



Kevin McKinley, PGA - District 5 Director Candidate



In just over a month, the Michigan Section will convene in East Lansing for our Annual Meeting. I applaud the leaders of our Section for constructing a new format for our meeting. This will include our normal business meeting as well as some important educational seminars regarding physical and mental health. In our profession, stress can often be high, so taking care of yourself mentally and physically is becoming increasingly vital. I would encourage all of you to make plans to attend on Monday, October 21st.

At the Annual Meeting, you will also have the opportunity to vote in two important elections. The first one for at large seats on our Section Board of Directors. Currently, Brian Corwin, Casey Powers, Ward Sutton and Randy White have stepped up to serve. In addition, we will be electing the District 5 Director who will serve our Section along with Northern Ohio and Southern Ohio on the PGA of America's Board of Directors. This election only comes around every 9 years as the position rotates every 3 years from Southern Ohio to Northern Ohio and back to Michigan.

As one of the two candidates for this important position, I've made an effort this season to communicate with you on why I feel I'm best qualified to serve in this role. In addition to presenting my qualifications as a candidate, I've also tried to educate you on the PGA of America's current Strategic Plan (North Stars). If I'm chosen to serve you on the board of directors, I will continue to communicate with you and the other Sections I'll serve on as many relevant topics as I can to give you information on how you can get the most out of your PGA Membership.

After a quarter century in the thick of two of the largest golf operations in the state, my career took a shift 2 years ago into the world of non-profits as I took on the role of Executive Director of the First Tee of Northern Michigan. This job change has me poised to serve PGA Members and Grow the Game which is exactly what the mission of the PGA is. From a time standpoint, I will be freed up enough to attend all necessary meetings and Association events. From an experience standpoint, my role as an Executive Director reporting to a Board of Directors has me uniquely positioned to understand how a board should function and what the relationship with our new CEO should look like.

In addition to my experience with golf operations, I've also spent much of the last 25 years serving the Michigan Section, first as a Northern Chapter officer, then as an at large board member, then as a Section officer and now again as an at large board member. I've earned the respect of not only those in Michigan but outside of Michigan as a 3-time national committee member and a national award winner. When I take a seat on a board (including multiple boards outside of the PGA), I'm known as a doer. Evidence of this includes the Section Orientation Program, the Section Strategic Plan which has guided us for nearly 10 years and the revision of the Section Constitution and Bylaws amongst other accomplishments.

I humbly ask for your vote on October 21st. I believe I'm ready for this new challenge and if elected, I will work tirelessly to keep you informed, serve as your voice in the boardroom and make you proud to be a member of the Michigan Section.