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The “TWIG” Organization is synonymous with The Love of Golf, Friendship and “Sista Hood.” Ladies, what a wonderful year we have had! We have gained in many ways, not the least of which has been the addition of new members.

We have changed in many ways...one monumental way in which we have changed this year has been the establishment of the TWIG Foundation with 501(c)(3) status. This change will forever augment the legitimacy of the organization; it will change the perception from others of the organization and should spur more willingness to donate and participate with us; and the designation will forever reset the slope of our “Soar.” There were some concerns about change but in the words of Ralph Ellison, “IT TAKES A DEEP COMMITMENT TO CHANGE AND AN EVEN DEEPER COMMITMENT TO GROW.” We have accomplished the first part of our goal, now it is up to us to nurture the organization, believe in the organization and to foster its growth as we look forward with a sense of leaving both directions for the future and a Legacy to carry on. I offer thanks to Peketa Long and Renee Allain-Stockton for their diligence in this accomplishment.

We have seen a new level of participation and interest. This was signaled by the marked increase in Tuesday and Saturday League play, and new members such as our own new member, Linda Gorham, who wowed us with “A Motown Storytelling.” Wow, how awesome was that? Our Membership has been a major source of concern in the past. I can now say, with a great smile and a great sense of appreciation for the work that has been done by Carmella Hart and her Committee. Super Job Guys, you are appreciated. The job of recruiting belongs to all of us collectively, there is nothing to do now but to invite and re-invite more of us to participate, let’s “Just Do It!”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Again, this year's Golf Invitational Tournament was a huge success. We had great golf, we had great play, and we had great food. What a perfect trio for fun and enjoyment with other participants. Valerie will give her own report but I do want to remind us of what the Tournament is all about, our TWIG Kidz. Kudos to Valerie Willis and her Committee for a "job well done."

And the "Crown Jewel" of the year for us, What a Celebration! Twenty years and still counting. Our Theme "STILL SOARING AFTER TWENTY YEARS" was in every way, very appropriate to the occasion and our overall goals. And in the words of one who knows a bit about soaring, "YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU DECIDE TO DO. YOU CAN ACT TO CHANGE AND CONTROL YOUR LIFE, AND THE PROCEDURE, THE PROCESS IS ITS OWN REWARD," by Amelia Earhart. Let us continue to soar and blaze a trail for others to follow. We all owe a great debt of gratitude to Renee Allain-Stockton and her Planning Committee for such a great two days of "Fun Loving Fellowship and Sharing."

Ladies, as 2018 approaches, let us continue to SOAR, let our spirit persevere, hit the ball straight, hit the ball high and hit the ball often. And as another woman who knows a bit about soaring, "NEVER BE LIMITED BY OTHER PEOPLE'S LIMITED IMAGINATION," Mae Corol Jemison, the first black woman to fly into space with NASA, Space Shuttle Endeavour, 1992.

Shirley Ann Bridges Cook, President



Carmella Hart, Membership Chairperson

The 2017 Kick-Off Meeting of TWIG was held Saturday, March 18, 2017 at River Ridge Golf Club, 3224 Auburn Knightdale Road. The Kick-Off Meeting is the first quarterly meeting of the new year, and is a member benefit event that includes a lunch, business meeting, and golf outing. At this meeting members generally pay annual dues (currently \$100), but mainly we come together to kick-off the season of golfing and participation in scheduled events. This year's Kick-Off meeting was particularly special with good vibes felt by the large turnout of members who enjoyed welcoming each other back after the off-season. There was a better-than-expected showing of new members, plus special guests in attendance at River Ridge's ambient setting.

Introductions took place with a fun ice-breaker exercise before a luncheon buffet was enjoyed. President Shirley Cook led the meeting through its packed agenda of committee reports and special announcements for 2017.

Here are some of the key highlights:

- Welcomed eight new and one returning member joining TWIG
- A new Vice President was appointed to fill a vacancy
- Big-Shot Club rules were reviewed and clarified
- Proposed TWIG Foundation progress was discussed and voted upon
- The 2017 Program Calendar of events was presented
- A TWIG KIDZ program graduate was recognized and sponsored as a TWIG member

Finally, we awarded trivia prizes to three ladies with quick answers to tricky golf questions. There was such good camaraderie that by the end of the Kick-Off, we hardly noticed that the steady rainfall had made it unreasonable to keep our 1 pm tee time -- although I heard that a few anxious TWIGs still gave it a shot!



LEAGUE PLAY & 2018 SPRING TRIP & CHIX W STIX

Barbara Webb, Program Chairperson

The league started the 2017 golf season with a Kickoff Meeting on March 25th at the River Ridge Golf Club. New members were welcomed, good food was shared, and the season was on its way! The league's 2017 league play dates were scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. The league's first Tuesday play date was April 4th at Wildwood Green Golf Club. It was the most participated play date of the season!

Seventeen members showed up ready to swing clubs! From then on, the golf bug began to spread throughout the league. The league met at Wildwood Green from April until June. It was the league's most popular course to play, however all good things must come to an end. The league transitioned to Falls Village in June for the remainder of the season. Other courses played included rounds at RGA, Hedingham, The Crossings, Wendell Country Club and Zebulon Country Club. Throughout the season, members enjoyed meeting up to play a competitive round of golf or to de-stress during a casual nine-hole evening or just to work on their short game. The season rendered many opportunities for members to get their game on.



Deb Sanders almost made a hole-in-one during Saturday league play in August! She was clearly preparing for the Hole-in-One Contest sponsored by Richardson Private Wealth Advisors at the 2017 TWIG Invitational Golf Tournament.

The Program Planning Committee has selected the Grandover Resort Golf & Spa in Greensboro, NC for the 2018 TWIG Spring Trip. The property is home to an Old World European Setting. A few of the amenities include guest rooms with marble foyers, marble bathrooms, endless menus with great food, bars to get your spirits on, spa services that meets your every need, and an awesome gym to help firm your core!

Along with the spring trip, we will be hosting the 2018 Chix with Stix Tournament. Having both events combined on the same weekend will foster participation, save money and allow for an extended relaxing stay. The proposed dates are April 26th, 27th and 28th. The package includes three rounds of golf collectively on the Grandover East and West Courses. The proposed arrival is the afternoon of Thursday, April 26th with a round of golf and a welcome gathering for the evening. Friday will host a TWIG Tournament and Saturday will host the 2018 Chix with Stix Tournament. Departure will be Saturday evening after the Chix with Stix Tournament has concluded. Details will be in your inbox soon! **SAVE THE DATES** of April 26th thru 28th.

TRIANGLE WOMEN IN GOLF FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED

Peketa Long, TWIG Foundation Committee Chairperson

As part of our growth and after twenty years in the community, TWIG voted to organize a separate nonprofit organization to raise funds for our TWIG Kidz program. The Triangle Women in Golf Foundation, Incorporated was established through the Office of the NC Secretary of State and received its tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status effective August 2017. One of the primary benefits of being tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) is the ability to accept contributions that are tax deductible to the donor.

Many individuals contributed to this effort including the Executive Board of TWIG and the TWIG Foundation Committee (Peketa Long, Renee Allain-Stockton, Rose Foster, Valerie Willis, Rhumel Anderson, Carlos Lewis and Carlene Morgan). We were also assisted by The NC Center for Nonprofits, Attorney Rob Bergdolt, and Angie Banask, CPA. Pro-bono assistance from the NC Center for Nonprofits was vital in our assurance that we were established appropriately.



Per our newly adopted Foundation bylaws, all members of TWIG are also members of the Foundation. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of TWIG are stipulated in the Foundation bylaws as the same respective officers of the TWIG Foundation and members of the Board of Trustees. In addition, we will seek to add members from the community to the Board of Trustees who are interested in the Foundation's mission to inspire and empower women and girls of all ages by introducing them to the game of golf.

By attaining this status, TWIG will be able to engage in enhanced fundraising efforts to support activities related to our TWIG Kids program. Information on changes to our operations will be provided as we embark on our 2018 calendar year in TWIG. We will provide a detailed look at the bylaws and responsibilities of maintaining compliance.

Thank you to all that made this endeavor possible and we look forward to successful growth and a positive impact on TWIG and TWIG Kidz.

TWIG KIDZ HIGHLIGHTS

Valerie Willis, TWIG Kidz Chairperson

The year 2017 for TWIG Kidz was very exciting and eventful with our talented young ladies all eager to take on the challenge of learning golf, staying focused with academics and competing in golf tournaments. Where to start in sharing all the wonderful accomplishments each and every young lady from ages 8 to 17 completed with tenacity and enthusiasm.

Our golf season was kicked off with thirteen young ladies ready to swing into action during our meeting at Hillandale Golf Course with Fran James, LPGA and Golf Instruction Director in March, 2017. Coach Fran shared the importance of practice, practice, practice by giving each TWIG Kid a key, which symbolized their 2017 entrance to success as junior golfers having access to the golf driving range and golf course.



This year the TWIG Kidz were invited to return to Dona Lerner's Golf Academy, (DLGA), at Brier Creek Country Golf Course, in Raleigh, NC. Dona Lerner introduced us to their new coach, Nick Zurowski, who welcomed and taught each TWIG Kid with encouragement and strong leadership.

Dona Lerner was named as the LPGA Teaching & Club Professionals National Junior Leader for 2017. Our TWIG Kidz have been taking lessons at the Dona Lerner Golf Academy for the past few years. She was the 2014, 2016 & 2017 LPGA Southeast section recipient of this award. Now Dona is the National recipient.

2017 was truly exciting for the TWIG Kidz, because outside of the three blocks of golf sessions at DLGA from March to August, the young ladies were competing in golf tournaments, meeting and working out with personal trainer, Wade Harris at Raleigh Personal Training and receiving various recognitions throughout the golf community. Four TWIG Kidz played in the Doug Boyd Foundation Tournament along with TWIG members and walked away with winning prizes. Two TWIG Kidz also played in our 20th Anniversary Member Guest Tournament and walked away with prizes on the 1st and 2nd place winning teams!

TWIG KIDZ HIGHLIGHTS



A special recognition goes to former committed TWIG Kidz member from age 8 to 17, Nyilah Anderson. She was very devoted as a TWIG Kidz member and also as a mentor to the 2017 TWIG Kidz. Nyilah will truly be missed by the TWIG Kidz and TWIG members for her selfless devotion to the game of golf and mentoring. Nyilah graduated from high school this past spring and is attending North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. She received a gift from TWIG ladies and an academic scholarship from the Christy Foundation, Inc. 501(c)(3) established by Valerie Willis, TWIG Kidz Chairperson.

At the TWIG Kidz closing ceremony, Genesis received her award for being recognized as “Independent.” Although she did not participate with the DLGA program, Genesis was a full participant in the TWIG Kidz program, traveling from North Carolina to Sydney, Australia to compete at the US Kids Golf, Australian Open on January 19-20th.

Also at the TWIG Kidz closing ceremony, each TWIG Kid received a personalized award describing their individual attributes based on comments from their DLGA instructors: Anyilah (Genuine), Channell (Courageous), Gabrielle (Dedicated), Genesis (Independent), Hanna (Committed), Jessica (Focused), Kaia (Selfless), Lydia (Proficient), Tyla (Tenacious), Tyler (Driven) and Zariel (Confident)!



2017 TWIG INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Renee Allain-Stockton, TWIG Invitational Planning Committee

The weather was perfect for the 76 golfers who arrived bright and early at The Crossings Golf Course in Durham on Saturday, September 16th to compete in the 14th Annual TWIG Invitational Tournament to benefit our TWIG Kidz program. The golfers were greeted in the parking lot by Boy Scouts from Troop 411 who volunteered to provide a “golf bag valet” service to transport golf bags to the players’ assigned carts. The vast majority of golfers pre-registered for the tournament, so the registration process ran fairly smoothly, with most players purchasing the maximum of four mulligans to remain competitive with the field.

Lots of raffle tickets were also purchased in anticipation of having a chance to win one of over 30 great raffle prizes that were donated by various sponsors with a total value in excess of \$2,500. Registration bags filled with healthy snacks were donated once again by G. Alan, Inc.

After completing the registration process, the golfers enjoyed croissant breakfast sandwiches, continental breakfast, orange juice and coffee provided by four of our sponsors (William’s Gourmet Kitchen, Ar-Razzaz Islamic Center, Chick-fil-A, and Starbucks).

There were 11 two-person women’s teams and 27 two-person men’s or mixed teams registered to play, including four of our TWIG Kidz: Nyalah Anderson, Tyla McAffity, Gabrielle Pace and Tyler Spriggs. Based on the feedback provided from our Survey Monkey, we are considering adding a separate mixed team flight to our tournament next year.

Golfers were set to head off to their respective holes shortly after 9:00 am for a shot-gun start after hearing the Rules of Play for the tournament. All the TWIG Kidz playing in the tournament were introduced by our TWIG Kidz Chairperson, Valerie Willis. Players were greeted this year on both the white and red tee boxes by a record number of 36-hole sponsor signs!

We introduced two new hole contests this year. The \$10,000 Hole-in-One Contest was sponsored by Richardson Private Wealth Advisors and the Pot of Gold Contest was sponsored by the Dona Lerner Golf Academy where our TWIG Kidz take their lessons. Although no one made a hole-in-one on the designated contest hole, two players landed within the Pot of Gold circle and split half of the entry fees collected with the remaining proceeds benefiting our TWIG Kidz program.

Pepsi-Cola (Garner) donated Gatorade, soft drinks and water once again this year which was provided to golfers by our TWIG member volunteers who were driving beverage carts around during the tournament.

The pace of play was good for a tournament with a full field of players with everyone completing their round in approximately five hours. All golfers and volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Doug Boyd Foundation with fried fish, barbeque and grilled chicken with banana pudding for dessert while the raffle prizes donated by our sponsors were presented.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each flight were presented with their crystal engraved trophies along with the male and female winners of the longest drive contest and the closest to the pin contest. The Crossings Golf Course also provided a free round of golf to all the first-place winners in each flight.

We raised over \$7,500 to benefit our TWIG Kidz program and next year promises to be even better with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for our TWIG Foundation. Many thanks to our dedicated TWIG Invitational Planning Committee members led by the project management skills of our chairperson, Valerie Willis, including Renee Allain-Stockton, Garnett Campbell, Erica Colleton, Perrienne Davis, Rose Foster, Loretta Hicks, Irie Jenkins, Esther Morse, Janine Rouson and Joselyn Williams. We have already started planning for the 2018 TWIG Invitational Tournament by holding a wrap-up meeting to discuss the results from Survey Monkey.

Congratulations to all the following winners at our 2017 TWIG Invitational Tournament!

Men's/Mixed 1st Flight Winners

- 1st – Carl Davis & Cornelius Staton
- 2nd – Gregory Hardy & Preston Jones
- 3rd – George Ray & Julia Ray

Women's 1st Flight Winners

- 1st – Rivia Brown & Christy McCauley
- 2nd – Caroline Austin & Lisa Morgan
- 3rd – Erica Colleton & Minnie Jones

Men's/Mixed 2nd Flight Winners

- 1st – James Howard & Arliss Newman
- 2nd – Andrea Hardy & Queron Smith
- 3rd – Sylvester Fleming & Greg Wimberley

Women's 2nd Flight Winners

- 1st – Barbara Leis-Young & Kathy Murray
- 2nd – Marlene Schneider & Barbie Shepherd
- 3rd – Peketa Long & Joselyn Williams

Men's Longest Drive

Cecil Lockley

Women's Longest Drive

Lisa Morgan

Men's Closest to the Pin

David Morris

Women's Closest to the Pin

Shirley Cook



TWIG JOINS CAROLINAS GOLF ASSOCIATION

Loretta Hicks, Handicap Chairperson

In 2018, the USGA will make changes to the Handicap System to promote consistency across clubs in following guidelines and to enable a worldwide Handicap System. Those changes will cause TWIG's USGA Type 3 club license to expire on December 31, 2017. TWIG has held a Type 3 club authorization to issue Handicap Indexes to our members since 2012. To prepare for the 2018 changes, TWIG had to determine which of four options to pursue.

At the TWIG business meeting held on October 28th, the membership voted to apply for club membership with Carolinas Golf Association (CGA). The application was submitted on November 20 and has been approved.



The annual fee for CGA club membership is \$50 (paid by TWIG). CGA clubs use the USGA GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network) to record scores and calculate Handicap Indexes. The annual cost for individual members to access GHIN will be \$16 per year per member. That annual fee will be need to be paid individually by the TWIG member in order to maintain her USGA handicap. Currently, TWIG members who also belong to Type 1 clubs (such as Hasentree, Prestonwood, Wakefield and Wildwood) will continue to use GHIN through their club memberships.

On December 14th, the GHIN staff for the CGA sent the TWIG access information and other details for using the system. For each TWIG member who has score cards entered in GolfSoftware.com, I will export those scores to a Microsoft Excel file so that they can be used in GHIN for 2018. I expect to complete the exports before December 31 and will send each person a copy of the exported file. In January 2018, I'll send details on paying the \$16 fee for accessing GHIN and how to import the scores from GolfSoftware.com into GHIN. If you have questions about the upcoming changes, do not hesitate to contact me.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

Renee Allain-Stockton, 20th Anniversary Planning Committee Chairperson

TWIG celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a fun-filled series of events planned over the weekend of October 28-29th, 2017. The organization was originally founded August 10, 1997 as Ladies in Golf to promote golf among African-American women and youth in the Triangle area. Our name was subsequently changed to Triangle Women in Golf (TWIG) in October 1997 and the year ended with the restructuring of the organization under the leadership of our first president, Jackie Lewis.

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend started by revamping our Member-Member Tournament into a Member-Guest Tournament hosted at the Heritage Golf Club in Wake Forest on Saturday, October 28th. One of our former TWIG presidents, Linda Taylor, was instrumental in securing this venue for us. We hosted our third quarterly meeting prior to the tournament, with a light lunch prior to our tee times. We invited former TWIG members and our advanced TWIG Kidz to play in the tournament and of course, with a four-person, best ball format, the two foursomes which included the two TWIG Kidz placed first and second!



Our Membership Chairperson, Carmella Hart, coordinated purchasing engraved trophies for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winning teams along with certificates and engraved medallions commemorating the tournament for all participants. The winners of the longest drive contest, Tyler Spriggs (a member of TWIG Kidz) and closest to the pin contest, Linda Taylor, also received golf related prizes.

The weather was perfect for the tournament with temperatures in the low 70s and partly cloudy skies prior to the rain showers that started the next morning. However, nothing could put a damper on the excitement building for our Sunday Brunch celebration on Sunday, October 29th held at Prestonwood Country Club.

For our Sunday Brunch, we invited our TWIG charter members and former TWIG presidents as our guests and many of them accepted our invitation to attend including charter members Ursula DeLaine, Loretta Hicks, Jackie Lewis, Carolyn Stroud and Winnona Swayze. Former TWIG presidents who attended the Sunday Brunch included Jackie Lewis, Linda Taylor, Carolyn Stroud, Tina Berryman, Myra Smith, Cathleen Pete-Peay, Winnona Swayze, Tammy Scott along with our current president, Shirley Cook.



Ladies enjoyed sipping mimosas while mingling prior to a welcome by our vice president, Renee Allain-Stockton, a blessing by former president, Myra Smith, and group photos taken on the veranda by TWIG Kidz parent, Perditta Spriggs. We then enjoyed a delicious brunch while rekindling friendships with old and new TWIG members. Our program opened with the Motown inspired story of “Little Red” by one of our new TWIG members, Linda Gorham, who brought down the house! It continued with a walk down memory lane as we recognized each of our charter members and former presidents with TWIG logo caps and asked them to share their fondest memories of TWIG with us. Our current president, Shirley Cook, closed the program with remarks around our theme of “Still Soaring after Twenty Years.”

Many thanks to the members of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee which included Renee Allain-Stockton, Erica Colleton, Shirley Cook, Carolyn Daye, Carmella Hart, Loretta Hicks, Lavetta McClorin, Julia Ray, Tammy Scott and Joselyn Williams (who coordinated the design and purchase of the 20th Anniversary Logo golf bag tags that were given as gifts to all the attendees at the Sunday Brunch).



CHRISTMAS PARTY



Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way! Oh what fun, it is to ride (and party) with your TWIG sisters! We hosted our fourth quarterly meeting and holiday party at my home to close out our 2017 golf season. We had a fun time mixing business and pleasure as we each introduced ourselves to new member, Kimberly Martin Rehberg, enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Little did I know when I resigned as Historian to accept the role as Vice President earlier this year that it was also my “duty to assist in coordination of all social events” according to the by-laws. Needless to say, I thrive on challenges and enjoyed hosting the 20th Anniversary Planning Committee; the TWIG Invitational wrap-up meeting; the TWIG Kidz Closing Ceremony and the Christmas Party at our home. I think everyone has my address saved in their GPS by now!

I love being a part of such a dynamic, well organized, fun loving group of women that I am proud to call my “golf sisters!”

Renee Allain-Stockton, Vice President

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to all the ladies who took the time to write articles for our TWIG Annual Newsletter during the busy holiday season. 🎄

As I was drafting this newsletter and including all the different events over the past year, I was so impressed and filled with pride at both the quantity and quality of the events that we organized and executed, especially our 20th Anniversary Celebration which was such a milestone in our organization’s history along with the establishment of our TWIG Foundation in the same year.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and look forward to seeing you next year on the links! 🏌️

Renee Allain-Stockton

THROWBACK THURSDAY PHOTO

Many thanks for our former president, Linda Taylor, for locating and sharing this #TBT photo of Triangle Women in Golf from our first ever spring golf trip to Fripp Island, South Carolina in March 1998.

How many of these ladies do you recognize?



Carolyn Stroud (third person sitting, first row); Erica Colleton (first person kneeling, second row); Loretta Hicks (third person kneeling, second row); Evelyn Holton (sixth person kneeling, second row); Jackie Lewis (tenth person kneeling, second row); Prenessa Lowery (eighth person standing, third row); Linda Taylor (sixth person from right standing, third row).