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**December 2015**

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**Josh Slawiak, PGA**  
Tournament Director

**Christine Proulx**  
Junior Golf Director  
CProulx@pgahq.com

**LETTER FROM WNYPGA PRESIDENT,  
MICHAEL O'CONNOR, PGA**

Dear Fellow WNYPGA Professionals,

I hope this off season is providing you all an opportunity to recharge and get prepared for the upcoming golf season. The weather should soon be changing so we can truly recharge!

The new Board has met and conference calls have been frequent to established Committee Chairs, Committee structure, goals and objectives for 2016 and beyond. Several Chairs will be reaching out for support on their respective Committee; I encourage you to accept and take an active role. If you are interested simply call the Section Office or contact the Chair directly.

As the PGA of America approaches it's 100 year anniversary, PGA National will be launching a marketing campaign to recognize our associations anniversary. The campaign will recognize the Associations value and the impact of the PGA Professional. The Golf Channel will be highlighting our 41 Sections, as well as a "Thanks Pro" spots throughout the year. PGA National will be promoting our PGA Jr. League and is extremely excited about it's growth. I encourage you to start a team at your own facility, as The PGA Tour will continue Junior Golf promotion with their ambassadors of Rickie Fowler, Rory McIlroy and Michelle Wie.

The WNYPGA is officially in the process of moving our Section Office to our new location at Fox Valley. The Board of Directors had been working on numerous scenarios for our home site and how to grow into the future. The Board of Directors was unanimous in voting to sell our current building and partner with Fox Valley. This move made great economic sense as well as gaining green grass access! Joe and his staff are working out the logistics, but anticipate a full move by early March.

I'm sure you are all aware that we lost a good friend and a great Golf Professional recently with the sudden passing of Randy Shaw. Randy was a loving Father and Husband and a terrific person! He was passionate about the game of golf, his career and he was dedicated to the Orchard Park Membership. It's extremely difficult to make sense of his loss! It reminds me to choose to live each day to the fullest and embrace life! I hope you do the same and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Kind Regards,

Michael

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# PGA

Western New York Section

## LETTER FROM WNYPGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOE BERTINO, PGA WNYPGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear WNYPGA Professionals,

In hoping that this holiday season has been a truly special one for you and your loved ones,, I would like to welcome our newest WNYPGA team member, Josh Slawiak, PGA as our Tournament Director, Josh had served previously as PGA Assistant Golf Professional at Springville Country Club. He currently lives in Tonawanda, NY with his wife Marisa and their weeks-old son, JJ. Please feel free to welcome Josh to our staff!

As Michael O'Connor mentions in his letter, we are all still devastated at the sudden loss of Randy Shaw, PGA, from Orchard Park CC. Randy served at OPCC for 20 years, and is survived by his wife Celeste, and their three children, Sydney, Aidan, and Abigail. Please continue to count them in your thoughts and prayers through a very difficult time.

With the PGA Merchandise Show in less than a month, there are a number of items to help you keep your winter lively- During the Orlando, FL show, there are myriad opportunities to earn PGA MSR's while you are taking a break from the show floor- The **Youth & Family Golf Summit** will be held in the Chapin Theatre at the Orange County Convention Center on January 24 & 25 preceding the Show's start. These two action packed days are filled with presentations designed to grow the game, your business, and your value to your facility. **DEMO DAY** is Tuesday January 26th at Orange County National Golf Center. Also, throughout the show you can attend myriad short seminars to broaden your skills and accumulate MSR's as well. You can register for the show at [www.pgashow.com](http://www.pgashow.com) . As a special bonus for all WNYPGA Professionals, the **PGA Merchandise Show Short Game Challenge** is once again being held next to the indoor hitting area all three days- Sections win prizes on all three days, and **WE NEED YOU** to give it a shot each day you are able! The WNYPGA will split the daily prize money won with the Section Professional who earned that prize- PLEASE give it a try, it takes about 5 minutes, and our Section has "cashed" at least 1 day every year since 2010!

Finally, in this edition you will find information on activities to really help boost activity at your club as well as drive the PGA brand and your value as a PGA Professional. It takes just a bit of effort on your part to implement a **PGA Junior League Golf** team, **Get Golf Ready** program, or **PGA Sports Academy** and you will nearly instantly see significant returns on your time and efforts!

Best wishes for a quick winter, I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando!

Regards,  
Joe Bertino, PGA  
Executive Director, WNYPGA

## 2016 WNYPGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

President	Michael O'Connor	Governance
Vice-President	Rob Horak	Finance, Governance
Secretary	Dan Antonucci	Membership Services, Governance
Honorary President	Jeff Mietus	Finance, Governance
Tournament Chair	Jake Northrup	Tournaments

Marketing & Sponsorship Committee	Chair:	Dwayne Randall
	Co-Chair:	Mike Kiel

Growth of the Game	Chair	Mike D'Agostino
	Co- Chair	Sean Moffat

Awards & Hall of Fame	Chair:	David Wedzik
	Co-Chair:	Ryan Swanson

Education / Scholarships	Chair:	Steve Carney
	Co-Chair	Jeff Mietus

Foundation	Chair:	Michael O'Connor
	Co-Chair:	Dan Antonucci

Communication / Website	Chair:	Mike Kiel
	Co-Chair:	Dan Antonucci

Junior Golf	Chair:	Chris Kulinski
	Co-Chair:	Ryan Swanson

Office Relocation Committee	Chair:	Rob Horak
	Co-Chair:	Steve Carney

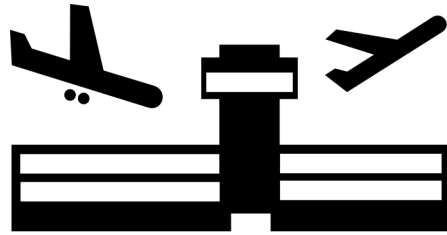
Assistants Association	Chair:	Sean Moffat
	Co-Chair:	Dwayne Randall

Area 1 Director (Rochester)	Mike D'Agostino
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Area 2 Director (Buffalo)	Chris Kulinski
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Area 3 Director (Erie/Southern Tier)	David Wedzik
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## ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES



- We are excited to welcome Josh Slawiak, PGA to our team as our new Tournament Director! Josh joins us from Springville Country Club where he was the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Golf Professional. Josh attended Niagara University where he studied History and then went on to attend the Golf Academy of America. Just a few weeks ago he and his wife, Marisa, welcomed a baby boy, JJ. We are excited to have him join our team as we bring in the New Year!
- Congratulations to Tom Kendrick, employment consultant, on his upcoming retirement. We wish him and his family a wonderful retirement! You can read his farewell letter on the next page.

## SECTION NEWS

- The WNYPGA headed to Oak Hill Country Club and in conjunction with the PGA of America donated \$10,000 to the Gay R. Maney Reach for the Green Scholarship. The scholarship was first awarded in 2008 and is renewable over the four years the recipient is in college. We are excited to work closely with the scholarship committee to create a greater impact in introducing the game of golf to Rochester inner-city youth.





## Employment Briefs – December 16, 2015

Tom Kendrick, PGA Employment Services Consultant

### Thanks For The Memories!

About this time last year, I made a decision that is life changing for me...I am retiring from full-time work in the golf business at the end of the year. This decision was both easy and hard; easy because I am in good health and really look forward to calling all the shots on how I spend my time; it was hard because I love what I am doing and know I will miss it and all the professionals I get to work with every day.

To say I have been blessed to have a career in golf would be a dramatic understatement. From the time I was hired by PGA Professional Marty Kavanaugh II at Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course back in 1968, I have enjoyed every minute of my time in this wonderful profession. I worked as an assistant professional under Marty becoming a PGA Member in July of 1975, then served as a head professional for 8 years before moving into an administrative role with the Hamilton County Park District Golf Department, a regional park system that has multiple golf courses. Eventually I worked my way up to become the Park District's Golf Manager overseeing their 7 golf courses before joining the PGA Employment Services team in 2000.

In August of 2000, I was fortunate to get a CareerLinks notice for an Employment Consultant position with the PGA when the department expanded from 7 to 9 consultants. To my surprise, I landed the job and began work in October serving 7 Sections from Ohio up to New England. During my 15 years as a PGA Employment Consultant I have served 9 different Sections, worked with those Sections' Executive Directors, officers and leaders, serving hundreds of employers and thousands of professionals. To say it has been rewarding is also an understatement; having the opportunity to assist my fellow professionals, building relationships and friendships along the way, has been an incredible time in my career.

I have cherished the opportunity for professional and personal growth being part of a group of consummate professionals on the PGA Employment Services team. I can never repay the PGA, our team leaders and my fellow teammates for what this opportunity provided me and I will be forever grateful. I am certain PGA Employment Services will continue to grow and improve in providing valuable services to your Section and its members in the future. Please welcome your new Consultant and know they will have the same commitment to serve you in even better ways into the future.

I will end with a few simple notes of thanks; to God for blessing me with this opportunity; to my wife Rhonda for standing by me all these years in what we know is a stressful business; to Marty Kavanaugh for hiring me and being the best mentor and friend a man could have; to the tremendous PGA Professionals I worked with at the Great Parks of Hamilton County over the years; to all the Employment Consultants I have worked with and our department leaders; and finally to all the Section E.D.'s, officers, leaders and members I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving. Thanks for the memories; I hope our paths will cross again in the future. And special blessings to you and yours for the Christmas holiday and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year!



## DO YOU HAVE THESE PROGRAMS AT YOUR COURSE?

### PGA Sports Academy

The PGA Sports Academy program focuses on helping youth learn to play golf while having fun throughout three levels: Player, Sport, and Champion. Throughout these levels players learn the basics of the sport, the rules and scoring of golf, and management skills. This is all done by using common sports and equipment, such as baseball and hockey, to introduce the game of golf. We encourage you to reach out to your local Boys & Girls Clubs or other inner-city youth groups to launch a PGA Sports Academy program near you!



### Get Golf Ready



Get Golf Ready is the “bunny slope” for adults wanting to learn how to golf. The program is designed to teach everything one needs to play golf in just a handful of lessons. Comprised of five lessons, Get Golf Ready gives individuals the information necessary to become comfortable on the course

and with their golf swing. Using Tee It Forward, the program encourages players to have fun in a more relaxed and social atmosphere. Starting a Get Golf Ready program at your course will build involvement in your golf program by bringing new individuals to the game!

### PGA Junior League

Different from other junior golf tours and events, PGA Junior League Golf is a fun and social opportunity for boys and girls under the age of 13. Similar to other recreational league sports, golfers wear numbered jerseys and play on teams with their friends. Each game consists of four 9-hole matches played in two-person scramble format. As a PGA Professional, you act as a Captain to a Junior League team. This is simple to do, just by going to the link below and registering yourself. After that, the fun begins – you get to set up your team, assign coaches, and organize matches with other local teams. From here you’re off to a great start, ready to have a winning season. Get your PGA Junior League started today!



<https://www.pga.org/articles/how-start-pga-junior-league-golf-team>

## JOB OPENINGS

### Assistant Professional Position

Lakeside Country Club, Penn Yan, NY



- Season runs from April 1st to October 31st.
  - Duties include all facets of the golf operation, managing staff, sales, running leagues and tournaments.
  - Looking for a high energy, motivated individual with aspirations of working in the golf industry.
  - Experience and/or two or four year degree preferred but not mandatory.
  - Salary range \$500-\$575 per week commensurate with experience.
  - Lesson and Clinic money is available. Food and Clothing allowance provided.
  - Please send resume or questions to Bob King at [proshop@lccpy.com](mailto:proshop@lccpy.com)
- 

### Assistant Golf Professional

Irondequoit Country Club, Rochester, NY

Irondequoit Country Club is an original Donald Ross golf course, and was established in 1916. Home to the Web.com Tour's Xerox Classic from 2005-2008, ICC is held in high regard as a championship caliber golf course. Members and their guests play 17,000 rounds annually.

#### DESCRIPTION

- Assistant Professional duties include tournament operations, golf shop sales, club fitting and lessons (based on qualifications), Junior Golf instruction, re-gripping clubs
  - Compensation: \$525.00—\$800.00 per week, dependent on experience. Weekly salary plus lessons and club fitting/repair income
  - Previous experience at a private club is strongly preferred. Strong interpersonal skills and an engaging personality are a must
  - Please contact:: Steven Bordner, PGA—Head Golf Professional , Irondequoit Country Club, 4045 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14618
- 

### Assistant Golf Professional

Clifton Springs Country Club

Under the supervision of the Head Golf Professional, the Assistant Golf Professional should perform varied customer service tasks related to daily golf services. Daily activities include customer service, handling of cash/member charges, ensuring smooth and timely play on the golf course, golf instruction, merchandise sales, golf equipment repair, golf course marshalling and inventory control. In addition, the Assistant Golf Professionals are responsible for opening and closing the golf shop and for supervising subordinate employees. **Please send cover letter, resume and references to Michael Basch @[mbasch@fltg.net](mailto:mbasch@fltg.net)**

Michael Basch, PGA, Clifton Springs Country Club  
2721 Hopewell Townline Rd  
Clifton Springs, NY 14332

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### Assistant Golf Professional

The Kahkwa Club

Seasonal April 15th-October 15th position— Hourly rate based on experience w/45 hour maximum work week. Housing included. Playing privileges, meal plan, 100% of lessons, junior golf income, \$2500 education allowance.

Send resumes to Michael O'Connor @ [mjojkah@aol.com](mailto:mjojkah@aol.com).





# PGA

Western New York Section

## 2016 WNYPGA Tournament Schedule

<b>APRIL</b>	Mon	18	Spring Meeting	TBD
<b>MAY</b>	Mon	2	Taylor Made Sr-Jr	TBD
	Mon	9	Titleist Scratch Pro-Am	Brook-Lea CC, Rochester, NY
	Fri	13	Make-a-Wish Foundation Pro-Am	* Webster GC, Webster, NY
	Mon	16	WNY Open	* TBD
	Mon	23	Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel Pro-Am	* Elkdale CC, Salamanca, NY
	Tue	31	Pro-Officers	Penfield CC, Penfield, NY
<b>JUNE</b>	Fri	3	Lawrence Park Pro Am Invitational	* Lawrence Park GC, Erie, PA
	Mon	6	Bartlett Pro Am	* Bartlett CC, Olean, NY
	Fri	10	Lake View Pro-Am Invitational	* Lake View CC, North East, PA
	Mon	13	Children's Hospital Pro-Am Invitational	Park CC, Williamsville, NY
	Fri	17	PAT	Buffalo TC, Lancaster, NY
	Mon	20	Moon Brook Pro-Am Invitational	* Moon Brook CC, Jamestown, NY
	Mon	27	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Pro-Am	* Chautauqua GC, Chautauqua, NY
<b>JULY</b>	Tue	5	Holiday Valley Pro-Am	* Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
	Mon	11	Pine Acres Pro-Am	* Pine Acres CC, Bradford, PA
	Mon	18-19	Professional Championship	* Whispering Woods GC, Erie, PA
	Fri	22	Wellsville Pro-Am	* Wellsville CC, Wellsville, NY
	Mon	25	Blaisdell Pennhills Pro-Am	* Pennhills Club, Bradford, PA
<b>AUGUST</b>	Mon	1	WNY Classic	* TBD
	Sun	7	Midvale Pro-Am Invitational	* Midvale CC, Penfield, NY
	Mon-Tue	15-16	Coors Section Championship	* Ridgemont CC, Rochester, NY
	Fri	26	Assistant Championship	Stafford CC, Batavia, NY
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Thu-Fri	1-2	Senior Championship	* TBD
	Mon	5	Labor Day	
	Tue	6	Pro-Assistant Championship	Bristol Harbour GC, Canandaigua, NY
	Mon-Tue	12-13	Match Play Championship	* TBD
	Mon	19	Pro-Pro Championship	Ravenwood GC, Victor, NY
	Mon-Tue	26-27	Tour Championship	* TBD
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Sun	2	Locust Hill Pro-Am	Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, NY
	Mon/Wed	10-13	WNYPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am	Paiute Golf Resort, Las Vegas, NV

\* Counts toward Omega Player of the Year Award



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**PGA**

Western New York Section

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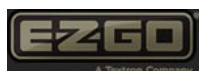
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