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PGA

Western New York Section



Official Publication of the Western New York Section PGA

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**Western New York
Section PGA**

8265 Sheridan Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221

716-626-7095 (office)

716-626-5308 (fax)

WNewYork@pgahq.com

Westernnewyork.pga.com

WNYPGA STAFF

Joe Bertino , PGA
Executive Director
jbertino@pgahq.com

Christine Proulx
Junior Golf Director
cproulx@pgahq.com

LETTER FROM WNYPGA PRESIDENT, MICHAEL O'CONNOR, PGA

I'm excited for the 2016 season to begin, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our Spring Meeting on Monday April 18th at Fox Valley! I hope this offseason you were able to develop improvements to pass on to your membership, students and the public. Your Board of Directors have been working on improvements to best serve you "The Member", and to elevate the image of the WNYPGA Professional in your community.

The WNYPGA Section office has officially relocated to "The Cabin" The Fox Valley Club. The old office is for sale, and there has been some activity but no official offers yet. The new green grass location will enable our the WNYPGA Section to promote and implement player development programs and on course events. The agreement with the WNYPGA Section and The Fox Valley Club is currently set for 10-year term with \$1 annual fee. The final touches are taking place at The Cabin, but I encourage you to visit the new site.

Your officers will join me, along with Executive Director Joe Bertino and District 4 Director Tim Fries at the Northeast Super Regional Meeting. The meeting is held in Hartford from April 20-22nd. Each candidate running for the National Secretary of the PGA will present at the Super Regional's. Breakout sessions day two will enable the WNYPGA delegates to have face time and Q & A with each candidate.

There are currently three candidates running for the National Secretary position; Russ Libby from the North Florida PGA Section, Jim Richerson of the Wisconsin PGA Section and Rick Murphy of the Carolinas PGA Section. Please contact me or any of your Section Officers if you have any insight or opinion on the Candidates.

Before you know it the season will be in full swing, so I ask you to start thinking of our deserving PGA Professionals for Section Awards. Awards Chairman David Wedzik will be leading our Section in this process throughout the season. David will be forming a Committee, which will be comprised of Board Members and section members at large.

The National PGA is focused on improving the value of being a PGA member as well as our image. Many of you may have seen the marketing campaign of "Thanks PGA Pro". We as PGA Professionals need to continue to strive beyond our day to day duties and elevate the PGA image as well. We are all extremely busy in our day to day lives, but please do your best to initiate a PGA Junior League Program, volunteer at a player development initiative or assist at Drive Chip and Putt this summer.

I look forward to seeing you at Fox Valley on April 18th. Remember to go online to register and don't forget to register for the Scramble following the meeting.

Kind Regards,

Michael

Page	Contents
2	President's Letter
3	Executive Director Letter
4	Employment Consultant Letter
5	Important TV
6	SECTION NEWS
7	Spring Meeting
8	PGA Information
9	Las Vegas Pro-Am
10	2016 Tentative Tournament Schedule
10	Sponsor Page



PGA

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LETTER FROM JOE BERTINO, PGA WNYPGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear WNYPGA Professionals,

While it looks like winter is more than grudgingly giving way, we all know spring is here just by observing a few rites of spring such as the NCAA tournaments and, of course, The Masters! How exciting that one of our own junior golfers, Andrew LaCongo, advanced to the finals at Augusta National GC. Congratulations to him in representing our area. Drive Chip and Putt has truly exploded and this year we will have an additional local qualifier (making 4 in total) to accommodate the growing interest. Another PGA initiative that can not be ignored is PGA Junior League Golf. This fun-formatted event is truly taking the game by storm, and is easy to set up with your neighboring facilities. Our Junior Golf Director, Christine Proulx, can assist anyone with getting started, so please feel free to contact her with any issues you may have. PGA JLG is truly a program to explore as it drives revenue directly to you and grows the game!

We sincerely hope you will join us at The Fox Valley Club on April 18th for our Spring Meeting and stay for what has become over the past few years a very fun and social golf event that afternoon. The good folks at Fox Valley have been most accommodating as we move our offices into the cabin there, and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship that will grow our WNYPGA brand in the area.

Wishing all of you a tremendously successful 2016 golf season,

Joe Bertino, PGA





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LETTER FROM EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT, KEITH FISHER

Dear Members and Apprentices of the Western New York PGA,

Being a part of the golf industry since I was 15 years old, I am extremely excited to introduce myself as your new PGA Employment Consultant. My career began at Auglaize Golf Club, a small public golf course in Defiance, Ohio. After graduation from Defiance College, I had the opportunity to move to Florida and work as the lead assistant professional at TPC Prestancia, a private facility within the TPC network. In 2006, I moved to Dayton, OH and became the first assistant professional at Dayton Country Club, eventually transitioning into the role of head professional. After my time at Dayton CC, I switched roles and joined TaylorMade/Adams Golf as a territory manager. While in this position, at one time or another, I covered all of Ohio, parts of Northern West Virginia and Kentucky. Over the years I've had the honor to serve the Southern Ohio PGA Section members in different roles, from Chapter Board member to committee member and numerous volunteer growth of the game activities including Drive Chip and Putt. I am a native of Ohio and currently live in Dayton with my wife Amanda, who is expecting out first child in March.

Throughout my time as a green grass professional, board member, and sales representative I had the distinct pleasure to develop relationships with many wonderful professionals. As your PGA Employment Consultant, I am eager to continue to build upon current relationships and I am very much looking forward to developing new ones. It is truly an honor to be able to work with you as your new PGA Employment Consultant.

I look forward to serving you and assisting in all of your career needs. Please feel free to contact me anytime at (937) 457-4509 or at kfisher@pgahq.com.

Best Regards,

Keith Fisher, PGA
Employment Consultant

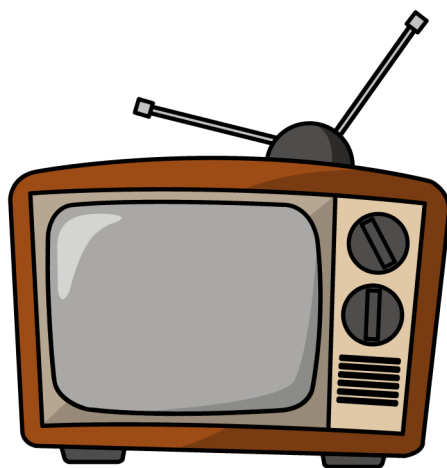
IMPORTANT TELEVISION DATES TO REMEMBER

As it relates to the Centennial calendar, the following are key dates you will want to mark on your calendar in April and May:

April 9th - The PGA of America, Augusta National Golf Club and CBS have engaged in a three-way partnership to produce a television special, which will air at 2 p.m. ET on Saturday, April 9th, leading into live Third Round coverage of the 2016 Masters Tournament. The Masters: Building of a Champion will present a special perspective on The Masters Tournament and its great champions, while retracing the Tournament's history through the unique lens of the PGA Professional – the men and women behind the winners of the Green Jacket.

May 4th - The PGA of America is excited to partner with Golf Channel for a signature moment in our Centennial Celebration: PGA Instruction Day. The day will consist of sixteen hours of dedicated instructional programming on Golf Channel. The sixteen hours of coverage will be comprised of six instructional clinics to be held around the country. Each clinic will feature PGA of America instructors and will be broadcast live Golf Channel. Though only six clinics will be aired live on Golf Channel, every PGA Professional is invited to participate in PGA Instruction Day through their social media outlets. Look for further information regarding a variety of social media engagement opportunities as we approach PGA Instruction Day.

May 7th - The PGA of America and CBS have also collaborated to produce a #ThxPGAPro-themed television special, Golf's Best Stories End in Thanks, which will air on CBS at 2:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, May 7th.





SECTION JOB OPENINGS

Make sure to check out the WNYPGA employment page for the latest job updates in the Western New York Section. Check back frequently, as we update this page daily!

http://westernnewyork.pga.com/employment_wny/

WNYPGA SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Did you catch our section spotlight on the Morning Drive on March 24th? If not, don't worry! We have posted the video on the member side of the Western New York PGA website — go check it out and show it to your friends and family!

DRIVE CHIP & PUTT CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew LaCongo (East Aurora Country Club) represented the Western New York section in the 14-15 age division at the Drive Chip and Putt National Championships at Augusta National GC! Andrew is an extremely active golfer within western New York. Last summer he came 9th overall in the WNYPGA junior tour and he also won 2nd in the BDGA's junior match play. In order to qualify for the DC&P championship, Andrew won three different rounds of DC&P qualifiers in 2015 — local (Ravenwood CC), sub-regional (Harvest Hill GC), and regional (Oakmont CC) — moving onto the final round with a total of 135 points. Congratulations Andrew on representing Western New York at Augusta National!



DRIVE CHIP & PUTT

For juniors to qualify for this year's DC&P Championship, they will need to register for one of the WNY local qualifiers. Make sure your membership is aware of this great (free!) opportunity!

Local Qualifiers

June 30, 2016 - Genesee Valley Golf Course

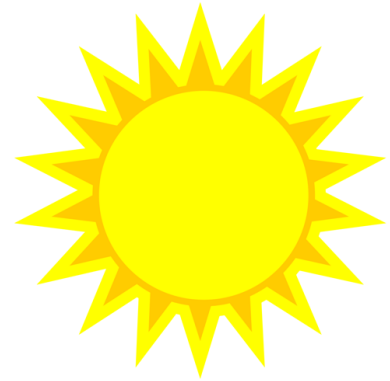
July 7, 2016 - JC Martin Golf Course

July 20, 2016 - Harvest Hill Country Club

July 26, 2016 - Fox Valley Country Club

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR THE WNYPGA SPRING MEETNIG!

We are excited for our 2016 spring meeting, which is to be held on April 18th at our new home office—The Fox Valley Club. We encourage you to stay for the education offered on this day, as it will greatly benefit you and your club's operations (plus, you will earn one MSR per hour).



7:00 — Breakfast will be served in the Fox Valley Clubhouse

8:00 — WNYPGA Spring Meeting including:

PGA District IV Report- Tim Fries, PGA

PGA Employment Consultant Keith Fisher, PGA

- USGA Rules of Golf Workshop
⇒ Presented by Dan Overbeck and Wilson Fitch of the RDGA
- Insurance options for PGA Professionals/ Risk Management
⇒ Presented by Ray Irvin of Bouvier, Beckwith and Lennox, Inc., PGA Preferred Golf Courses Insurance Partner Program

Afternoon — Golf and Lunch at The Fox Valley Club (Register separately)

Evening — Prizes, open bar, and hors d'oeuvres



DO YOU HAVE THESE PROGRAMS AT YOUR COURSE?

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! If you have any questions about starting a PGA Junior League team, feel free to contact Christine at cproulx@pgahq.com.



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

PGA Sports Academy

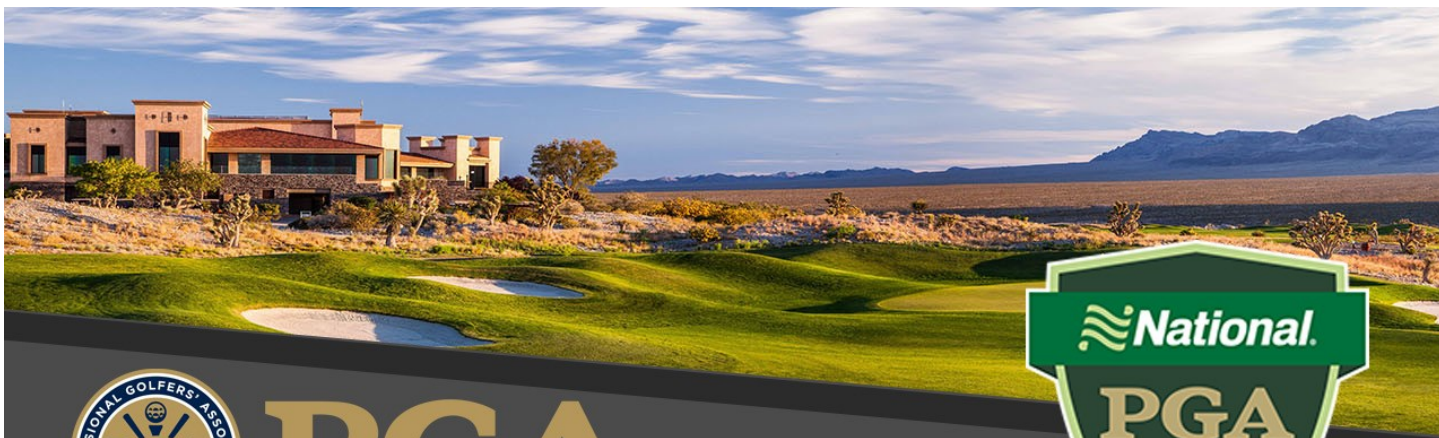


The PGA Sports Academy program focuses on helping youth learn to play golf while having fun throughout three levels: Player, Sport, and Champion. Throughout these levels players learn the basics of the sport, the rules and scoring of golf, and management skills. This is all done by using common sports 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!





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2016 National Car Rental Pro Am Series

LAS VEGAS PRO AM

WHEN

October 10th - 12th, 2016

REGISTRATION FEE

\$880 per Amateur

REGISTER

Mail check to:
WNYPGA
ATTN Joe Bertino
P.O. Box 1728
Williamsville, NY 14231

WHERE

Three rounds of tournament golf at Las Vegas Paiute Resort.

Our hotels are Paris and Bally's this year. EACH TEAM is required to book at least two rooms at one of these hotels under our group code, with reservation options beginning either Saturday 10/8 or Sunday 10/9, and checking out either Wednesday 10/13, or Thursday 10/14.

Daily team gross, net, and skins games to enter onsite each day.

Daily team prizes to be paid out onsite each day..

2015 TEAMS

A \$300 deposit is required by April 21st to guarantee your spot in the limited field. Teams are secured on a first come-first served basis.

Limited to the first 25 teams

100 player max

Guarantees us course exclusivity



Western New York Section | 8265 Sheridan Drive | Williamsville, NY 14221 | (716) 626-7095 | wnewyork@pgahq.com | www.westernnewyork.pga.com



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2016 WNYPGA Tournament Schedule

APRIL	Mon	18	Spring Meeting	The Fox Valley Club, Lancaster, NY
MAY	Mon	2	Taylor Made Sr-Jr	Blue Heron Hills GC, Macedon, NY
	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	* Peek'n Peak—Upper, Clymer, NY
	Mon	23	Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel Pro-Am	* Elkdale CC, Salamanca, NY
	Tue	31	Pro-Officers	Penfield CC, Penfield, NY
JUNE	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
JULY	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
AUGUST	Mon	1	WNY Classic	* Stafford CC, Batavia, NY
	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
SEPTEMBER	Thu-Fri	1-2	Senior Championship	* Niagara Frontier CC, Youngstown, NY
	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	* Harvest Hill GC, Orchard Park, NY
OCTOBER	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



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Professional Tournaments



* Counts toward Omega Player of the Year Award



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The Western New York Section PGA would like to thank all of our 2015 Event Sponsors!



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