

Wisconsin PGA Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 29, 2018

Embassy Suites, Brookfield, Wisc.

Meeting called to order at 12:05P.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 2018 Membership Meeting minutes.

A moment of silence was recognized for George Schiro, PGA who passed away on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

Guests:

Joe Loehnis – Executive Director, The First Tee of South Central Wisconsin

Mr. Loehnis provided an update on The First Tee and specifically their chapter.

Danny Rainbow – Director of Golf at SentryWorld

Mr. Rainbow highlighted the upcoming US Junior Girl championship and explained the various volunteer roles that need to be filled.

Report of Tony Pancake, PGA - District 6 Director

Mr. Pancake updated the membership on the staff at the PGA of America. He assured the board that all issues at the board level are discussed with the PGA member in mind. Tony informed the membership on the process to hire Seth Waugh and the resignation of Pete Bevacqua. An update on the potential move to Frisco, Texas was provided. He mentioned that the new facility would be transformational. It would include two championship courses and a five-star hotel, not owned by the PGA. The PGA would manage the golf properties. Education would move to Frisco. Mr. Pancake gave an overview of the governance task force and the proposed changes. The three paths of education: Teaching/Coaching, Executive Management and Golf Ops were introduced. He provided an update on lifelong learning. CBS has signed an updated contract with the PGA. Tony concluded by mentioning the continued growth of PGA Junior League.

Mike Warren, President of Wisconsin Golf Salesperson's Association

Mr. Warren welcomed everyone and thanked them for their support of the sales representatives. He asked everyone to visit the rooms in the hotel. He also encouraged everyone to stay for the party that evening hosted by the sales association with the theme of bringing back the fun. Mike commented on the great \$69 room rate provided through the association.

Report of Terry Russell, PGA – Incoming District 6 Director

Mr. Russell thanked Tony Pancake for his time as a director. He shared his background in the Illinois PGA and that he will assume duties at the PGA Annual meeting in two weeks.

Report of Mike O'Reilly, PGA – WPGA Secretary

Mr. O'Reilly introduced the new members, quarter century members and newly certified members.

Report of Jeff Ellingson, PGA – WPGA Vice President

Mr. Ellingson provided an overview of the end of September financials. He stated that events were primarily in line with budget. Mr. Ellingson then shared a story about the 2017 PGA Annual meeting about the 2017 PGA Hall of Fame inductee George Schneiter and a picture with George Vitense that hangs in Vitense Golfland.

Report of Joel Weitz, PGA – WPGA President

Mr. Weitz gave an update on the race for Secretary of the PGA of America. He provided some background and reasoning behind the WPGA supporting John Lindert. He then discussed a letter the officers sent to the PGA regarding the lack of web presence for player development. Mark Kannenberg has taken over as President of the WSGA and

joined our board meeting this morning. Joel then provided an update of the board terms and mentioned the process for election for district directors.

Report of Joe Stadler, PGA – Executive Director

Mr. Stadler presented a video on the PGA merchandise show. He provided an update on PGA HOPE. He also mentioned that a new WPGA website is being created with web.com. Mr. Stadler concluded by thanking everyone for their support of The First Tee of Southeast Wisconsin.

Report of the Committees:

WPGA Junior Foundation – Ed Elsner, PGA – President

Mr. Elsner gave an overview of the Foundation's financials through September. The overall picture is in line with budget. Mr. Elsner then mentioned Wisconsin Junior Golf Week and the fundraising efforts. He thanked everyone that supported the foundation. He mentioned that he is donating his four \$75 host professional checks. Mr. Elsner thanked many of the sponsors of the foundation. He mentioned the scholarship program increasing to \$30,000 this year. Ed thanked Marty Swab for his efforts to raise funds totally over \$7,000. Memberships were up almost 200 with the addition of the 11 and under membership and provided free or discounted membership to kids in junior league. The players of the year were Piercen Hunt and Rachel Kauflin. Mr. Elsner asked everyone to consider hosting if they have not done so in a while and thanked those that have hosted.

Tournament Policy Board: Mark Voeller, PGA

Mr. Voeller thanked all the host sites and sponsors. He thanked everyone that participated in an event. He mentioned the new rules of golf coming in 2019. Mark thanked Chris Hoel for all his efforts during the year. The Vegas pro-am was mentioned and the fast start to deposits.

Education: Jeremiah Hoffman, PGA

Mr. Hoffmann mentioned we are at the beginning of the MSR cycle. He mentioned the seminar tomorrow, the GCOW meeting, November player development workshops and spring rules workshops.

Membership: Mike O'Reilly, PGA

Mr. O'Reilly mentioned that pga.org is being overhauled to better serve the membership needs. He then mentioned the newsletter with a 50%+ open rate. He also discussed the new member assistance program. We will be determining whether to discontinue our paid relationship with Jon Christensen, our long-time member assistance program leader.

Employment: Brian Bishop, PGA

Mr. Bishop thanked Jason Boaz for all his efforts throughout the year. He highlighted the upcoming seminars at Vitense and SentryWorld that Jason has set up and encouraged people to attend. Mr. Boaz gave an update on Wisconsin and national employment initiatives. He mentioned the goal of the consultants is to be face to face when possible but will also be utilizing Ring Central for meetings remotely. Updates are taking place to the employment section of the website.

Player Development: Jeff Ellingson, PGA

Erika Pirkel provided the report. She began with a recap of DCP and the regional finals at Whistling Straits. She mentioned that our new website should be more consumer friendly. Winter education workshops were then presented, and anyone interested in helping should contact Erika or Jeff Ellingson. She then thanked Jeremy Lupinek for the support of Ping.

WAGPA: Danny Rainbow, PGA

Mr. Rainbow informed the membership that all four play dates that were set up had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. He asked that everyone take an active role in the development in their own career or their employees career. He mentioned the PAT's for 2018 and the high passing rate.

Special Awards: Rob Elliott, PGA

Mr. Elliott stated that the nominations are due by November 6, 2019.

Nelthorpe: Rob Elliott, PGA

Mr. Elliott stated the team lost to the WSGA at Ozaukee CC. He thanked OCC and Jason Rasmussen and the staff and members at Ozaukee CC. He mentioned the players that participated and thanked them.

Scholarship: John Wallrich, PGA

Mr. Wallrich congratulated the winners of the 2018 scholarships. The daughters and grandsons of Kevin Kramp, Bill Stupar and Lee Leach each received \$2,000. John then explained the timeline and deadlines for the awards and encouraged everyone eligible to apply.

Old Business - Tom Dolby asked about the timing of the PGA Professional Championship being early in spring and close to the Senior PGA and the PPC. He also asked why there are no scholarships or aid available for people entering the PGA through the traditional apprentice program.

New Business -

Submitted by John Wallrich - Couple ideas for this fall and possibly new business at our fall meeting:

1. Tournament Calendar: Possibility of getting our Majors into the summer season of our calendar when operations have full staff. For many operations, college and high school staff are gone by 3rd and 4th week of August /don't arrive until 4th week of May. I have always felt it very important for assistants to play in these tournaments when possible or eligible and it seems more assistants are now PGA Members than years ago, therefore spring and fall operations get a little complicated.
 - i. WPGA Match Play
 - ii. WPGA Championship
 - iii. Wisc. State Senior Open
 - b. Having the WPGA Assistants Championship coincide with the WPGA Senior or any major is also a consideration to avoid. Very important for our assistants to play in their championship.
 - c. WPGA/WGCSA Super-Pro – possible to move back to early years date which was end of May. Superintendents have early season golf course preparations that effect their participation.
 - i. Important industry event.
2. Could we set up a program along with an announcement for our assistants to get connected for travel this winter to Florida for Winter Tournament Series and other winter tournaments?
 - i. My thinking here is to connect our assistants to travel south for some winter tournaments/play & practice, etc. as they could share expenses and build some wonderful camaraderie. Might be a good project for a group of assistants to coordinate with direction of the office as our office has the data base and contact info.

Open Forum –

Joe Stadler mentioned that he was remiss not to thank a few sponsors including the PGA Tour, Vince Suter and Suter Group, National Car Rental. On the Foundation side he mentioned their top sponsors including the Balance & Believe Foundation, American Family Insurance, Tour Edge, LPGA Classic at Thornberry Creek, Nicolet Bank.

Bob Burns thanked everyone for their support of his fundraising efforts to support our military personnel. He also mentioned that he would be submitting Gary D'Amato's name for consideration of honorary membership with the WPGA.

Bill Graham thanked the staff and asked for a timeline for volunteers for the 2020 Ryder Cup. Mr. Stadler mentioned that he believed we would start recruiting volunteers in fall of 2019. The plan is to provide a shift to those that volunteered for the 2015 PGA Championship.

Evan Hewes mentioned that Mee-Kwon is looking for a new food/beverage company. There is an RFP due right before Thanksgiving. He encouraged anyone interested to investigate.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06p.m.