



MICHIGAN PGA FALL MEETING
Eagle Eye Golf Club
East Lansing, Michigan
October 25, 2021

There were 128 eligible members in attendance. Since we did not meet the minimum quorum requirement of 148 eligible members, no official business was conducted.

President Bob Bales called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m. and welcomed everyone to Eagle Eye Golf Club. Bob welcomed special guests Heather Burke, Sr. Director of Sports & Wellness-Special Olympics Michigan, Todd Smith, Career Services Consultant, and all Past Presidents in attendance.

Thanks to Joe Neumeyer of Ace Indoor Golf (has a table in the lobby) & PGA National Resort & Spa for sponsoring the meeting. He also thanked Pepsi for sponsoring the Seminar.

Bob read the first half of the rules of how the meeting will be conducted. He also appointed: Gene Bone II, Terri Anthony-Ryan, Joe Simpson, Aaron Waltz who will assist with the collecting of ballots and oversee the voting/election.

National Anthem

Rachael Nowak, PGA WORKS Fellow, sang a beautiful rendition of our national anthem.

Invocation

Raquel Bryant delivered the Invocation remembering Michigan PGA Members Gene Bone Sr., & Jack Clark, Former Michigan PGA Members Ray Bolo & Keith Mohan as well as Dave Richards, long-time Michigan golf promoter.

President's Report

President Bob Bales talked about the PGA headquarters in Frisco, Texas is scheduled to open March 2022 with staff moving there June 2022. The golf courses will open March 2023. The putting green there is the second largest putting green in world. Bob stated he was fortunate to tour the property as he attended National Committee meetings.

Bob reviewed several of the Michigan PGA strategic plan completed action items. Like football helmet stickers, also known as reward decals and pride stickers which denote either individual or team accomplishments, the Section has adopted the same approach. Each time an action item is completed, a success sticker is awarded. The following stickers were awarded:

- Career Consultant Todd Smith on assisting members with employment issues - **helmet sticker**.
- The At-Large Director election held virtually fall of 2020, and the Office of Secretary election tomorrow are contested elections - **helmet sticker**.
- PGA Jr League – number of participants have grown as well as two nationally recognized programs from Kelly Kuhlman and Dean Marks – **two helmet stickers**.
- Virtual Education – continued through COVID challenges in 2020 – **helmet sticker**
- Diversity/Inclusion – first ever Women's Professional Championship in 2021 – **helmet sticker**
- Justin Phillips for the COVID related challenges in 2020 with the tournament program - **helmet sticker**.
- Diane Lazaros 25 years of service (2020), and staff working remotely for most of 2020 and handling all office and related COVID issues professionally – **two helmet stickers**.
- Michigan PGA Foundation expanded the scope. In addition to junior golf, it was modified to include military and diversity/inclusion. We also expanded resources by adding \$25,000 into PGA Foundation investment account – **two helmet stickers**.
- Kevin Helm 25 years of service - **helmet sticker**.

Bob then reviewed National items he learned while attending the National Committee Meetings:

- Tournament Committee is working on A-3 eligibility and assistant eligibility.
- Education-Level 1 is strictly virtual with the goal of lowering costs and reducing time.
- Player development-PGA.Coach is working on a junior golf playbook to use as a resource.
- PGA Jr. League had 61,000 sign ups in 2021
- PGA HOPE – trying to get more professionals trained to expand PGA HOPE programs across the 41 Sections
- PGM universities – 18 programs currently with 1 scheduled to close in 3 years. PGA is reviewing standards to make sure all is consistent.
- Governance task force did not rescind the vote to remove the honorary president on the PGA Board of Directors.
- The minimum criteria to be eligible to run for District Director is being revised. Michigan, Northern and Southern Ohio Sections take turns electing.
- A resolution to be brought forward at the Annual Meeting suggests adding a third vote for each section.
- Golf summit will stay in Orlando.

Bob thanked the following for their service on the Board of Directors and then presented plaques to outgoing Board of Directors in attendance: Jon Conklin, Matt Koets, Kevin McKinley, AJ Partenio, Dan Urban and Jim Yuhas (absent). He congratulated Executive Director Kevin Helm on his 25 years of service to the Section. He also thanked all Committee chairs, Officers, Board of Directors, and Section staff for their dedication to the membership.

Chris Whitten from Golf Association of Michigan talked about:

- GAM has a good year with amateur golf in Michigan, members up 10%. Reaching over 65,000 members using the world golf handicap system.
- Tournament program was very successful reaching over 4,300 players
- USGA hosted the US Senior Amateur Championship at Country Club of Detroit this summer.
- They will continue Handicapping with GHIN and the world handicapping system. Chris thanked the membership for their support and implementation.
- GHIN added GPS which has been received very favorably.
- Renewed AGA USGA relationship. GAM will still offer USGA services.
- They will continue to support Golf Genius.
- GAM Foundation main initiative is the Youth on Course Program which allows juniors to play golf for \$5 or less per round. They have paid out over \$300,000 in golf course subsidies which they cover through fundraising. Please reach out to Chris if you are interested in joining the program.

President Bales referred to the handout in the packet of the 2022 PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando January 25-28.

Vice President's Report

Dean Kolstad reviewed investments through the third quarter. Account balances at the end of third quarter were \$1,684,848 for the General Fund and \$88,583 for the Foundation Fund.

Kevin Helm reviewed the year-to-date budget summary through three quarters.

Secretary's Report

Since there were not 148 members in attendance, no quorum was met, therefore, no approving minutes of the 3/21/21 Spring Meeting were done.

Stephanie recognized new members, transferred members into the Section, and quarter and half century members. She also acknowledged Lynn Janson as being inducted into the 2021 Michigan State University Hall of Fame.

Vote for Dues Increase

Since there were not 148 members in attendance, no quorum was met, therefore, no voting was done.

Candidate's Forum

Honorary President Kevin McKinley oversaw the Candidate's Forum where Dan Urban and Randy White spoke of their desire to run for the office of Secretary.

Election of Officers

Since there were not 148 members in attendance, no quorum was met, therefore, no voting was done.

Career Services Consultant Report

Todd Smith thanked officers and staff. He then reviewed a brief slide presentation and talked about the following:

- 154 total jobs posted on PGA Job Board for Michigan as of this date
- Record count of year-to-date interactions with employers
- The Michigan Section has a 49% completion rate for the compensation survey. He encouraged everyone to complete. The more data we can get the more accurate and useful the data will be for everyone.

PGA REACH Michigan

Each member in attendance was given a PGA REACH Michigan hat.

Chelsea Guoynes showed a few slides regarding the PGA REACH Michigan logo along with an explanation of why the name changed, the expansion of the scope and mission to sign with that of PGA REACH.

Detroit Golf Initiatives

Glenn Pulice stated that they need a few more instructors to assist with the Midnight Golf Program. He also is looking for donations of equipment for some newly formed golf teams at a few Detroit high schools. Donations can be taken to the Royal Oak Golf Center.

Tournament Report

Dan Urban recapped items:

- No Michigan residency restrictions for amateurs participating in the Spring Scramble, Midwest Golf & Turf Pro Am and the Fall Pro Scratch.
- Lifetime exemption into the Tournament of Champions for the winner of the Women's Michigan PGA Professional Championship.
- Congratulated Bradley Smithson, winner of the Turtle Creek Michigan Open, Otto Black, winner of the Tournament of Champions, Benny Cook, winner of the Michigan PGA Professional Championship and Michigan Section Match Play.
- Doral pro-am will take place January 28-31, 2022. The biggest change is the professionals will receive \$1,000 and a free trip for bringing a team, up from \$500.
- Congratulated 2021 Rolex Player of the Year Benny Cook.

Town Fall Forum

Bernie Friedrich, Kevin McKinley, and Todd Smith talked about and shared best practices on hiring and retaining employees. Some incentives heard from the millennial generation is the ability to earn extra time/days off, more flexible schedule and student loan repayment.

Regional League Manager

A video from Kim Shafer was shown talking about the PGA Jr. League which has grown 6% in the Michigan Section and is currently up to 1,863 players within the Section. The Net Promoter Score which basically rates the "happiness" factor of the program has also remained high. For consumers, the NPS has remained steady at over 70 and many consumers have reached out and shared their thanks and appreciation for the fun their players had during the PGA Jr. League season.

Within the Michigan Section, league fees increased from an average of \$222 to \$262 and nationwide the fees increased from an average of \$251 to \$290. These numbers led to increased revenue for both

professionals and their facilities.

Another video was shown on the 2022 PGA Jr. League season enhancements including the new Championship Season Pathway, All Star Play Days, a new Regional All-Star Leaderboard, and the brand-new PGA Jr. League Technology for the Desktop and Mobile App.

Present 2021 Special Awards

Chair Doug Bell congratulated and presented plaques to those in attendance:

Assistant Professional of the Year– Brandon Dean
Bill Strausbaugh-Chris Sobieck
Distinguished Service Award-Justin Phillips
Media Award-Anna Epkey
Merchandiser of the Year-Private-Paul Lehnert
Merchandiser of the Year -Public-Ian Ziska
Merchandiser of the Year -Resort-Elliott Oscar
Patriot Award-Wally Sierakowski
Player Development Award-Andre Pillow
Professional Development Award-Glenn Pulice
Youth Player Development Award-Kelly Kuhlman
Teacher & Coach of the Year-Jason Guss
Golf Executive of the Year-Bernie Friedrich
Golf Professional of the Year -Dean Kolstad

Doug thanked the Special Awards Committee and staff liaison Anna Epkey. He also acknowledged long-time Committee member Charley Vandenberg who stepped down from the Committee. Doug also stated he is stepping down as Chair, with Pat Markley taking over for him.

National Special Olympics Award to Mike Mignano

Heather Burke, Sr. Director of Sports & Wellness-Special Olympics Michigan, narrated a few slides; then presented the Conrad Rehling Award to Mike Mignano.

Oath of Office

Honorary President McKinley administered the oath of office to newly-elected Chapter Presidents Kyle Horton, Western Chapter, and Casey Powers, Northern Chapter.

Old Business

None submitted.

New Business

Raquel Bryant invited members to a Christian golf professional Zoom meeting on November 29th at 11am. Contact her rbryant@thousandoaksgc.com for more information.

Meeting ended at 12:20pm