



**PGA**

Philadelphia Section

2022

**Spring Membership Meeting**

## Philadelphia PGA Section

The Philadelphia PGA Section, covering eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, is one of 41 geographical managing entities of the PGA of America. This Section manages nearly 900 PGA Members and Associates who are employed at over 590 golf facilities in our region.

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Patrick Shine, PGA
<b>Vice President</b>	Chip Richter, PGA
<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Hennefer, PGA
<b>Director of Section Affairs</b>	Dustin McCormick, PGA
<b>Director of Tournaments</b>	Eric Kennedy, PGA
<b>Honorary President</b>	Jeff Kiddie, PGA

### Board of Directors

<b>District 1</b>	Kevin Duffy, PGA
<b>District 2</b>	Anthony Malizia, PGA
<b>District 3</b>	Brett Nelson, PGA
<b>District 4</b>	Mike Molino, PGA
<b>District 5</b>	Gerald Davis, PGA; Dean Kandle, PGA
<b>District 6</b>	Eleanor Good
<b>Independent Director</b>	

### Central Counties Chapter

<b>President</b>	Judd Caruso, PGA
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### Philadelphia Assistants' Organization

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	Keith Clawson, PGA; Jeff Kiddie, PGA
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### Staff

<b>Executive Director</b>	Geoffrey Surette, PGA
<b>Assistant Executive Director</b>	Barbara Creveling
<b>Foundation Director</b>	Courtney Curcio
<b>Tournament Director</b>	Brian Schulte, PGA
<b>Communications Director</b>	Matt Frey, PGA
<b>Junior Tour Director</b>	Leilyn Nowacysnski
<b>Member Services Administrator</b>	Sue Unger
<b>Foundation Coordinator</b>	Gervon Williams
<b>Tournament Coordinators</b>	Joshua Monkres, Joe Sponheimer
<b>PGA WORKS Fellow</b>	Erin Martin

## President's Report

Not sure about all of you but this winter offseason seemed to go by too quickly! Hopefully all of you were able to connect with family and friends, learned something new and found time to focus on yourself. Spring is the “mulligan” of being a northeastern PGA Professional, taking all the lessons learned from last season and being able to implement into your current operations.

We still find ourselves amid a historic resurgence in golf with no signs of slowing down. We are very fortunate to have an awesome opportunity and responsibility as stewards of this game. When I spoke during our fall meeting just a few months ago, my message was focused on the importance of recruitment and retention of golfers and PGA Professionals. The main ingredient in this puzzle are golfers, and they are coming out in droves! This growing population includes record amounts of women, youth, and minority golfers. Will we take all that we have learned over the last two years and begin to create new norms for how we work, how we coach, how we find time for our friends and family, and how we engage and attract golfers?

While some things have changed, some things never change...the Philadelphia PGA Section needs you! I get it, we all are busy! But now more than ever we need your support, and you can help in so many ways, including:

- Volunteer on a Section committee
- Support our partners
- Promote the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour at your facility
- Host a Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour event
- Volunteer for PGA REACH Philadelphia events
- Mentor fellow PGA Professionals

- Continue to share your knowledge
- Volunteer for the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship (April 30 - May 4) at Union League Liberty Hill / Union League G.C. at Torresdale

We want to hear from you about your successes and contributions at your facility and in our communities. If there is a PGA Professional doing great work in service to the game or our community, please let us know. Send those impactful stories to our Section Communications Director, Matt Frey, PGA, at [mfrey@pgahq.com](mailto:mfrey@pgahq.com).

We are truly fortunate to have such a great team at the Section Office lead by our Section Executive Director Geoff Surette, PGA. Geoff has been able to assemble a team dedicated to promoting us as PGA Professionals while orchestrating community outreach and educational programs for us to showcase leadership in our industry.

One last item, the most important thing above everything else is your health! We all get busy and we by nature put others first but make your health a top priority! Skin care, hydration, physical fitness, mental health, and a proper diet will help ensure we can shepherd the sport we love for years to come.

Remember what Simon Sinek says, “People don’t buy “what” you do, they buy “why” you do it!”

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Shine, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section President

## Vice President's Report

### Finances

As Section Vice President, I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members and directors for their time and commitment to our Section. Our Section staff has continued to do such a wonderful job with keeping our finances in order through a last two years which have been a very bumpy road. I would never have guessed we would have come out of the pandemic without any major financial problems. Through all of this, and another change with the PGA of America's accounting software, Barb and Sue have been amazing and I want to thank them so much for their work everyday. In addition, thank you to all of you that donate your time to any of the Section's committees and or any of the growth of the game initiatives. Finally, thank you to all of you who provide our Section and our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour access to your facilities for tournaments and seminars.

Our new PGA Secretary, Mr. Don Rea, PGA, started a monthly Secretary to Secretary call where he and the 41 Section secretaries are able to speak for an hour about what is going on at a national level; we are able to exchange ideas with other Sections about what is working and what some of our best practices are. Don promised to open up the lines of communication and he has delivered on that promise. Recently, John Lindert, PGA, has started a quarterly Vice Presidents call, which largely focuses on the financial matters of the Association as well as at the Section level. You should be aware that I have seen a major effort to communicate and be transparent from our current leadership and I hope this continues into the future. Bob Hennefer, PGA, participates in these calls as well, and if you have any questions regarding these calls and their content, please just ask either of us.

In 2020 and 2021, we faced unprecedented challenges as an industry and as well as a Section. As of this writing, it seems like we may actually be getting back to normal. The

masks are coming off, and as you will read in our tournament report, it almost seems like 2018 again with regards to how we are playing the game. What a relief!

Our Section financial outlook continues to be very strong. Haverford's balance as of 12/31/21 was \$678,519, which is a wonderful jump from 2020. Every month as your board meets on our conference call, Binney Wietlisbach reminds us that markets go up and they go down, however we saw nothing but positives in 2021. If you have been watching the news, or if you've been to the gas pump lately, it certainly seems like we are in for at least a few rough months to start 2022. However the growth we have seen the last few years has us still in a very favorable position.

I am happy to report that Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had a very good year in 2021 and has budgeted to have another great year in 2022. Leilyn Nowaczynski has taken tour's director position and I am sure she is going to do an awesome job. Thanks again to all of you who have welcomed the junior tour to your facilities in the past and in 2022. This tour is very important to the financial position of the Section as well as the future of the game.

### Hall of Fame / Playing Legends

Twenty-twenty-one was a Playing Legends year. The class of inductees included PGA Members John Pillar, Mark Sheftic and Matthew Kowal (posthumous). Congratulations to these three inductees on their lifetime achievements in tournament play being recognized at the highest level.

This year will be a Hall of Fame year and the committee is always looking for nominations. Nomination forms will be distributed later this season and will have a deadline for submission in August.

I would like to give special thanks to the committee (Mike Cole, Jack Connolly, Leo Degisi, Harry Hammond, Pete Micklewright, John Poole, Dick Smith Sr., Pete Trenham,

## Vice President's Report

Geoff Surette, and Sue Unger) for their dedication and hard work to this committee.

Recently, we formed a new Section committee; the Women's Committee includes PGA Members Meghan Spero (chair), Bridget McLaughlin, Leila Mackie, Sara Muldoon, and Becky Dengler, and PGA REACH Philadelphia Director Courtney Curcio. The first Women's Pro-Am is scheduled for Friday, October 14 at Hershey Country Club. As a father of two girls, one of which loves the game of golf, I am pleased to see this committee looking at ways to open up opportunities for women to have more opportunities in this game and look forward to seeing it grow well into the future.

Thank you all so much for allowing me to serve as your vice president and thank you to my fellow board members, and the wonderful Section staff we have for all they do to make this the best Section in the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter "Chip" Richter, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Vice President

## Secretary's Report

The role of Secretary is an Executive Officer position within the Section and primarily oversees three main committees in addition to sitting on the Board of Directors – Junior Golf, Education, Membership/ Communications. I would like to take a moment to thank each of those PGA Section Members who have taken the time and put forth the effort to further the cause in each of these areas. I can tell you that each of these individuals has put their best foot forward to try to make our Section better. Here are the Committees and their members:

### Junior Golf Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA    Brian Schulte, PGA  
Michael Caldwell, PGA    Don Strassner, PGA  
Harry Hammond, PGA    Steve Wager, PGA  
Joshua Monkres    Chris Young, PGA  
Leilyn Nowaczynski

### Education Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA    Eric Handley, PGA  
Darren Bolton, PGA    Dean Kandle, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA    Anthony Malizia, PGA  
John Carpineta, PGA

### Membership / Communications Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA    Matt Frey, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA    Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Leo DeGisi, PGA    Sean Palmer, PGA  
Kevin Edwards, PGA    Meghan Spero, PGA

The Philadelphia Section PGA would like to inform you of the following changes in membership since the 2021 Fall Meeting:

### Attained PGA Membership

N/A

### Achieved Half Century Status

Jack Connelly, PGA

Tony DeGisi, PGA

Greg Felty, PGA

# Secretary's Report

## Achieved Quarter Century Status

Stephen Darcy, PGA    Lance Ohrberg, PGA  
Matthew Dever, PGA    Patrick Spang, PGA  
    Jeff Haas, PGA    Dave Seeman, PGA  
    Jason Lamp, PGA    Geoff Surette, PGA  
Dave McNabb, PGA    Mike Tucci, PGA  
Robert Millard, PGA

## Achieved Senior Status *(as of March 29, 2021)*

    Scott Allen, PGA    David Smith, PGA  
    Daniel Donohue, PGA    Richard Steinmetz, PGA  
Christopher Matthews, PGA    Carlos Wiley  
    Darren Smith, PGA    Nicholas Wolfe, PGA

## Deceased Members

    Don DeAngelis, PGA

## First-Time PGA Head Professionals

    Ross Brown, PGA    Tom Koenig, PGA  
Steve Frederick, PGA    Tyler Santacroce, PGA  
    Jesse Hackett, PGA    Alex Scarlett, PGA

## Transfers into the Section *(as of March 1, 2022)*

Ralph Alfieri, PGA	Chad Fleming, PGA	Sasha Neufeld-Kreider
Will Blackman, PGA	Anthony Guidici	John Roche
Jeff Carswell, PGA	Conor Grandin, PGA	Eli Reid, PGA
Chris Coleman, PGA	Christian Hoecker, PGA	Tyler Santacroce, PGA
Nick Corper	Sean Hogan, PGA	Beatrice Smith, PGA
Robert Fenton, PGA	Scott Johnstone	Chris Smith
Michael Finger	Nicholas McCook	Robbie Tyler-Gonzalez
Michael Fischer, PGA	Harrison McGuigan, PGA	Carlos Wiley

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hennefer, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Secretary



## Director of Section Affairs' Report

The Director of Section Affairs oversees various committees including the Special Awards, Teaching & Coaching, and the PGA REACH Philadelphia committees. The role helps to create programs and opportunities for the PGA Professionals in our Section, as well as to extend our reach into the community. The PGA Professionals listed in this report have all helped greatly and volunteered a significant amount of time and I am very thankful for their service.

### Awards Committee

Chair: Dustin McCormick, PGA    Bob Hennefer, PGA  
Matt Bonanno, PGA    Dean Kandle, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA    Brett Nelson, PGA  
Gerry Davis, PGA    Jason Gebhart, PGA  
Chris Duckett, PGA    Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Kevin Duffy, PGA    Mike Molino, PGA

On December 7, 2021, the committee met virtually via Google Meet to select the following winners for their respective awards:

<b>PGA Golf Professional of the Year</b>	Sean Palmer, PGA
<b>PGA Teacher &amp; Coach of the Year</b>	David Zimmaro, PGA
<b>Bill Strausbaugh Award</b>	Jeff Kiddie, PGA
<b>PGA Professional Development Award</b>	Lou Guzzi, PGA
<b>PGA Patriot Award</b>	Jeff Breiner, PGA
<b>PGA Player Development Award</b>	Justin Rinas, PGA
<b>PGA Youth Player Development Award</b>	Chris Young, PGA
<b>PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Private</b>	Mike Wood, PGA
<b>PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Resort</b>	Eddie Perrino, PGA
<b>Justin Riegel PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year</b>	Jeremy Marino, PGA
<b>Salesperson of the Year</b>	Jerry McGoey

Hopefully, we will be able to gather in person this year to celebrate the last two years of award winners, they no doubt deserve it! National Award nominees are recommended by the Awards Committee and finalized by the Executive Committee. We wish everyone the best of luck through that process.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and our committees for all they do, especially the Awards Committee. I would also like to thank Geoff Surette, PGA, and the entire Section staff for all they do for us daily during COVID-19 last year, and as we navigate this upcoming year. It is challenging times for everyone, and we have the best Section staff in the country to help guide us through!

I hope everyone has a wonderful season in 2022.

Dustin McCormick, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Director of Section Affairs



## Junior Golf Report

We are pleased to announce that Leilyn Nowaczynski has been named Director of the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour. Leilyn is entering her second season with the Section, having worked as a tournament coordinator for the junior tour in 2021. Please join me in congratulating Leilyn! Thank you to everyone who continues to support youth golf within our Section. Below are some highlights for the upcoming junior golf season. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these offerings and consider introducing them to your facility.

### Drive, Chip & Putt

The 2021 Drive, Chip and Putt season was a success for the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour. The tour saw 928 participants at the local qualifiers and 212 participants at the sub-regionals. In 2022, our Section will once again host 10 local qualifiers and two sub-regional qualifiers and will hopefully surpass the 2021 qualifier numbers. The qualifiers are open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Boys and girls compete in separate divisions over four age categories. For more information, please visit [drivechipandputt.com](http://drivechipandputt.com).

### Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour

The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had 796 members in 2021 (an increase of 10 from 2020). There were 3,899 tournament rounds played (an increase of 270 rounds from 2020). We aim to exceed the 2021 numbers this season as we have added a new FUNdamental Tour in addition to our regular Junior Tour. This new FUNdamental Tour is designed for boys and girls ages 7-12 who are beginning their journey into tournament golf. The FUNdamental Tour will provide opportunities for those whose ability is in the growth stages. For more information about the FUNdamental Tour, please visit [phillyjunortour.com/player-info/developmental-tour](http://phillyjunortour.com/player-info/developmental-tour).

The junior tour would not be possible without the support of our host PGA Professionals and facilities, and the Section would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who hosted events in 2021. The tour's 2022 schedule is currently on

[phillyjunortour.com](http://phillyjunortour.com) and all events are open for registration. Our staff is finalizing FUNdamental Tour and fall events to complete the calendar.

### Junior Golf Partners

Returning tournament partners for the 2022 season include Hurricane Junior Golf Tour, US Sport Camps, Notah Begay III, and Junior Golf Hub.

### Junior Tour Affiliate Program

Motivate and inspire a new junior golfer at your facility by participating in the Junior Tour Affiliate Program. Each year, you can give away a free Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour membership (valued at \$175) to a promising junior at your facility. The only restriction is that the free membership must be given to a new Junior Tour member, but PGA Professionals may award the membership however they wish. The Junior Tour recognizes Affiliate Member facilities on [phillyjunortour.com](http://phillyjunortour.com). Sixty-seven facilities used their affiliate membership in 2021 and thirteen facilities have already taken advantage of the program in 2022. Philadelphia PGA Section Professionals are the best ambassadors for growing the Philly Junior Tour. Please consider adding a link to [phillyjunortour.com](http://phillyjunortour.com) to your facility's website.

### Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour

I want to thank all Junior Golf Committee members: PGA Members Harry Hammond, Donald Strassner, Michael Caldwell, Chris Young, Steve Wager and Jamie Komancheck. I would like to thank our junior tour staff, interns and field staff for their time and effort toward the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour.

If you are not already hosting a junior tour event and would like to, please reach out to our staff. We are always in need of facilities. I know it is increasingly difficult to offer your facility, but a lot of the membership offerings from the Section are not possible without the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour.

Submitted,

Bob Hennefer, PGA

Philadelphia PGA Junior Golf Chair

## Director of Tournaments' Report

Twenty-twenty-two promises to be the most anticipated golf season in our lifetime. Not only do we have a dwindling global pandemic, but golf has never been stronger and many of our lives are returning to normal. The past two years have been the most challenging and difficult in our lives, both personally and professionally. Many of us have lost friends and loved ones along the way and I, for one, have a deeper appreciation for the little things in life that I've taken for granted; like Dave McNabb. Thank you to the many PGA Professionals that I relied upon over the past two years for your advice and guidance. We have grown stronger and more resilient through this process and I

thank each and every one of you. Yes, even McNabb.

We are blessed to be part of the finest section in the country and our tournament program is second to none. This is due, in large part, by our Section Tournament Director Brian Schulte, PGA; Executive Director Geoff Surrette, PGA; and our amazing tournament and Section staff. Special thanks to all of our 2021 Tournament Committee members for their service over the past few years. You have led us through some of the most challenging circumstances we've ever encountered and you've done so with admirably.

### 2021 Tournament Committee

Chair: Eric Kennedy, PGA	Ashley Grier, PGA
John Appleget, PGA	Bob Hennefer, PGA
Ben Debski, PGA	Joe Kogelman, PGA
George Forster, PGA	Dustin McCormick, PGA
Jason Gebhart, PGA	

Thanks to the many Section members for continuously filling up my inbox with suggestions for improvement. In order to bring a fresh perspective to our events, we've created a new tournament committee with the goal of improving our award winning tournament program even further.

### 2022 Tournament Committee

Chair: Eric Kennedy, PGA	Jason Gebhart, PGA
Pat Butkus, PGA	Dustin McCormick, PGA
John Cooper, PGA	Dave Pagett, PGA
Joanna Coe, PGA	Patti Post, PGA
Ben Debski, PGA	Andrew Turner, PGA

Our Committee is dedicated to serving the needs of the entire membership and enhancing our tournament program to keep it the best in the country! Feel free to fill up their inboxes as well.

### Thank You to Our Partners

Even with the hard work and dedication of our Section staff and committees, our tournament program would not be possible without the generosity of our great sponsors.

No golf company is required to provide us with prize money each week so it is incumbent upon each of us to show our appreciation in any way possible. As I have mentioned in years past, I challenge each member to ask several questions before each event. "Who is writing the check?" and "What are their goals for this event?" Maybe it's to open an account or increase sales, but more often than not it's to gain valuable feedback from the professionals on the front lines. Just remember: we are blessed to have great sponsors; it's our job to keep them.

# Director of Tournaments' Report

## 2021 Recap

A special thank you to all facilities, their memberships and staff for hosting events this season. Our events would not be possible without great venues and accommodating memberships. Our tournament program is the best in the country, with some of the strongest fields and highest purses. Among our 2021 highlights included our first ever Women's Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship. As a result and in an effort to continually grow the game and expand our diversity, beginning in 2022 we will begin recognizing our Women's Player of the Year as well.

## 2022 Forecast and Changes

As I mentioned earlier, the 2022 golf season is one of the most highly anticipated seasons in recent memory. Along with our traditional major events like the William Hyndman III Memorial Classic, Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic, Philadelphia Players Championship and the Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, we have now added the Silvercrest Cup at Gulph Mills. The elite, 72-player field will be determined at four separate qualifiers throughout the summer. We are excited to have Silvercrest Asset Management Group, a great new sponsor join our Section. But arguably the most exciting addition to our schedule is the Pro-Superintendent at the venerable Overbrook G.C. I can't imagine a better venue or host professional to stage this inaugural extravaganza.

The Section will continue our already successful travel pro-am schedule. We will once again visit Destination Kohler in the fall and Pinehurst in the spring. For those of you that have not had the good fortune to attend a travel pro-am, I encourage you to do so. It is an excellent way to build relationships with members, visit exotic resorts all while convincing our spouses that it is actually "work."

Although the 2022 tournament season will bring a return to normal event procedures,

we have made some additions along with the following changes in rules/protocols:

- Priority Listing for Receiving Entries (Section 5.09) - For the 2022 season, priority listing for tournament entries will be in effect for all Player of the Year points events. When the field size is limited, entries will be accepted based on the following priority listing:
  - PGA Member in good standing and a TPD member.
  - PGA Member in good standing and a Non-TPD member.
  - PGA Associate in good standing and a TPD member.
  - PGA Associate in good standing and a Non-TPD member.
  - Pre-Associate in good standing and a TPD member.
  - Pre-Associate in good standing and a Non-TPD member.
- Women's Pro-Am - A new event has been added to the 2022 schedule that will be held at Hershey C.C. on October 14. Teams will be comprised of one woman PGA Professional and three women amateurs.
  - Single rider golf car preference is no longer an option with carts limited to participants only (no spectators or caddies in carts, no exceptions).
  - Paper scorecards will continue to be the official scorecard with each group maintaining online scoring as well.

Lastly, thank you, the Section members, for making this the best section in the country to both play and work. Here's to a successful 2022 golf season, great weather and good competition but most importantly, I hope we all have a chance to enjoy the little things...like Dave McNabb.

All the best,

Eric Kennedy, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Director of Tournaments

## PGA REACH Philadelphia Report

The 2021 season was a successful one for PGA REACH Philadelphia as we continued to grow in our programming and fundraising efforts. Despite the continued challenges the world faced in 2021 the foundation was able to leverage the golf industry's recent boom to positively continue our mission of impacting lives through our three pillars: Youth, Military, and Diversity & Inclusion. The foundation made some staff changes in the 2021 season as Leila Mackie, PGA, took a job with PGA of America as a Career Consultant/Recruiting Specialist, and Courtney Curcio was promoted to the foundation's director. Recently, the foundation hired Gervon Williams as foundation coordinator and hired a PGA WORKS Fellow as a 12-month fellowship. The foundation's committee has been a liaison and representative for the foundation's vision to be more than just golf in our community. We seek to change the perception of the game by providing opportunities and pathways to those in the youth, military, and diverse populations. I would like to thank our entire committee for their time and voluntary support. The committee focuses on two areas: programming and fundraising. Below are the foundation's programming and fundraising efforts for this season, and for more information please see the strategic plan or visit [pgareachphiladelphia.com](http://pgareachphiladelphia.com).

### PGA Jr. League

PGA Junior League is a phenomenal program to implement at your facility; most of those facilities that have implemented the program have seen tremendous success. Participation in the program among our Section continues to grow over the years. This year PGA of America implemented their own new software. It was developed to be more user friendly and have all platforms on one site (PGA Jr. League, PGA Family Cup, and PGA.Coach). The plan is to resume postseason play and championships in 2022.

- Section qualifier (East Division): August 9 at Philmont C.C.
- Section qualifier (West Division): August 1 at Carlisle C.C.
- Section championship: TBA

### PGA HOPE Philadelphia

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the PGA of America's flagship military program, introducing weekly golf clinics to veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. Locally, the PGA HOPE Philadelphia program has served over 400 veterans through our location chapters and has provided job opportunities and continued programming for the veterans. In 2022, we will have a total of eight chapter locations (see below for the programs).

- Bensalem Township C.C., Bensalem, Pa.
- Indian Springs C.C., Marlton, N.J.
- C.C. of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, Pa.
- Union League Liberty Hill, Lafayette Hill, Pa.
- Union League National G.C., Cape May Court House, N.J.
- Frog Hollow G.C., Middletown, Del.
- Five Ponds G.C., Warminster, Pa.
- Glen Brook G.C., Stroudsburg, Pa.

### Golf in Schools

Our Golf in Schools program has seen a great amount of support and interest from local area schools and administrators. We have partnered with GAP and the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia, and together we use SNAG Golf to introduce physical education teachers to the curriculum so they can incorporate it into their class schedules. The program was in at least 50 different schools / districts in 2021 and 2022. We support this program through PGA REACH Philadelphia by funding the program to local schools that participate. Our goal is to continue to grow the program by adding new schools each year. We also have plans to enhance the program



# PGA REACH Philadelphia Report

by building an after-school component to the program as a next step for kids that participate. Program activation is dependent on the school's reopening guidelines for 2022-2023 school year.

## Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships

With opportunities to learn, grow, and compete, many tour members graduate to play at the college level and beyond. The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour is proud to help in developing social skills, self-esteem, and inspire youth in our community by providing scholarships to individuals from diverse backgrounds. The foundation built upon its existing diversity programs by expanding its Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship recipients to 11, including five new for 2021; working with additional PGA Professionals for its Diversity Scholarship mentor program; and partnering with the Philadelphia Cricket Club's 1854 Foundation to provide golf equipment. The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship includes: annual tour membership dues and tournament event fees (up to seven tournaments per year until recipient turns 18 years old). The 2022 applications are currently being reviewed and they will be selected in the next few weeks.

## Mentor Program

PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship will be in town this year May 2-4 at Union League Liberty Hill and Union League G.C. at Torresdale. The PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship (PWCC) was created in 1986 to highlight competitive golf programs at the most underserved and underrepresented minority-serving institutions in the country, and educate and inspire student-athletes to pursue career opportunities in the business of golf and beyond. PWCC is considered the most culturally significant championship in collegiate golf (82 percent of 2021 players identified as "non-white"). In conjunction with the PWCC, PGA WORKS will host Beyond the Green and Youth Day, a career exploration event designed

to educate and inspire talent from historically underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in the business of golf and beyond. As a foundation, we will receive a fully funded PGA WORKS Fellow as a full-time employee.

## Mentor Program

The goal of this program is to provide a mentor that can serve as a role model and coach for our junior golfers enrolled in the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship program.

## Fundraising

**Golf Marathon:** The Philadelphia PGA Section's 100-Hole Golf Marathon was established by Section PGA Professionals to raise money for the programs supported by PGA REACH Philadelphia. PGA Professionals, and all other willing supporters will play 100 holes of golf in one day, on a date of their choosing anytime throughout the 2022 golf season. Last year our Section raised \$37,500 through the golf marathon and our goal is to beat that number this year. We need the support of our PGA Members to help us reach our goal, please consider participating in 2022 by holding an event at your facility. Thank you to those PGA Members that continue to support PGA REACH Philadelphia and give back to your community by taking part in this event year after year, we really appreciate it.

**Pro-Am Championship:** We are excited for our annual PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am Championship, and the event is scheduled for October 11 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Proceeds raised from this event will go toward supporting foundation programs and services for youth, military, and diverse groups. Registration information and sponsor / team entry details can be found on the Section tournament schedule as well as on [pgareachphiladelphia.com](http://pgareachphiladelphia.com).

**Birdie Program:** PGA REACH Philadelphia offers its REACH for Birdies program for the Philadelphia PGA Section tournament season to

# PGA REACH Philadelphia Report

help support the foundation. When joining the program, PGA Professionals make pledges to donate a certain dollar amount for each birdie and or eagle that they make during all official Section and PAO events, tracked by Section staff.

**Equipment Rental Program:** PGA Members are able to rent Golfzilla, an inflatable hippopotamus, Birdie Balls, SNAG kits, inflatable nets, and more, for your facility programs and events. Simply contact the Section office to reserve your day and time in advance. Facilities have used the equipment for junior golf camps, family events, member guest tournaments, etc. Over 70 facilities have utilized this program so far and have seen the value it can add to their events. All the rental proceeds go to our PGA REACH Philadelphia.

In conclusion, I would like to invite all of you to get involved with these programs in any way you can. Please reach out to Courtney, myself, or any of the committee members

for more information on how you can help support PGA REACH Philadelphia. We are here to be ambassadors for our Section and to help you at your facilities grow the game and make a difference in people's lives.

On behalf of the Foundation Committee, I would like to thank Geoffrey and his entire staff for all their hard work they do on a daily basis, and hopefully we can all look forward to another busy golf season in 2022!

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin McCormick, PGA  
PGA REACH Philadelphia  
Committee Chair

## PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee

Chair: Dustin McCormick, PGA	Michael Little, PGA
Sam Ambrose, PGA	Kyle Monahan, PGA
Jeffrey Briener, PGA	Dan Mrozinski, PGA
John Carpineta, PGA	Scott Reilly, PGA
Gerry Davis, PGA	Jenna Soranno, PGA
Jason Lamp, PGA	Steve Wager, PGA
Bob Lennon, PGA	Kevin Wiest, PGA

## Central Counties Chapter President's Report

I hope this report finds everyone in good health as we are hopefully getting to the end of this two year battle across the globe. It is almost hard to believe the amount of obstacles we have had to work our way around throughout this COVID journey, but hopefully there is at least some light at the end of the tunnel.

A huge thank you to Jim Haus and everyone at Bent Creek for offering to host our spring meeting. It has been far too long since we've had an in-person meeting, and I for one cannot wait to get everyone back on site and together again! Bent Creek is a fantastic facility, and we certainly appreciate all their support throughout the years.

Once again Jason Gebhart, our tournament director, has put together a great slate of pro-ams for the 2022 season. The Chapter Championship will return to Williamsport C.C. this summer, and Colonial C.C. will host the fall meeting. Once again, we have some really fantastic venues in the Chapter and we're honored that they share their facilities with us!

Just a friendly reminder the MSR cycle ends this summer. The team at the Section has once again put out a bunch of valuable learning opportunities over the winter and I hope everyone took advantage of them. If you're still short on hours, please address it as soon as possible. Once we get into full season mode it just gets harder and harder to find the time to squeeze in those last few MSRs.

I would like to encourage everyone to get out and support our events this summer. We are all busy and understaffed, but it's really important to keep the Chapter active so we can continue to provide playing opportunities in the Central Pennsylvania region. Even if it is just one of two more events than you played in 2021, it's imperative we keep growing our numbers and supporting our fellow PGA Professionals.

Lastly, thank you as always to Geoff, Barb, Sue and the entire Section staff. They do the majority of the heavy lifting for us and are phenomenal at what they do. I don't

think we can thank them enough for keeping everything running smoothly for us year in and year out.

Respectfully submitted,

Judd Caruso, PGA  
Central Counties Chapter President



## Instruction Committee Report

Our Instruction Committee is committed to providing a range of educational opportunities for the 2022 season. We recently conducted a winter Teaching & Coaching Summit at Whitemarsh Valley C.C. that was a huge success. We learned about a variety of relevant topics from a diverse panel that included Dr. Mike Duffey, Jason Miesch, Eric Handley, Dan Merrell, Kevin Sprecher, James Hong, John Dunigan, and Dr. Will Wu. We received some great feedback via a post event survey that we will utilize in an effort to continue to improve upon our offerings. We are in the process of brainstorming for another Teaching & Coaching Summit for this coming autumn, that will feature more of a hands-on approach to teaching than what was possible during our indoor winter summit.

The end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 have presented me with some personal challenges as one of my children suffered a traumatic brain injury during a soccer game back in December. It has been the biggest challenge I have ever had to face. He is recovering pretty rapidly, and is expected to make a full recovery. It did however, give me

a chance to reflect on what's important in life. The medical professionals, community at large, friends, and many others, have been amazing in supporting our family through this very difficult time. Regardless of what social media and the news say, there are still lots of good people in this world. I was able to do a lot of soul searching, and I believe I am called to help people. For me professionally, that is twofold. First, I am committed to helping my students get more enjoyment out of playing golf. Secondly, I am committed to helping my peers become more successful teaching golf by sharing my experiences and chairing this committee. We have a wonderful committee who all share the same vision. We are all here to help you. If there is anything you'd like to see in terms of what the Instruction Committee provides, please do not hesitate to ask. We are all on the same team. Also, if there is anything any of our committee members can do, I can say with a high level of confidence that they would be more than happy to share their expertise. The game of golf is in a good place, but we need to make sure those who are trusted to pass the game along to others have all of the tools necessary to be successful both personally and professionally.

### Instruction Committee

Chair: Andy Miller, PGA  
John Bierkan, PGA  
Bob Crowther, PGA  
Becky Dengler, PGA  
John Dunigan, PGA  
Eric Handley, PGA  
Frank Hesson, PGA  
Dan Merrell, PGA  
Steve Wager, PGA

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Miller, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Instruction Committee Chair

## Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

We eagerly await the 2022 golf season, and look forward to once again being together, playing golf, and doing what we love as golf professionals. The Philadelphia Assistants' Organization (PAO) had a progressive year in 2021 and building on that success is our number one goal. Last year, PAO membership was up 32 percent from the previous year. Thank you all for your continued support of this organization, the more involvement we generate the stronger we become!

We would like to recognize two members of PAO leadership who have made significant contributions to the organization and moved on this year. Steve Frederick, our former Education Chair and Co-Chair, accepted the PGA Head Professional position at Radnor Valley C.C. Ashley Grier, our former Tournament Chair, is returning home to the Middle Atlantic PGA Section to work at her family's owned Yinglings G.C. in Hagerstown, Md. These changes created an opportunity for other members to be involved in leading the PAO. Cameron Small, Aronimink G.C., and Andrew Turner, Berkshire C.C., eagerly expressed their interest in joining the PAO board, and have improved our offerings in a short amount of time.

### 2022 PAO Board:

- Co-Chair: Keith Clawson, PGA
- Co-Chair: Jeff Kiddie, PGA
- Tournaments: Andrew Turner, PGA
- Communications & Mentorship: Brad Sanders, PGA
- Education: Cameron Small, PGA
- Youth Golf / Charity / Finance: Anthony Shields, PGA

**PAO Spring Meeting:** The PAO Spring Meeting will be held in person on Monday, April 11 at DuPont C.C. This meeting will feature a short meeting, an educational offering, and will conclude with golf. Highlights of the upcoming season will be shared, best in state golf instructors John Bierkan and Mark

Sheftic will lead a golf institution seminar, and then partners will take to the golf course for some fun competition. We encourage all PAO members to register and attend as it is a terrific way to kick off the season.

**Tournaments:** We are looking forward to a fun year of tournaments centered around competition and camaraderie. As always, we will have our combined PAO events in conjunction with regular Section events. Those combined events are: Delaware Valley Open, TaylorMade Classic, Conestoga Classic, William Hyndman III Memorial Classic, Doylestown Open, and the Jack Jolly Championship. We will also host four to five PAO stand-alone events throughout the season to be announced at a later date. Please reference the Section website for the PAO tournament calendar and season-long standings. Finally, after a two year hiatus, we welcome back the return of the PAO season-long match play tournament.

Prior to the start of another year of PAO events, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to those that make what we do possible. Thank you to all of our host PGA Professionals/facilities, the Philadelphia PGA Section tournament staff, and our generous sponsors including Conrad Radcliffe. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity and support of those involved.

**Education:** The PAO has made it a priority to bring quality educational offerings to our membership this year. Our educational program came out of the gates strong with a career development webinar featuring some of the finest PGA Professionals in the country, including Scott Nye, Merion G.C.; Jeff Kiddie, Aronimink G.C.; and Jim Smith Jr., Philadelphia Cricket Club. Joining these fine professionals were Jonathan Gold and Leila Mackie with the PGA of America, offering best practices for modern day interviewing and recruiting.

Another great PAO educational offering featured Dean Kandle, GBN. Participants

## Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

learned methods to implement in their work to “lead now” no matter their current title. In addition, Dean shared proven tactics to help stay organized and better manage responsibilities. Thank you Dean, for supporting the mission of the PAO.

Our next education offering will be featured at our PAO Spring Meeting on Monday, April 11. Best in state teacher, John Bierkan, Aronimink G.C. and Mark Sheftic, Lookaway G.C., will be sharing their expert knowledge and passion for teaching during a golf instruction seminar prior to the golf portion of the meeting. This will surely be an invaluable seminar that you will not want to miss.

The PAO is very proud of the quality education offering we have been able to provide to our membership so far in 2022. If you have any suggestions for topics or know of someone who would like to be involved in bringing quality education offerings to our organization, please reach out to Cameron Small. Now that the golf season is upon us, everyone is about to become extremely busy at work. The PAO will strive to feature smaller scale educational offerings throughout the season and resume our large scale events in the fall.

**PAO Spring Meeting:** The PAO is eager to continue to grow membership and increase overall involvement in 2022. In an effort to offer an engaging and rewarding membership experience, the more members who join and participate in our community the stronger it can become. Despite your background or your desired career path, the PAO is eager to welcome you to our organization to help you pursue your industry goals.

**Networking:** Throughout the years, the PAO has created a platform for introductions, helped strengthen networks, and fostered many friendships on and off of the golf course. The PAO has developed a far-reaching network of past and present members. Assistant professionals who join and engage with our organization will surely

be able to expand their personal network. Join and get involved today!

**PAO Patron Program:** Spring is the perfect opportunity for PGA Head Professionals who put a premium on the self-improvement of their staff to take advantage of the PAO Patron Program. It allows PGA Head Professionals to sponsor eligible staff members for PAO membership. By proxy, they can simply pay the annual PAO membership fee of \$75 for their PGA assistant professionals. By sponsoring your assistants, they will be able to actively participate in tournaments, networking, education, and volunteer opportunities. In the spirit of professional growth, and a pay it forward mentality, we hope you will consider supporting the PAO Patron Program. For more information on this program, please visit the PAO tab or section website or reach out to Keith Clawson at [keithclawson@meriongolfclub.com](mailto:keithclawson@meriongolfclub.com).

**Stay Updated:** Be sure to stay up to date on the current happenings of the PAO by visiting the section website or by following along on social media. Regular updates related to our various events and programs will be highlighted on our official Instagram. Please check out our page @philadelphiaPAO1921 and like / share to help our following grow.

**Finance / Charity / Youth Golf:** This year, the PAO is committed to supporting charity and volunteer opportunities that are aligned with the Philadelphia PGA Section. There are so many great opportunities to give back including PGA REACH Philadelphia and the many programs underneath its umbrella. Engaging and giving back to the golf community is an important aspect of being a PGA Professional. Please consider getting involved in our volunteer efforts this season. Remember, the give is so much greater than the get.

Our first big volunteer effort of the season will be held at the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship, hosted by the Union League of Philadelphia. A big part of the tournament

## Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

week is a Youth Day on Saturday, April 30. The PAO is organizing volunteers to help work their junior golf clinic. Our goal is to provide a great experience for the participants of the Youth Day by offering fun and friendly golf instruction during the Junior Golf Clinic. If you are interested in volunteering your time for this great event, please sign up online or contact Keith Clawson at [keithclawson@meriongolfclub.com](mailto:keithclawson@meriongolfclub.com) for more information.

We encourage all PAO members to become involved in the various programs that the Section has to offer. These programs include, PGA REACH Philadelphia, PGA HOPE Philadelphia clinics, Drive, Chip & Putt events, Golf Marathons, and Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour events. You can find more information on these opportunities by visiting the Section website. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**PAO Mission Statement:** The purpose of the Philadelphia Assistants' Organization is to prepare the Assistant Professionals of the Philadelphia PGA Section for future professional success as a PGA Member. We will give Assistant Professionals the opportunities to prepare themselves for the playing ability test, the PGA's PGA Golf Management Program, the golf business, and future PGA Membership. This is accomplished with leadership, mentoring, support through education, networking, and tournament competition.

Thank you and we look forward to a great season in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith J. Clawson, PGA  
PAO Co-Chair

# 2022 Philadelphia PGA Spring Membership Meeting Agenda

## Monday, March 28 Union League Liberty Hill Lafayette Hill, Pa. *(agenda subject to change)*

### Call to Order

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### National Anthem

*Clark Luis, PGA*

### Sargent at Arms

### Invocation

*John Carpineta, PGA*

### Host Facilities Recognition

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Introductions

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Motion to Dispense

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Secretary's Report

*Bob Hennefer, PGA*

### Partner Recognition

*Evolve Golf*

### Special Recognition

*Andy Miller, PGA: 2021 PGA Youth Player Development Award Recipient*

**2021 Awards:** Salesperson, Youth Player Development, Player Development, Patriot  
*Dustin McCormick, PGA:*

### Keynote Speaker

*Don Rea, PGA: PGA of America Secretary*

### Partner Recognition

*Signature Golf*

**2021 Awards:** Justin Riegel Assistant Golf Professional, Merchandisers, Professional Development  
*Dustin McCormick, PGA*

### Partner Recognition

*SCNS Sports Foods*

### Break

**2021 Awards:** Bill Strausbaugh, Teacher & Coach, PGA Golf Professional  
*Dustin McCormick, PGA*

### District 2 Director's Report

*John Pillar, PGA*

### Partner Recognition

*Precision Pro Golf*

### PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship

*Don Rea, PGA; Sean Palmer, PGA; Geoffrey Surrette, PGA; Courtney Curcio*

### Partner Recognition

*Next Round*

### President's Report

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Executive Director's Report

*Geoffrey Surrette, PGA*

### Old Business

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### New Business

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Open Forum

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### Tournament Announcements

### Adjourn