

HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL NEBRASKA SENIOR GOLF ASSOCIATION:

G.G. “Jerry” Treadway was a charter board member of the Nebraska Senior Golf Association which was formed in 1965 at Fremont. Jerry later served as president of the NSGA in 1982. During that time Jerry encouraged the NSGA to hold tournaments farther west in Nebraska with little success. Serious discussions on starting our organization began during the summer of 1984. On August 13, 1984, a group of senior golfers met at the Kearney Country Club, electing Jerry Treadway as acting President, Ted Richardson as acting Sec-Treas; and Dale Brownfield, Dean Candea, Wally Hopp, Al “Pug” Horn, and Lyle Teel as directors. Treadway & Richardson then sent a recruiting letter to interested senior golfers, suggesting an initial tournament that fall and 1-2 events per month the following year. Interested golfers were to send \$5 membership dues with the first one hundred to be considered “charter members” with a hope to get about eighty signed up. A follow up letter stated, “we have 181 paid members biting at the bit and ready to go”, so this group were considered as the “charter members”. Unfortunately, in 2018 we lost our last remaining Charter Members.

The first tournament was held at Kearney Country Club October 2, 1984, with an entry fee of \$25.00. I could not find a list of tournaments for 1985, but charter members believe they had 6-8 one-day tournaments. There was also a 3-day tournament at Kearney CC on September 17-18-19, 1985. The 1986 schedule shows eight one-day tournaments (Heritage Hills CC, McCook; Minden CC; Valley View CC, Central City; Deer Park, Valentine; Southern Hills, Hastings; Ogallala CC; Cozad CC; and Holdrege CC; plus, a 2 day “state” tournament at Kearney CC). Our current tournament schedule has grown to over thirty-five events in recent years.

Our group originated as the Western Nebraska State Senior Golf Association in 1984. However, it was soon learned that a Panhandle or Western NE Senior Golf Association was being organized at about the same time, so in 1985 the name was officially changed to the present Central Nebraska Senior Golf Association.

In just over 2 years, the organization had grown to 458 members. When Treadway and Richardson resigned due to health reasons, Norris Rusmisell took over as president on August 25, 1986, with a treasury balance of \$3,075.98. Membership appears to have peaked at 553 in 1994, but suffered serious declines in the later 1990's. With the peaks and valleys came some financial shortfalls. Past Treasurer Stretch Welsh often related a story of calling other board members for donations as he did not have enough money for stamps to send out the next year's due's billings. Fortunately, we have rebuilt our membership numbers and finances. CNSGA now maintains a minimum reserve of \$8,000 in savings accounts to allow continued operations in case of an emergency.

At the board meeting April 27, 1987, the annual two-day “state” tournament was officially renamed the “Jerry Treadway Memorial Tournament” and has continued as an annual individual event. Following the sudden death of Jerry's son and then President Don Treadway, a special board meeting held on April 22, 2010, renamed it the "Treadway Memorial Tournament" to honor both Jerry and Don Treadway's many contributions. Over the years, several annual tournaments were locally named to honor other lost members. So, in 2015, the Board voted to rename the event as the "Memorial Tournament" to honor all deceased members who have contributed to the organization.

The **Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame** has recognized several members.

Wally Hopp, inducted in 1994, was a Charter Member and Charter Board Member of CNSGA. A Hastings native, he was a dominant sand greens golfer in the days when grass greens were only found in large metro areas. Wally was the state sand greens champion in 1945, 1952, 1953, and 1956.

Dean Candea, inducted in 1997, was also a Charter Member and Charter Board Member of CNSGA. The North Platte native also was a well-known sand greens player, winning the state sand greens championship in 1949, 1950, and 1951.

Jerry Treadway was inducted in 2007. Jerry was the driving force behind the creation of the Central Nebraska Senior Golf Association and was elected as the first president in 1984. Under Jerry's leadership the CNSGA became the largest senior golf organization in Nebraska.

FA “Andy” Anderson was inducted in 2021. Andy took over as Executive Director of CNSGA in August 2005. Under his watch CNSGA expanded from approximately 400 members to well over 500, and tournaments increased from about 22-24 to 34-36 per year. Andy also created the CNSGA website, initiated email communication with players and other golf organizations, and assisted in the formation of the Northeast Nebraska Senior Golf Association.

Full bios of the above are on the CNSGA website under the Home page tab and are also on the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame website.