



# PGA

Michigan Section

**MICHIGAN SECTION PGA  
2023 SPRING MEETING  
Eagle Eye Golf Club  
East Lansing, Michigan**

**March 20, 2023**

President Dean Kolstad called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed special guests Nathan Charnes, PGA of America Secretary, Stacey Rice-Dorman, Player Engagement Consultant, Todd Smith, Career Services Consultant, Chris Whitten, Executive Director of the Golf Association of Michigan, and all Past Presidents in attendance.

Thanks to Golf League Guru and Pepsi for sponsoring the meeting.

Dean read the first half of the rules of how the meeting will be conducted.

The St. Johns High School Orchestra trio of violinists played the national anthem.

Kevin McKinley delivered the invocation and remembered deceased Michigan PGA Member Bob Ackerman, former Michigan PGA Member Tom Vanderplow, long-time accountant and friend Bob Scheuer, long-time sponsor Steve Rentschler of Sterling Cut Glass, PGA of America Past Presidents - Patrick Reilly and Dick Smith, and First Folds of Honor Scholarship Recipient Jacob Green.

### **President's Report**

President Kolstad reviewed the following:

- Thanked section staff Madi Guilmette, Kevin Helm, Diane Lazaros, Madison Maurier, Justin Phillips, and Abby Whipp.
- Dean thanked all PGA professionals who played in the Charity Hockey Game as well as the Red Wing Alumni. The event was a great success raising over \$100,000. After expenses, we expect to pay Michigan PGA HOPE \$20,000, Yellow Ribbon \$20,000 and Folds of Honor \$40,000. Thanks also to George Bowman and his efforts and hard work organizing the entire event, along with Ian Ziska, Doug Kreis, and Jordan Young.
- President Kolstad and Diane Lazaros met with Chapter leaders and shared ideas about sponsorships and purse payouts, amongst other items. Consistency, again, with all three Chapters will be the answer going into the 2023 season. He thanked the Chapter leaders and host professionals for their hard work in securing sites, sponsors, etc.
- There are QR codes available on the tables for those that haven't completed the Compensation Survey.
- Dean thanked everyone that participated in the PGA HOPE training in February.
- PGA Frisco golf courses and hotel will open in the near future, with the Senior PGA Championship being the first major event to be held in May.
- PGA Merchandise Show was very well attended.
- Doral pro-am was a great event and sold out. Thanks to Justin Phillips and Kevin Helm for their hard work.
- Congratulations and good luck to Paige Radebach, Robert Malendez, and Lyla Hampton who qualified in the Drive, Chip and Putt and are going to participate in the National DCP the Sunday before the Masters!
- Congratulated Ian Ziska, PGA of America Merchandiser of the Year-public Award recipient, and Bernie Friedrich, PGA of America Executive of the Year Award recipient.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Stephanie Jennings stated the Section General Fund account had capital reserves of \$1,494,152 a decrease of \$296,123. Foundation has \$81,269, a decrease in value of \$13,520. Through operations, investment activities, and depreciation net assets

Executive Director Kevin Helm stated that the three operating budgets combined made \$21,043.

### **Secretary's Report**

*Motion was made and seconded to approve the October 25, 2022 Fall Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.*

Secretary Dan Urban reviewed new members, transferred members into the Section, and quarter and half century members.

### **Candidate's Forum**

Honorary President Bob Bales oversaw the Candidate's Forum where Jeff Rachar spoke of his desire to run for the office of Secretary.

### **Executive Director Report**

Kevin Helm spoke of the following:

- Thanked staff, officers and for their dedication to the membership.
- Talked about staff changes in 2022 and 2023: Madi Guilmette, current PGA WORKS Fellow, was just recently hired as Communications Coordinator, along with Abby Whipp, Officer Manager, and Madison Maurier, PGA Player Development, who were both hired in 2022.
- Office renovations are complete.
- PGA divided the 41 Sections into 7 regions to provide additional support for Sections. The goal is to better serve and provide resources to all Sections and it is felt that this regional model will help do that. Michigan PGA Member Josh Riley is our regional director, with the first regional meeting next week in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.
- Welcomed Stacey Rice-Dorman, who replaced Kim Shafer as our PGA Player Engagement Consultant.
- It has been very exciting to have been a part of the contingent at the Annual Meeting in Arizona when John Lindert was elected President of the Association.

### **Tournament Report**

Chair Jeff Rachar highlighted items for 2023:

- Great tournament schedule thus far with most sponsors secured.
- Michigan Open Championship at Oakland University with Hall Financial for the title sponsor, Brighton Ford, Make the Turn and CopperCraft Distillery as presenting sponsors. The estimated purse will be approximately \$100,000.
- The Michigan PGA Professional Championship is at Flint Golf Club.
- The PGA Tour is considering having eight designated events in 2024 with no cuts. It is our assumption that these no cut events will not have qualifiers so there is concern that Sections may lose the opportunity to run the qualifying events for these tournaments.
- Hard card additions - Immovable obstructions close to putting greens, and modification of penalty under Rule 3.3b(2) for missing player or marker certification.
- Hard Card-Walking - In 2020 the Section changed the policy on walking due to Covid and allowed players to walk with or without a caddie. The committee discussed this and agreed to keep this policy going forward allowing participants to walk with or without a caddie at an event and on a course where walking is allowed.
- Doral pro-am was very successful selling out at 36 teams. The resort and the southern location continue to be very popular with the teams that attend. Waiting on a contract from Doral to look at returning in 2024.

### **Special Awards**

Chair Doug Brody announced the 2023 Special Awards winners:

Assistant Professional of the Year-Tiffany Simons  
Bill Strausbaugh-Mark Wilson  
Distinguished Service Award-John Celestino  
Golf Executive of the Year-Dean Kolstad  
Golf Professional of the Year-Doug Bell  
Merchandiser of the Year-Private-Kyle Horton  
Merchandiser of the Year -Public-Dean Marks  
Merchandiser of the Year -Resort-Steve Niezgod  
Patriot Award-Ian Ziska  
Player Development Award-Jimmy Wisinski  
Professional Development Award-Charley Vandenberg  
Youth Player Development Award-Raquel Bryant  
Teacher & Coach of the Year-Scott Wilson

Congratulated Ian Ziska and Bernie Friedrich as National award winners. All will be formally celebrated at the Fall President's Dinner.

### **Golf Association of Michigan**

Executive Director Chris Whitten talked about the following:

- GAM is proud to be a supporter of the Michigan PGA REACH Foundation
- There is 400+ Golf courses in Michigan with 80,000 GAM members.
- Happy to report over 2MM rounds posted to GHIN for 2022.
- Youth on Course continues to grow.
- Michigan PGA Member Mark Wilson will conduct a Rules of Golf seminar in April.
- 112<sup>th</sup> Michigan Amateur will be played at Oakland Hills Country Club June 20-24, 2023.
- Congratulated Michigan PGA Member Kim Moore for winning the US Adaptive Open in 2022, as well as being named the GAM Champion of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for 2023.
- The GAM Foundation is taking the relationship between Youth on Course and the Ferris State PGA PGM program to the next level by sponsoring an educational scholarship for PGM students attending Ferris.

### **PGA of America Secretary Report**

Nathan Charnes spoke of the following:

- Very excited to be here in Michigan. Nathan stated the Michigan Section is in good hands as our officer group and executive director are very well respected.
- Deferred compensation – there are approximately 3,000 members signed up as of this date. PGA Members can potentially earn up to \$1,500 a year to a deferred compensation fund by participating in combination of 16 activities. The aim is that over the years these investments will grow and provide a supplemental income for the members upon reaching the age of 65.
- PGA rolled out PGM 3.1. The pre-Q and Level 1 portals are live, and hope to roll out Level 2 at the end of this year, and Level 3 spring of 2024. The goal for 3.1 is to realign Associate and student curriculum with an updated user experience. Allows PGA to improve retention, accelerate completion, and reduce costs. The biggest factor matches how they are learning and aligns with the PGM University programs. Same knowledge, etc., just more fitting on how they learn, and much cheaper.
- Medical/disaster relief fund is currently at max of \$7,000/PGA Member. PGA is looking into ways to possibly increase it to \$9,000.

### **Town Fall Forum**

The second portion of the meeting then went into a town hall format with Executive Director Kevin Helm talking with Dean Kolstad and Nathan Charnes. A video was shown from PGA on the Charity Hockey Game held February 19. Michigan PGA Member presented Nathan with a hockey jersey.

In addition to talking about the new PGA headquarters, other topics included PGA's position on the USGA's proposal on the roll back of the golf ball, what can PGA Professionals do to get more young men and women

into the golf business and then retain them, and what do you see as the biggest challenge facing the golf industry in the next 3-5 years.

### **Career Consultant Report**

Todd Smith reviewed a slide presentation regarding some of the goals and objectives of the Career Services Department: supporting members, recruiting and executive search. He also talked about the following:

- ExecuSearch, the premium executive placement and consulting service for the golf industry, has seen over 200% growth since 2019. Over 125 facilities used this service in 2021. From 6 searches five years ago to over 150 searches last year, this effort is here to stay.
- Makegolfsomething.com – collaborative effort within the golf industry to bring diversity to the sport and build on the momentum that golf has experienced since the pandemic began. Anyone can go and post a program, event, or jobs for golf industry employers and potential job seekers.
- Urged members to use the QR code on the table to complete the PGA Compensation survey if they have not already done so. The survey is the number one tool used to influence member compensation when working with an employer.

### **Player Engagement Consultant**

Stacey Rice-Dorman reviewed a slide presentation, highlighting the following:

- PGA Family Golf (formerly PGA Family Cup) launched in 2022, bringing family members of all ages and skill levels together to create lasting memories through the game of golf.
- PGA Jr. League coach registration deadline is March 24.
- In 2022 a custom-built website and mobile app were launched to run PGA Jr. League and integrate with PGA Family Cup and PGA.Coach.

### **Grant POY Awards**

Growth of the Game Committee Chair Scott Wilson congratulated and recognized Alec Grant, Adult Player Grant program of the year recipient, and Nic Thompson, Junior Player Grant Program of the Year recipient. Both conducted excellent programs and are very deserving of being eligible for additional grant funds in 2023.

### **New Business**

None submitted.

### **Old Business**

None submitted.

Meeting concluded at 12:05PM.