

Wisconsin PGA General Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
Wilderness Resort – Wisconsin Dells

Meeting called to order at 12:18 p.m. Mark Voeller thanked Don Rea for his time and for his passion for the PGA and for golf. Mark thanked all the members for making the trip.

Guest: Nate Pokrass – American Family Insurance Championship – Nate provided a recap video of the 2023 event and provided an update on the 2024 event.

A motion was made by Rob Elliott and seconded by Michael Crowley to approve the consent agenda along with the October membership minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee Report - Brendan Locke, PGA

Mr. Locke provided an update on the membership committee. He informed the membership of the goals of the committee: create one or more member networking events (first event on July 1 at The Baths), promotion of deferred compensation, create a dynamic teaching and coaching seminar at the AmFam Championship, taking a look at lifelong learning through the PGA.

Report of Danny Rainbow, PGA – WPGA Secretary

Danny Rainbow asked for a moment of silence for WPGA Professional Steve Howe. Mr. Rainbow introduced the new members, quarter/half century members, and new transfers into the section. He also informed the board that the WPGA is 20th in size. Mr. Rainbow noted that we now have 130 Associates, which is almost double the number 6 years ago.

Report of Matt Taken, PGA – WPGA Vice President (Joe Stadler presented on behalf of Matt Taken)

Mr. Stadler presented the estimated year-end financials. Including investments, the section is looking at a gain in excess of \$175,000 depending on investments in February. The financials are very similar to what was reported in October except for the increase in investments.

Report of Joe Stadler, PGA – WPGA Executive Director

Mr. Stadler provided an update on the new structure of Wisconsin.golf and the WPGA role in that website. He indicated the growth in hits on the site since the WSGA became the owner of the site. Mr. Stadler then provided a sponsorship update. Joe thanked all of the host professionals for their efforts allowing us access to their facilities. The WPGA Junior Foundation is planning to provide \$85,000 in scholarships in 2024 up from \$65,000 in 2023. The new Ambassador program is in your packet. The Great Lakes Series will have two events in 2024, one in Wisconsin and one in Indiana. Mr. Stadler thanked the staff and highlighted their time of service to the WPGA.

Report of Mark Voeller, PGA – WPGA President

Mark Voeller stressed the value and importance of the golf license plate and asked everyone to get a plate and support junior golf and the scholarship program. Mark thanked the board, committees, and staff for all their work. He then mentioned the North Star initiatives of the PGA of America. Mark mentioned the Super Regional with the candidates for PGA Secretary and asked anyone familiar with the four candidates to share their knowledge.

Report of Rob Elliott, PGA – District 6 Director

Rob Elliott mentioned that Kim Shafer is awesome and will do a great job. He mentioned PGA HOPE and our upcoming training. He would like to see Wisconsin have over 100 trained. PG HOPE now has a website. He will get the site info to Chris so he can share with the members. The goal is to serve 17,000 veterans in 2024. Rob mentioned the four great candidates for secretary and that he is currently on the board with three of them. Rob is also on the Player Development committee and one of their goals is to determine facilities that are welcoming new players that may take longer to play and need more assistance.

Report of the Committees:

Player Engagement – Kim Shafer, PGA – PGA Consultant

Kim Shafer introduced herself to the membership and explained she is adding Wisconsin to her list of sections she works with. Frank Chieppa is retiring in April. Kim encouraged the membership to reach out any time with questions. She mentioned the suite of products the PGA offers including Family Golf, DCP, Junior League, etc.

Employment, Jeremy Cabalka, PGA and Ryan Holland, PGA: Jeremy Cabalka let the members know that their compensation profile needs to be filled out each year. Wisconsin is only at 7% since January 1 so it would be appreciated if everyone would take two minutes to do it. Ryan Holland introduced Andrea Kloppman-Heit. He then provided an update on what the consultants can do for PGA members. Ryan mentioned the almost 20% compensation increase for A-8 professionals in Wisconsin over the past year plus and again encouraged everyone to do the compensation profile.

Old Business - none

New Business – None

Open Forum – Jeff Ellingson recognized the special award winners. There is a few openings if anyone is interested in attending the reception later tonight. He also mentioned the new Distinguished Achievement Award.

Bob Burns shared a story on the recently deceased Steve Howe and how successful a golf professional he was and what a welcoming presence he was to all members in Wisconsin.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.