

**History:** In August 2005, FA “Andy” Anderson succeeded **Bobbie Moss**, who had run the Central Nebraska Senior Golf Association for several years. At that time, CNSGA was a thriving organization with over 400 members and 20-24 tournaments in Central Nebraska each year. Following are some of the changes which have occurred during Anderson’s 16+ years as Executive Director of CNSGA

**Growth:** Membership increased steadily and has leveled off at about 525-550+ members in recent years. The number of tournaments has increased to 33-36 each year. In the short 21–23 week Nebraska golf season that means two tournaments a week most of the summer. The CNSGA area runs from Ogallala on the West, to York on the East, and from Valentine on the North border, to McCook, Cambridge, Alma and Franklin along the southern border. Anderson works hard to keep events, separated geographically and by event format.

**Business Organization:** Anderson has developed multiple files with duties, timelines, meeting agendas, tournament policies, financial records, arrangement of events, etc., to help successors smoothly assume leadership of the organization. Anderson annually copies all CNSGA files to zip drives. These back-up copies are then retained by 2-3 board members to assure continued success of CNSGA.

**Non-Profit status:** Soon after assuming duties, Anderson began annual filing of IRS form 990N, to protect our non-profit status. CNSGA already had a Federal ID number, as that was required to open bank accounts. Anderson also began annual filings of Form 1099’s for anyone receiving compensation over \$600 to comply with IRS rules.

**Board of Directors:** The board of directors were initially appointed by the President, without terms, and just confirmed by voice vote at a membership meeting. At Anderson’s first board meeting, there were 16+ board members, which was unwieldy and offered little opportunity for individuals to voice opinions. At that meeting only a handful offered suggestions, most just said “continue as before”, or “whatever you think is fine”. There were very few new ideas, or suggestions. It took several years but Anderson encouraged reducing the size of the board by not replacing retiring members. He also lobbied for open elections and encouraging nominations from the membership. Finally, in about 2010 the board was officially reduced to 12 members, each with 3-year terms. This has resulted in a more streamlined board, with new candidates being elected, and with more input and new ideas. Anderson notes that he believes the transition from a “good ole boys club” to an active business-like board is the hallmark of his service to CNSGA.

**By-Laws:** In August 2016, at the annual membership meeting a set of By-Laws were approved. Anderson served as co-chairman with **Don Sackett** on the committee creating the by-laws. These by-laws outline the objectives of CNSGA, define the Board of Director and officer duties, and set other policies. The By-Laws were amended at the annual meeting in August 2018 and remain in effect.

**Communication:** Early on Anderson began regular email updates to board with internet access. In about his 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Anderson began collecting email addresses from members. Soon thereafter, he began sending periodic updates to members on upcoming tournaments, changes in CNSGA policies, and other related information. Email limits by personal email providers, became an increasing problem and he was often blocked for 24-48 hour periods. The problem persisted even when sending from multiple email addresses. In early 2019 CNSGA subscribed to a commercial email provider, which solved the problem. Anderson’s email roster is now approaching 700 and includes CNSGA members, past members, other golf groups / associations, host clubs, and other supporters of golf. The CNSGA email updates typically have a 50-65% open rate, which is extremely high by all industry standards.

**Web site:** In about 2012 Anderson enlisted the help of a friend, **Larry Ossenkop**, to create a web site using a free Google program. That initial web site allowed members to

download membership applications, tournament schedules, entry forms, tournament results and other information. With members downloading and printing forms, the need to mail printed tournament booklets was reduced significantly, we now print and mail booklets to only about 100-125 out of our over 525 paid members. At a cost of about \$2.50-\$3 each to print and mail the savings is significant. In 2021 the free website began requiring users to have Google accounts or gmail.com email addresses, which limited access by many members. Anderson worked with Constant Contact to create a new site. CC created the first 5 pages; Anderson then spent many hours increasing the site to over 30 pages and with links to other golf organizations.

**NENSGA:** Anderson was contacted by **Gary Bellingtier** about adding tournaments at several courses farther North and East. Anderson countered that CNSGA was already spread thin and suggested that they form their own golf association. After many phone calls, emails, and a couple personal visits, the Northeast Nebraska Senior Golf Association (NENWGA) emerged in 2010. Anderson willingly shared forms, formats, policies, and suggestions to the new group. NENSGA is now in their second decade and continues to grow in membership and events.

**Member Benefits:** Anderson and fellow board member **Allan McClure** had both played in events hosted by the Nebraska Senior Golf Association (NSGA). At that time the NSGA drew for sleeves of golf balls at each tournament. The drawings were as a thank you to members and an extra incentive to attend events. The idea was adopted by CNSGA. Drawings for golf balls, and sometimes for hats, towels, ball markers, divot tools, etc. is now a part of each event. Anderson believes that giving back to the membership has increased growth and tournament attendance.

**Finances:** As with many organizations income and expenses were unpredictable in the early years. Past Treasurer **Roland "Stretch" Welch** often related a story have having to call other board members for donations to send the next years dues billings. With good financial accounting and planning, CNSGA is now on very solid grounds. In about 2008 the board did pass a resolution to keep approximately ½ years operating funds in a separate reserve account to assure continued operations in the event of a major unplanned crisis.

**Scholarships:** The CNSGA Scholarship Accords originally awarded two \$1,000 scholarships (1 male & 1 female), as was formatted by then CNSGA President **Don Treadway**. Past scholarship chairman **Gary Mason** promoted the idea of soliciting voluntary donations from members. Current scholarship chairman **Don Sackett** has increased publicity of the program with news releases, introducing winners at CNSGA tournaments, and numerous contacts with area schools. Because of these efforts CNSGA now awards 4-5 scholarships annually, each worth \$1,000. The program originally was funded by membership dues and host club fees but is now fully self-supporting with donations from members and other supporters.