores for our 2025 Club Championship was the weather! We had another successful event with 124 participants, and the new shotgun format was well received. Joe Schafer was our Open Champion, carding a 71 on his first 18 and then holding off Brett Egge and Ryan Hala in the extra 9. The Senior Flight was another great one as Jerry Munn and Dave Carlson both shot 73's in their opening 18 and then Jerry Munn won the title in their extra 9. Other winners and their Net Scores were:

Bob Blaskovich - 67 – Handicap Champion
Jason Baum – 69 – 1st Flight Winner
Chris Osborn - 69 – 2nd Flight Winner
Zach Mingus – 68 – 3rd Flight Winner
Terry Blackburn – 69 – Senior Handicap Champion
Phil Larson – 71 – 1st Flight Sr. Champion
Ron Brooks – 70 – 2nd Flight Sr. Champion
Jim Wright – 71 – 3rd Flight Sr. Champion

The 2026 Club Tournament will be a shotgun start again at 8:00 AM on July 26th. Appetizers will be provided after the round as the clubhouse does live scoring results. We are working with the clubhouse on a way to pre-pay for your round to speed up the check-in process on the day of the event. We will provide more information on this process as we get closer to the event. The tournament will continue to be a pre-flighted tournament based on your league handicaps and you will still be able to pick your group to play with.

We will have the Top 8 scratch scores in the 1st Flight of Open and Senior Division play an additional 9 holes to determine our Scratch Champions for both Divisions. Their 27-hole score will determine the Top 3 Payouts for the Scratch Division. Participants that don't qualify for the additional 9 can stick around and watch the battle for our Club Champions.

Combo Tee Players – If you qualify for the 1st Flight, you will have the option to either play the Combo Tees for the Tournament and be eligible for the Net Division Prizes or you can declare for the White Tees (we will adjust your handicap) and be eligible for both Net and Scratch Prizes.

Other important reminders that are staying the same as last year:

- If you haven't established a 9 hole League Handicap, you will play as a Scratch
- All Flight Winners will be based off your Net Score
- Flights will be determined by the committee chairs according to the number of entrants and handicaps
- All Net ties will be determined by card count back.
- Participants will also be eligible for the weekly league's Hole-In-One payout.

Please direct any questions to committee members Merle Elbert and Joe Schafer.

****Results are posted on the WGA website.****

Sign Up for 2026 Match Play!

Mark the \$10 entry fee checkbox during League registration to enter our exciting match play competition. Our 2 divisions/brackets of match play has a SCRATCH division (no handicaps/strokes given) and a HANDICAP bracket. A league member may register for one or both brackets if they choose to do so. Entering both would mean an additional \$10 to participate.

The Match Play Committee pairs the first-round matches at random. Players are expected to promptly arrange their own match times. Matches do not have to be played on league night.

The Match Play Committee will be sending email updates to each competitor to help coordinate matches and keep the tournament on schedule.

First-round matches should be completed by the end of league week 3 (May 5th). Subsequent matches are expected to be played within two weeks of the prior match. If matches are not played in a reasonable time and throws the tournament off

schedule, the Match Play Committee will determine a fair course of action that may result in one or both competitors forfeiting.

For the HANDICAP division, your WGA handicap at the time the match is contested will be used. Players should address questions before play starts and come to an agreement on strokes given, on which holes, and how an extended match will be played. All entry fees into the match play payout in full to the top four finishers. Payout percentages would be 50% (winner), 25% (runner-up), 12.5% (3rd place finishers). Payouts may vary depending on the number of entrants.

Joe Finn was the 2025 Handicap division winner. Dylan Neuweg was the Scratch division winner.

Take a shot at the crystal trophy and sign up today!

The Skins Game

In an ongoing effort to simplify and speed up the check-in process on league nights, the Skins games will only be available on a prepaid, season-long basis. This entry method has worked well over the past few years and has allowed the WGA to offer larger carryover payouts. If you want to participate for the 18-week season, the online signup option will be your only opportunity to enter the Skins games. The cost is \$1 per week for both Gross and Net Skins, totaling \$36 for the season. This gives you a chance to have your name posted as a weekly winner on the website. Winnings are paid as clubhouse credit, which must be used by the end of the calendar year. Be sure to post your scores using the mobile app now used by the WGA, and track your winnings on the money list managed by the League Chairman and Website Manager.

Just like the lottery—you can't win if you don't play. It only takes one great hole to win. Go low!

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Let me begin by welcoming everyone to the 2026 Waveland Golf Association League.

2026 is a big year at Waveland:

- Waveland Golf Association League will be celebrating its 75th anniversary (1951).
- Waveland Golf Course will celebrate its 125th anniversary (1901)
- WGA 75th Anniversary Member Picture at 7:40 am, July 26 on the 10th tee before the WGA Club Championship tournament. Players and non-players are all welcome!

New to the WGA Website: we have a copy of the annual WGA newsletter for every year since 1979. (Note, missing 1981). Big thanks to our historian Joe Finn for having the sense to keep these, and thanks to Cory Schultes and Mike Rooney for getting them digitized and added to our web site. I encourage you to take a look at this archive, It is a very interesting look back in time and to see the changes over the last 45 years.

We also have a copy of the Waveland Golf Association's original Articles of Incorporation filed in Polk County on April 16, 1951. Interesting fact: up until 1986 or 1987 the Des Moines Parks Department actually paid the Waveland Golf Association to host and run the annual Men's City Tournament. The WGA literally took over the golf course during the weekend of the tournament. We were responsible for registrations, pairings, scoring, flighting, and prize payouts. We were also responsible for course setup, setting Tee and Pin locations for every round. During this time the WGA president was the acting Tournament Director as well as the rules official. This is the time that really started our history of providing marshals (spotters) for the Men's City Tournament, a tradition that continues today.

Here is some great news! The Iowa Golf Association has named Waveland to host their annual IGA Club Team Championship on Monday September 28, 2026. This tournament brings the best of the best from clubs throughout the state of Iowa. The WGA will need to play a big part in making this tournament a success and showing off this golf course we all love, so mark your calendars.

Finally, don't forget to consider the following when completing your league signup

- Signup for Match Play. Handicap and/or Scratch.
- Donation to our Waveland Project Fund
- Sign up for our WGA Club Tournament (save \$5)
- Signup to marshal Hole #12 at the Principal Charity Classic
- Signup to be a marshal at our WGA Club Tournament
- Signup to be a marshal at the IGA Club Team Championship hosted at Waveland
- Please visit our Tee-Marker Sponsors found on our website

And a personal note. It has been an honor serving as your President these past 2 years. That being said, this will also be my last year on the WGA Board of Directors. Having been involved in the WGA for the last 50 years it is time for me to step aside and make room for the next generation. I call on this new generation to continue to move the league forward while respecting traditions that have made this the best league in the country. Thank you and as my friend Jim Calvert likes to say: ***"May your best drive of the day be your drive home"***

Greg Bentley

Chip-in by Chuck

As one of the “old boys” in the WGA, 40 plus years, I would like to welcome all to the WGA’s 75th year anniversary (it is also Waveland’s 125th and The United States 250th).

If you’re new and don’t know any of us “old boys” we’re the ones in the clubhouse complaining about our knees and the pin placement on 9 in August. Over the years we have seen many changes and improvements to the course, from a sprinkler system, continuous cart path, course layout change, clubhouse remodel and others.

As for the league one most significant changes is how Cory Schultes (former league chairman) has brought our league to the computer age. Our new chairman (Alex Rooney) and Cory are continuing to try and make scoring and payouts more efficient.

C-Corp management and staff have done some great things with the course (wait for news on more) and continue to help with efficiency.

So for more news and info on upcoming events and changes please attend our “Spring Tee Off” meeting, always a fun time.

Again welcome to a great new season at the Wave. And if you’re in the clubhouse and hear some of us “old boys” telling golf stories of the past, you might listen up, they can be entertaining, informative and sometimes even true.

Thank you,
From one of the old boys

The WGA League and Waveland Staff

Our league is very fortunate to have the support of the Waveland Staff.

The Pro shop staff keeps us organized on league night.

The Clubhouse staff keeps us well fed and “hydrated”. Best pizzas around, Burgers, and snacks are favorites every Tuesday, but for four Tuesdays during the year they up the ante and provide special dinners. Be sure to watch for signups to participate in these special dinners which just adds to an already great Tuesday experience.

Take time to thank (and TIP) the Waveland Staff.

If for a very unlikely reason you have a problem with Waveland staff, please report it to a WGA Board member and we will assist with resolution.

The WGA does not tolerate rude, aggressive, or abusive behavior anytime.

The WGA League and Course Grounds Crew

The WGA is honored to be playing the “Oldest Municipal golf course west of the Mississippi river”. Waveland’s 124 year age provides unique challenges that other courses don’t have to deal with.

Waveland is very fortunate to have Aaron Sander and his grounds crew maintaining our golf course. Those of us that have been around for 30, 40,50 years can attest Waveland is in the best shape that it has ever been and we can thank Aaron and his staff for that.

The WGA can help the grounds crew by following a few simple rules:

- Replace your divots
- Repair ball marks on the green (not just yours)
- Be aware of where you drive your golf cart
- Obey the ropes. They are there for a reason
- Rake the sand traps
- Pick up trash
- Protect the Grounds Crew
- Don’t hit into them if they are mowing a green
- If they are mowing a fairway, let them finish the row they are on and then they will get out of the way
- Let them finish grooming the sand traps before hitting

If you get a chance, say “thanks” to grounds crew.



THE PRINCIPAL CHARITY CLASSIC

June 10th - June 14th

WAKONDA CLUB - DES MOINES



The Waveland Golf Association provides marshals on Hole #12 during the Principal Charity Classic, a premier local fund raising event on the Champions Tour. This year the event runs from June 10th through June 14th. Hole captains Joe Finn and Dave Spiering will continue to organize our volunteer effort for 2026. Volunteers are expected to work at least a minimum of two six-hour shifts.

An online registration is required. The volunteer info website is:

<https://www.principalcharityclassic.com/volunteer/>

Volunteer packages will be shipped directly to the volunteers. New Swannies uniforms will require black, gray, or khaki pants or shorts. The fee for this year's volunteer package is \$80.00. The Volunteer Package for 2024 includes the following:

- (1) Polo and (1) Hat or Visor (Valued at \$59)
- Volunteer/Marshall Badge = FREE admission (Valued at \$35/day)
- Designated Volunteer Parking & Shuttle service
- Meals, snacks, and beverages on Workdays (Valued at \$15/day)
- Volunteer Party (Valued ???, beer and food usually in limited supply)
- Two Gallery Good-Any-One-Day tickets for family and friends (Valued at \$70)

This package has an estimated value of between \$235 to \$410 and can be yours for just \$80 dollars. Additional uniform items and tickets may be purchased at time of registration. Jackets from previous years (current logo preferred) may be worn. The application states that because the Classic operates as a 501(c)3, your volunteer fee is tax deductible.

Volunteers park in a designated area at Wells Fargo Arena North lot. Shuttles will transport volunteers to the entrance. Approximate Shuttle hours are:

- Wednesday 5:15 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday 5:15 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Friday 6:15 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Saturday 6:15 a.m.-6:15 p.m.
- Sunday 6:15 a.m.-6:15 p.m.

You will need to recreate an account to volunteer. The process has you select 3 unique volunteer assignments. Choose Marshals Hole 12, Marshals, and Marshals Hole 11. The last two are irrelevant, but are required to complete the signup process.

Help the WGA continue to support golf in Iowa -- Volunteer Today !!!