



# PGA

Tennessee Section

TPGA Board Meeting  
Sunday, February 25, 2018  
4:00 pm – 6:30pm CST

**Board Meeting Participants:** *Attendees (25):* Vice President Jim Vernon, Secretary Jim West, Past President Ken Crowder, Independent Director Jon Goin and Tournament Chair Scott Moran; Secretary Candidate Lamar Mills; Chapter Officers: Adam Campbell, Sean Rice, Scott Wilson, Bryan Combiths, Joey Hickman, Mark Houser, and Sid Johnson; PGA Employment Consultant Kevin Walls; Regional Directors: Cody Weems, Dori Paschall, Austin Chinn and Hayden Echols; TPGA Staff Clayton Hromadka, Adam Greeno, Paul Stanek, Kyle Bachman and Carey Ray; Legal Counsel Chuck Ruttan and Awards Chairman Greg Hynes.

### **Introductions:**

Before the meeting was called to order, Hromadka insured everyone knew a couple new faces in the room. Ruttan, our legal counsel who has offered guidance in our business. The second introduction was for Ray, our new intern who joined us from the Mississippi State University.

### **Financial Update:**

In the absence of, Kimber Barton of Brentwood Financial, Hromadka went over the highlights from the year's performance. The Account Balance as of 12/31/2017 is \$1,280,185, +13.10% for 2017. This balance included the \$1,080,000 that had been deposited since inception (June 2008), and the \$540,240 that had been withdrawn as distributions to the section. Hromadka noted this did not reflect the impact of the January distributions or the recent correction in some of the financial markets. Hromadka also mentioned we pulled an additional \$30,000 from the fund for the purchase of a new tournament vehicle at the guidance of Barton prior a market correction that was anticipated in the future. Hromadka stated the Investment and Budget Committee had reviewed the Investment Policy Statement and set a goal of recovering the 4.75% withdrawal plus inflation each year. Hromadka congratulated Barton on a successful year managing the Section portfolio.

### **District Update:**

District 3 Director, Jim Dorman, was unable to be in attendance due to the conflict with the PGA of America's Planning Session. Highlights were covered by Crowder with the support of Hromadka. The PGA had another successful PGA merchandise show with over 40,000 individuals in attendance. During the PGA Board of Directors meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>, four changes were made to the PGA Constitution and Bylaws: 1) Eligible Employment Regulation in regard to the number of hours from 36-30 hours a dual-profession employed PGA Member must work on average in order to be considered eligibly employed; 2) Modified the definition of Life Member to remove the loophole that allowed some eligibly employed Members to be classified as Life Member; 3) The term of an "Inactive Member" had been changed to "Reserve Member." 4) Modification of the term Apprentice(s) to Associate(s). PGA PERKSPOT was brought up as a new discount service provided to all PGA members. The PGA marketing team came up with a new campaign called "PGA Journey" showcasing the Journeys PGA Members take to reach the highest level of their profession and how PGA Professionals can help all golfers along their own golf Journeys. PGA Reach was brought up by Hromadka and the efforts the Tennessee Section plans to put behind this program to help veterans throughout the Section. Hromadka also brought up that we have seconded the nomination of Dorman as a Candidate for Secretary at the National level.

### **Section Officers Reports:**

In the absence of Bridgeman, Crowder gave his President's report. Crowder highlighted we had over 210 attendees registered for the Annual Meeting and over 105 registered to attend the teaching and coaching summit the days following the board meeting. In 2017, an agreement was reached to extend the Handicap agreement 10 years, out to 2027. Crowder also informed the room we have received many accolades for the Regional Drive, Chip & Putt event at the Honors Course, touting it as the best that had been run to date. We were asked to host another regional event at the Honors Course in 2018. There has been an adjustment made in PGA Jr. League pertaining to the postseason. With the transfer of National Car Rental funds, the Section will be conducting a Section Finals event which will include 2 qualifiers which will get us to 8 teams for a Section Finals. Kristi Egnot moved to Hendersonville and will be our Regional Director. She will provide support for our section throughout the year regarding PGA Jr. League. We had the ability to award four Delek Apprentice Scholarships in 2018. With this, the Section Staff will continue to help Delek anywhere possible to keep the relationship strong. Crowder thanked the Section Secretary Candidates of Goin & Mills for their willingness to serve the Section in this compacity. Crowder also recognized Vernon for being the captain of the Challenge Cup Matches as well as congratulated DCA recipient, Warren Huddleston and 2017 Golf Professional of the Year, R. Kedric Perkins, Jr.

Vernon then gave his Vice President's report. Discussion of the possibility of losing the Tour Qualifiers was discussed and there needing to be a focus on continuing to improve the reporting of the Tour Qualifiers vs. Member Tournaments. The reporting of this includes sponsor money as well as the difference between types of events. It was determined there are no need of a dues increase for 2018. Secretary West informed the room the Chapter Business Summits introduced in 2017 were a huge success and had record attendance at the Section Business Summit at Brentwood Country Club. West also mentioned his excitement for the Annual Meeting and the History that would be discussed during the Past Presidents Forum.

### **Employment Services Update:**

Walls then gave his report on the compensation survey noting PGA of America updated the responsibilities of the employment consultants that had resulted in the department being renamed to Career Consultants. There had been a successful increase of Career Consultants to a total of 18, which was up from the previous number of 12. Walls made a goal of meeting with at least 40 members in a one on one setting at their facilities in 2018 and looks forward to these meetings. With it being an MSR Cycle end year, Walls updated the room there was currently 47% of the membership who still need to complete their requirements. Walls had also completed the update of the PGA Database to mark closed facilities as such as well as update any information that was out of date for open facilities.

Vernon and Walls introduced the current issue with the compensation survey and the lack of participation, stating that we are behind our goal of 75% participation. Vernon and the Employment Committee are going to continue to push for reaching their goal and will be contacting those members who have not completed the survey soon. The topic of a lack in the assistant pool for facilities looking for assistants was discussed and there needing to be a focus on what we will be able to do to help resolve this before it becomes a burden across the state.

### **Regional & Chapter Director Updates:**

Crowder shifted to updates from the regional directors. All showing success in their regions. Echols discussed the rebranding of the Kids Play Free program with the addition of Scott Stallings adding funding to the program. Weems informed the room that he was going to be able to offer the Ace level of the 1<sup>st</sup> Tee program for the first time in 2018 and Drive Chip Putt is up over 90% since 2016. Paschall updated the room on the continued strive for better alignment of youth programing in Chattanooga. Chinn, our newest Regional Director, stated his excitement for what is in store with Regional Golf Fairs

for the Memphis area. The discussion switched to the Chapter Directors. Campbell talked about the continued success of the Chattanooga Pro-Am Series and thanked the Board for his time serving. Combiths was excited to announce the introduction of the Middle TN Pro-Am Series in 2017 and noted he was looking forward to the growth expected moving forward. Combiths also thanked the Board for his time serving. Johnson discussed the introduction of the Ladd's Apprentice Chapter Scholarship in 2017 and the shift of growth of PGA Jr. League in West Tennessee. Houser let the room know they have shifted their golf day into more of a Lesson Day to offer free lessons. Houser also let the room know they are excited to host a National Long Drive Competition at Cattails in 2018. The Tri-Cities Pro-Am series has also introduced a new forward tee available for golfers over the age of 75. Wilson announced the start of a money market fund that will be managed by Brentwood Financial, like the Tri-Cities, West TN and Chattanooga.

### **Committee Updates:**

*Tournament:* Moran and Greeno gave an update of the Tournament Committee. Moran went over the 2018 tournament highlights. He then discussed the approval by the Tournament Committee to allow shorts to be worn during practice rounds. The deadline adjustment of 2017 was a success and will continue to move forward with the updated deadlines. There was an update the bylaws for eligibility in Chapter Championships: *A TPGA professional or apprentice in good standing must work within the chapter's borders to be eligible for their Chapter Championship at the time of the first round. Life Members who have playing privileges are required to have permanent residence within the chapter borders to be eligible for their Chapter Championship. If a professional or apprentice plays in their respective Chapter Championship and then moves to another chapter, and still fulfills the above requirements, they are eligible to compete in their new chapter's championship. Tennessee PGA Player of the Year Points will only be awarded to the first Chapter Championship in which an individual participates in for the given POY cycle.* There was also an update to the dress code: *Golf Professionals are permitted to wear shorts during Chapter Pro-Ams and Official Practice Rounds ONLY. Professionals should maintain a neat and clean appearance when wearing shorts and will be respectful to host facilities' dress codes that require professionals to wear pants. Professionals are NOT permitted to wear cargo shorts or any attire that represents athletic wear. Under no circumstances are professionals permitted to wear shorts during TPGA Chapter Championships or any TPGA Section event.* A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the board for both of these updates to the Tournament Bylaws.

*Growth of the Game Update:* Goin and Bachman updated the group on the continuation of the funds available in 2018 to be \$30,000. It was stressed that the need for the Board to get out and encourage members to apply for the grants is very important. In 2018, the goal to continue the same grant process and work to ensure members receiving grants are completing the required paperwork. It was encouraged that chapters consider asking for similar grants and conduct events like what the Tri-Cities Chapter has done in their community golf day.

### **Old Business/New Business:**

*Old Business:* Hromadka noted that Incoming Chapter Directors and Section President need to appoint any new Committee Members by March 9<sup>th</sup>. Hromadka also stated the Chapter Director Orientation this spring will take place in March or early April with Stanek. Hromadka informed the board of the plan for a new Foundation President to be in place by August 2018 with the gradual succession plan of Dick Horton.

*New Business:* Hromadka asked any Board member who plan to attend the Annual Meeting in Palm Springs, CA to let him know by the beginning of June when the planning starts. A new Section member asked the board to discuss the start of a new committee, a Teaching & Coaching Committee. It was determined more information was needed from this member to determine the benefit this committee would have by branching off from the current Education Committee. Hromadka addressed the 2018

Board Meeting dates and conference call schedule, and the script for the upcoming annual meeting. Hromadka then touched on the plan for the Vegas Pro-Am which will be held November 12-14 in Las Vegas. The host hotels are New York New York and Aria. He encouraged any board member who has not been on this trip to consider it. Hromadka asked for thoughts on including former DCA Members to join the past president dinner leading up to the annual meeting to keep them involved in the Section.

The meeting ended with a thank you from Hromadka to outgoing board members Crowder, Campbell, and Combiths. Crowder in turn thanked the Board for making this one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling things he had ever done. He received much more out of his time than he ever imagined.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm CST.