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PGA

Western New York Section



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Western New York Section PGA

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NOTE FROM JOE BERTINO,

WESTERN NEW YORK PGA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear WNYPGA Professionals,

As the holidays pass and we turn to the new year, please make sure to take this time to dot and cross some personal and professional I's and T's! Our MSR Cycle is closing in a few short months, but in just a few short weeks there are myriad opportunities at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando— We hope to see you there, it seems that WNYPGA is ALWAYS well represented at the show, as evidenced by our outstanding performance in the daily Short Game Challenges!

Join me in welcoming Amanda Gingerich as our Junior Golf Director. Amanda, an Akron, NY native and resident, was a Niagara University Sport Management graduate and has several years in the business at Transit Valley CC! She will not only head up our vital junior golf, but will help to establish a WNYPGA Graduates Tour for 18-30 year olds, along with working in Growth of the Game programs. We also welcome back Kevin Long as Tournament Director. Kevin and Amanda will be joining me at our Executive Directors Conferences in Orlando just prior to the PGA Merchandise Show.

As we launch ourselves into the new year, I am pleased to announce that in the very near future PGA will launch a new website, PGA.org. This will entirely replace pgalinks.com as the members' website, and will be all inclusive, while also streamlining and simplifying what has at times been a confusing home site for the PGA Member— you are guaranteed to enjoy and appreciate the new presence that your Association will hold not only in the golf industry but across a wide span of business as well.

In the meantime, as Jeff Mietus alludes in his article, PLEASE consider joining with your comrades to establish a PGA Junior League— It is simple to do, takes minimal staff effort, requires little course commitment (4 tee times late on a weekend afternoon), and generates revenue for both you and your facility, all the while driving home the PGA Brand! You can explore all of the simple details at pgajrleaguegolf.com to see how you can further promote yourself and your association!

Again, best wishes for a wonderful 2015 to you and your loved ones, I look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Joe Bertino, PGA
Executive Director, WNYPGA

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*LETTER FROM JEFF MIETUS,
WESTERN NEW YORK PGA PRESIDENT*

Ladies and Gentlemen of the WNYPGA,

There has been a lot of buzz going around the National PGA office recently. With our Presidents resignation, the election of Suzy Whaley as Secretary and the Annual meeting, we have been knee deep in PGA activities in the last few months. Fortunately, we now have Tim Fries as our Tournament Chair and PGA District Rep. That puts Tim on the National Board at PGA Headquarters. That is a great asset to our section and the PGA. Good luck to Tim.

First, the only thing I can say about Ted Bishop's resignation is that it was handled very professionally by our CEO Pete Bevicqua and his team. We were the news of the day for a week or so, but I believe we are coming out of our meeting a stronger, better organization. We are moving forward and going in the right direction with bright, dedicated staff and officers. The addition of a smart, highly visible, teacher, player and entrepreneur in Suzy Whaley, can only strengthen and diversify our board. Going into the meeting, I had concerns. Coming home from the meeting, I am confident about the management of the PGA and its future.

I will be looking forward to seeing all of you, as Tim, Joe and I travel to each area of our section for a roundtable meeting at a local watering hole this offseason. Look for that information in early January. We will be discussing any and all PGA ideas or concerns. I am really excited about the PGA Junior league, so please take a minute to go to the webpage and see how easy it is to run. It is a very successful and important program that we should be involved in. Thanks go out to all the Golf Professionals who gave their time to the HOPE program. I look forward to seeing you and hearing the great stories about our vets. See you soon.

Sincerely,

Jeff Mietus PGA





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MSR CYCLE DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING!

Remember to check your MSR status at pgalinks.com to make sure you have met this period's requirements! If you are not sure of what you still need to acquire feel free to contact us at the Section Office for assistance!

PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 16TH, 2015!

Annually the PGA of America distributes approximately \$325,000 in scholarships to children and grandchildren of PGA Members attending colleges and universities. The application **MUST** be completed entirely online at pgalinks.com, and must be done in one sitting, so it might be a good idea to make a few practice runs as you prepare! All of the information, requirements, and the application process are available right on the front page of pgalinks.com. **PLEASE DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GARNISH SOME PRECIOUS COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE AS PART OF YOUR PGA MEMBERSHIP!**



2015 PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW!– JANUARY 21-23, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FLA!– You can register yourself, your staff, family members and guests online at www.pgashow.com . You can also sign up for daily educational programs, a week pass, or hand-pick your own choice of PGA-Delivered Education MSR events. While you are at the show, **BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE SHORT GAME CHALLENGE!** WNYPGA has done extremely well the past 5 years in this competition, and it takes just a minute or two to participate. The contest is held right on the show floor, and any WNYPGA Professionals who win a prize for the section will earn \$200 themselves– not too shabby for two putts and

two chips! Good luck to all who choose to participate!

2015 WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour– We have just a few dates left, so if you and your facility are looking to fill a slow time with one of your association's junior golf events and help generate some tidy revenue for your facility, please contact the section office as soon as possible to secure a date. **NOW** is the time to remind your junior golfer database that registration is set to begin mid-January– Don't miss this chance to have your juniors gain valuable competitive experience in the game we all love so much!



OUR CONDOLENCES TO.... The friends and families of Pat Rubino, LM and Jim Eldredge, LM, who passed away late this past year. Pat was long-time PGA Professional at Ridgemont CC, and Jim served at River Oaks CC, Hyde Park GC, Lockport Town & CC, and Park CC

We are fortunate to have one of the very finest PGA Employment Consultants at your disposal. Please be sure to check out Tom Kendrick's articles on the member side of our website at www.westernnewyork.pga.com. His efforts are invaluable in providing solid ideas on how to improve your career! You can also reach Tom at tkendrick@pgahq.com should yu have any questions at all regarding a wide variety of employment issues.



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2015 WNYPGA Tentative Tournament Schedule

<u>APRIL</u>	Mon	20	Spring Meeting & Education		TBD
	Mon	27	Senior Junior Pro-Pro/Pro-Am		TBD
<u>MAY</u>	Mon	4	Titleist Scratch Pro-Am		Brook-Lea CC, Rochester, NY
	Fri	8	Make-a-Wish Foundation Pro-Am	*	Webster GC, Webster, NY
	Mon	11	Club Car WNY Open	*	Wanakah CC, Hamburg, NY
	Mon	18	Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel Pro-Am	*	Elkdale CC, Salamanca, NY
	Tue	26	Yamaha Pro-Officers		Penfield CC, Penfield NY
	Fri	29	Lawrence Park Pro-Am Invitational	*	Lawrence Park GC, Erie, PA
<u>JUNE</u>	Mon	1	Bartlett Pro-Am	*	Bartlett CC, Olean, NY
	Fri	5	Lake View Pro-Am Invitational	*	Lake View CC, North East, PA
	Mon	8	Children's Hospital Pro-Am Invitational		Park CC, Williamsville, NY
	Mon	15	Moon Brook Pro-Am Invitational	*	Moon Brook CC, Jamestown, NY
	Mon	22	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Pro-Am	*	Chautauqua GC, Chautauqua, NY
	Mon	29	Holiday Valley Memorial Library Pro-Am	*	Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
<u>JULY</u>	Mon	6	Bradford Hospital Foundation Pro-Am for Kids	*	Pine Acres CC, Bradford, PA
	Mon-Tue	20-21	Professional Championship	*	Brookfield CC, Clarence, NY
	Mon	27	Blaisdell Pro-Am Invitational	*	The Pennhills Club, Bradford, PA
<u>AUGUST</u>	Mon	3	Rochester Classic	*	TBD
	Sun	9	Midvale Pro-Am Invitational	*	Midvale CC, Penfield, NY
	Mon-Tue	10-11	Coors Section Championship	*	TBD
	Sun	16	Locust Hill Pro-Am Invitational	*	Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, NY
	Wed	26	Assistants Championship		TBD
	Fri	28	Wellsville Pro-Am	*	Wellsville CC, Wellsville, NY
	Mon	31	Kids Escaping Drugs Pro-Am		TBD
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	Thur-Fri	3-4	Senior Championship	*	Lake View CC, North East, PA
	Mon	7	Labor Day		
			Mizuno Golf and Stuart Miller Golf Pro-		
	Tues	8	Assistant Championship		CC of Buffalo, Williamsville, NY
	Mon-Tue	14-15	Match Play Championship	*	TBD
	Mon	21	Pro-Pro Championship		Stafford CC, Stafford, NY
<u>OCTOBER</u>	Mon-Tue	28-29	Tour Championship	*	Irondequoit CC
	Mon	5	Annual Meeting		TBD
	Mon-Wed	12-14	Las-Vegas Pro-Am		Paiute GC, Las Vegas, NV



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WNYPGA SECTION EMPLOYMENT

(all employment at westernnewyork.pga.com>employment)

Brook-Lea CC– First Assistant-Responsibilities include: customer service, junior golf, tournament & league operations, merchandising, staff management and other related areas. 4/1 to 11/15 although negotiable Pay: \$600-\$700 per week + Bonuses for sales and tournaments and junior golf. Email resumes to Jon Hoecker, Hoeckerj@brookleacc.com

Lawrence Park GC-Assistant-Responsibilities include: Assist with all golf shop operations, including tournaments, teaching, junior golf, merchandising, league play and playing with members. Compensation commensurate with experience, along with lessons, junior golf, food allowance, health benefits also available. Send resumes to Scott Jenkins, Lawrence Park GC, P.O. Box 286, Harborcreek, PA 16421

MR FRIES GOES TO ~~WASHINGTON~~ PALM BEACH GARDENS!

Having been sworn in at the PGA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis this past November, Tim Fries, PGA is beginning his term as the WNYPGA's representative for District IV Director for the PGA of America. Fries, the PGA Head Professional at Transit Valley CC in East Amherst, NY since 2000, is currently serving in a second stint as the WNYPGA Tournament Chairman and as well as Employment Chairman. He has served on the section Board of Directors since 1999, including terms as Secretary, Vice President, and President from 2001-2007. Fries is also PGA Certified in Instruction. Prior to his tenure as Head Professional at Transit Valley CC, he worked there as assistant to Life Member Ralph Haas (PGA of America Secretary, 1970-1972, EL '54), along with serving at Orchard Park CC, CC of Buffalo, Ridgmont CC, and Brierwood CC.



Among the many awards to his credit, Fries was named WNYPGA Professional of the Year in 2002, is a 3-time Bill Strausbaugh Award recipient, and received 2014 Player Development Award honors. He also earned the Merchandiser of the Year Award in 2012.

In addition to his exemplary leadership service at the section level, Fries is an accomplished player, having captured both WNYPGA Professional Championship and Senior Professional Championship in 2014. The 2014 PNC title was Fries' 5th Professional Championship, with the Senior title taken in his first year of eligibility. He also captured the 2010 WNYPGA Coors Section Championship, the 2012 WNYPGA Tour Championship, is a two-time winner of the WNYPGA Match Play Championship, 5-time winner of the National Car Rental Rochester Classic, and is a 3-time winner of the WNYPGA Assistants Championship. He earned WNYPGA Player of the Year honors in 1998.

When asked what being elected to serve as District IV Director, Fries commented, "It is truly a humbling honor to be voted to represent the hundreds of amazing men and women PGA Professionals of District 4. Serving on the WNYPGA Board for many years and participating in numerous Annual National meetings has prepared me to take this next step. I am inspired by the depth and level of commitment the current board demonstrates continuously on decisions that are measured globally. The moral standards and highest levels of integrity exhibited by the National Staff is exceptionally admirable. I am extremely proud and ready to be a part of our national governance. "

Tim resides in Kenmore, NY with his wife Karen, and their two children, Hannah and Patrick.



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