



## Mary Jane Barnes

### Association Leader and Fine Amateur Golfer

**Mary Jane Barnes** was the first woman to serve as president of the Kansas City Golf Association (2001 - 2003) and her tenure marked a significant turning point for the organization. Under her leadership, the association hired its first full-time Executive Director to oversee the affairs of the KCGA, expanded tournament opportunities for local players and increased services to member clubs.

Her marriage to Bryant Barnes, an accomplished player who qualified for three different USGA Championships (1978 Amateur, 1990 Senior Open and 1997 Senior Amateur), brought her to the game of golf, but she credits long-time Kansas City Country Club Head Professional Stan Thirsk (2013 Hall of Fame inductee) for helping her develop and refine her game.

Ms. Barnes proved to be a good student. She was crowned Women's Club Champion at Kansas City Country Club an unprecedented *18 times* between 1975 and 2003. In 1980 she and Bryant both won their respective club championships at KCCC. She qualified for the 1989 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur (Amelia Island, FL) and made match play at the Women's Senior Amateur in 2000 (Sea Island, GA).

While serving as Treasurer of the United States Golf Association, KCCC member Bob Willits encouraged Ms. Barnes to join the newly-formed Women's Mid-Amateur Committee, a position she held from 1989 until 2014. Her 25 years of volunteer work on that committee was recognized when she received the USGA's prestigious Ike Granger Award.



In addition to her service to the KCGA as President and Board member, she presided over the Country Club District Women's Golf Association in 1983 and has served on innumerable Boards and Committees of civic and social organizations throughout the Kansas City area.