

WNYPGA NEWS

*Official Newsletter of the Western
New York Section, PGA*

March 2017 Edition



PGA

Western New York Section

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Proud New Supporter of the WNYPGA Section

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CONNECT WITH THE SECTION



SECTION NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has arrived! It's hard to believe we are about to kick off the 2017 golf season. Come join your fellow PGA Professionals at our Spring Meeting on April 3rd at the Fox Valley Club. The meeting is a valuable way to be engaged, share ideas, learn and build relationships. Breakfast starts at 7:00 am followed by our business meeting, educational segment, lunch, scramble with cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres following the tournament. I encourage everyone to come!

The Section Staff and your Board of Directors have been busy this off-season establishing tournament schedules, sponsorship, promoting the WNYPGA Professional and developing programs that bring you the PGA Professional value. A Strategic planning session is scheduled for the end of March. The goal is to establish a comprehensive plan for our Section moving forward. We have reached out to several of you and past Section Presidents for insight on this plan.

As I have expressed to many of you this offseason the board is focused on elevating the image of the PGA Professional within your community. Marketing you as the expert in golf and elevating your image increases your value at your facility. Keith Fisher our employment consultant is working with our Section and is actively engaging facilities to help elevate our value and compensation. I look forward to updating you with progress on this program.

The USGA & R&A have made big news recently with proposed simplification of the rules of golf. They are recommending the rules be reduced from 34 to 24. Please go online to bring yourself up to speed and give your feedback. They will be evaluating the feedback and make revisions if necessary. The final version will be released in mid-2018 with implementation scheduled for Jan 1 2019.

The USGA has selected PGA Professional Bob Ford as the Bob Jones Award winner! It's the USGA's highest honor and Bob will be honored on June 13th at the US Open in Wisconsin at Erin Hills. Tan up those out of bounds stakes! Paul Levy President of the PGA of America announced that shorts will be permitted for practice rounds in all PGA of America events.

Please swing by the new Section Office and see the Hall of Fame and the remodeling of our office space. Steve, Ric and Bob have all done a great job in preparing for the upcoming year. As they rolling out our programs you will see several new wrinkles to our tournaments, website, publicity/marketing and foundation. I know everyone is extremely busy; however, I encourage you to start a PGA Junior League at your facility, volunteer at the Drive Chip & Putt or teach at a Hope Program. Contact Steve at the Section Office for details on all the programs available. It's an exciting time for the WNYPGA Section, so get engaged and be involved.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting!

Kind Regards,

Michael O'Connor, PGA



Michael O'Connor, PGA
WNYPGA President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Steve Bartkowski
WNYPGA Executive Director

The past few weeks we have seen some out of the ordinary announcements from large players in the golf industry - The PGA of America and the USGA/R&A. The PGA of America announced that they will allow shorts in Practice Rounds of Major Championships, and the USGA/R&A brought to the forefront the idea of modernizing the rules of golf.

These changes, while different from the status quo that we have seen over the years in golf, really speak to the need for adaptation to recruit the new amateur golfer, and the next group of PGA Professionals. As I am sure planning is underway at your respective facilities I encourage/challenge you all to try at least one "out of the box" idea this season. This could include conducting a club tournament based on the proposed rules changes, structuring your junior camp around the Drive, Chip and Putt skills, or conducting a glow ball tournament at night. I hope to hear some success stories related to these programs this season!

As Michael O'Connor touches on in his article, the Board of Directors is really focused on promoting you as the PGA Professional around our Section. Our team in the Office is also fully committed to helping the Board achieve this brand marketing campaign. The skillsets of PGA Professionals are unrivaled by any other professional in any other industry. I think sometimes, even many of you, don't realize how talented you are and what sort of impact you are making to all those around you, whether that be within your clubs or "outside the ropes" in your community. With that thought in mind I will leave you all with the following letter we received from a wife of a Veteran who was impacted by our PGA Professionals and WNYPGA Foundation.

I just wanted to tell you how very much I appreciate the PGA golf instructions because I have seen two Veterans who I care about very much, come alive this summer because of the effort and dedication you have placed in this project. One Veteran from my caregiving group has literally come alive. He is smiling, laughing, talking about his game and the fellas he has met who play with him instead of looking hopeless. He is excited each week to have this venue to concentrate on something other than the stressors in his life

My husband practices daily since he has been involved. The one who would never go outside to do any physical activity, now has a net set up in the backyard where he practices. He is actually putting his BMW convertible up for sale because his golf clubs won't fit in the car!! Because of golf, he and his son now have a common interest

and they schedule times together to go to the driving range. His health has definitely improved both physically and emotionally as a result of participating.

The PGA masters probably don't realize the impact of their generosity of time and attention, so please let them know that at least two men I know are experiencing a summer of joy because they are playing like kids again.

If it is at all possible, please consider continuing this wonderful activity through the summer. You scored big on this one!!

Sincerely and with great appreciation for all you do

-Anonymous Wife of a Veteran

We hope to see many of you at the Fox Valley Club on the 3rd of April!

Respectfully,

Steve Bartkowski
WNYPGA Executive Director

SECTION NEWS

WNYPGA SPRING MEETING

TO: ALL WNYPGA MEMBERS

FROM: WNYPGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MONDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2017 | THE FOX VALLEY CLUB

AT A GLANCE

7:00 AM Breakfast/Check-In

8:00 AM Meeting Proper Begins

9:00 AM Tim Fries, PGA update from the District IV Director

9:10 AM Keith Fisher, PGA with an Employment Update

9:20 AM John Coolbaugh (LECOM) with volunteer opportunities for Web.com

9:30 AM Jeremy Cooper (Paychex) with a presentation on recent NYS Department of Labor Law Minimum Salary Level of Exempt Employees Increase

10:15 AM Q & A with Jeremy Cooper and Section PGA Professionals on DOL Law

11:00 AM Open Forum

11:30 AM Locker Rooms, Range & Boxed Lunches Available for Competitors

12:00 PM Shotgun Start – Foursome Scramble

4:00 PM Cocktails and Hors D'oeuvres for Competitors and Event Sponsors



The spring and fall meetings are integral parts of the business affairs of the Section and all members are encouraged to attend. These meetings are your opportunity to learn, ask questions, and provide necessary feedback about both Section and National programs.

All PGA Members in attendance will receive MSR Credits which will be applied to the PGA/Education requirements of the current MSR Cycle, ending June 15th, 2018. Attendees will receive 1 PGA Required MSR Meeting/Education Credit for every hour present during the meeting and education portion. PGA Professionals competing in the foursome scramble will also receive 2 MSR to be applied to PGA Tournament Participation (max of 8 credits per cycle).

*We are also excited to now be in our second year at the Cabin at Fox Valley. The space is home to the Western New York PGA Hall of Fame as well as your Section Staff. If you have not yet visited the hall of fame/offices we encourage you to stop on by to take a look.

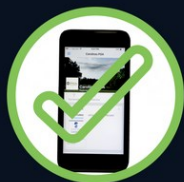
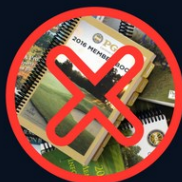
*The Spring Meeting is presented by PGA National Resort & Spa

*Foursome Scramble is presented by OnCore Golf

**Thank You Letters or Appointment Requests can be sent to: Brian McGahey
Director Of Business & Player Development,
OnCore Golf
brianmcahey@oncoregolf.com**

☆☆ ATTIRE FOR THE MEETING WILL BE JACKET AND TIE ☆☆

FREQUENTLY ASKED Q's WE HAVE APP ANSWERS



• HOW DO I DOWNLOAD THE APP?

The app is currently available through Apple's Store and the Android Market. It is compatible with the iPhone, iPod Touch, iPod and Android devices. Don't forget, ITS FREE

• THERE ARE SO MANY APPS. AM I DOWNLOADING THE RIGHT ONE?

Make sure you're downloading the WESTERN NEW YORK App. We recommend searching "Western New York PGA" when trying to download.

• WHAT IS MY USERNAME & PASSWORD?

Once you download the app, use your PGA Member ID # as your user name and BlueGolf password. If you don't know your password, select "Get Pass Word" to retrieve your info.

• I DOWNLOADED AND LOGGED IN BUT WHY CAN'T I SEE THE DIRECTORY?

Log out and the back into the app.

PLEASE NOTE: For those who would still like to print out a list of members/apprentices the document will still sit online for you on the member side of the website. A WNYPGA Section Staff member would be happy to help you with this.

NEW WNYPGA DIRECTORY APP

Contact Information at Your Fingertips

The New WNYPGA Directory APP is Affordable, Accurate & Accessible. PGA Members can enjoy access to our digital directory in the Western New York PGA App (Powered by BlueGolf)! With help from BlueGolf, you are now able to access a digital version of our member directory to enhance your experience connecting and networking with WNYPGA Professionals, facilities, partners and sales reps on and off the golf course. The directory enables PGA Members to connect with colleagues in just a few taps. You can search for members by Last Name and Facility Name. Information within the Directory is updated every evening by BlueGolf, in coordination with the PGA of America, in order to offer you the most up to date information possible from the convenience of your device. The Directory can only be accessed by members/apprentices of the WNYPGA Section and you can login with your Blue Golf Login Credentials.

Reasons Why We are Going Digital on an App:

- Affordable—the app is FREE
- Accurate—the app is update nightly via the PGA of America Member Management System. The directory info you search for is always up to date. No longer do you have to worry about the book being out of date.
- Accessible—the app is portable and super easy to use to find members, facilities, directions, sales reps and section sponsors.

[Click here to view WNYPGA Directory APP overview.](#)

*Please note: There will no longer be a hard copy book printed. For those who would still like a print out list of WNYPGA Members/Apprentices the document will still sit online for you on the member side of the section website beginning April 1. All members are encouraged to update their employment prior to that date.

NEW FOR 2017

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SECTION NEWS

RULES OF GOLF UPDATE WITH RIC ALBERICO, PGA, MP

The WNYPGA Tournament Committee has approved the printing and distributing of a Conditions and Competition Hard Card that will be available at every WNY-PGA event. The hard card will allow the use of a newly designed Local Rules Sheet at each event that will have less clutter of information and can focus on the Local Rules and details of that respective event.



Ric Alberico, PGA
Tournament Director

One addition to the WNYPGA Hard Card Rules includes the modification of rule 18 (see right). This may be a great addition to add to your local club events this coming season.

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON A PUTTING GREEN

If a committee wishes to introduce this Local Rule, the following wording is recommended:

"Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

"Eliminating this penalty responds to the concerns we have heard from both golfers and committees about the difficulties in applying the current Rules when a player accidentally causes a ball to move on the putting green," said Thomas Pagel, USGA senior director, Rules of Golf and Amateur Status, said. "This change is a good example of the type of Rules modernization changes we hope to implement after completing our fundamental review of all of the Rules. We are looking for ways to improve the Rules by making them easier to understand and apply."

Visit the following website for more details:

<http://www.usga.org/rules-hub/2017-local-rule/new-local-rule.html>

PGA COMPENSATION

Click Image Below for More Information

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WORTH?

PGA Golf Professional Compensation Study

Get started now. The deadline to complete the survey has been extended to March 31.

2017 PGA Compensation Survey is Now Available

Members can receive up to two MSR credits by completing the survey by the deadline of March 31st.





The R&A and the USGA are pleased to announce a major set of proposed changes to the Rules of Golf.

These changes result from our Rules Modernization initiative that began five years ago in an effort to bring the Rules up to date to fit the needs of the game today globally.

This initiative had two guiding themes:

- Even far-reaching Rule changes should be open for discussion, but golf's essential principles and character must be preserved.
- Revisions should be assessed with all golfers in mind, so that the Rules are easier to understand and apply not only for professionals and elite amateurs, but also for beginners, high-handicappers and typical club and recreational golfers at all levels of play around the world.

The USGA wants the Rules of Golf to:

- Be more easily understood and applied by all golfers;
- Be more consistent, simple and fair; and
- Reinforce the game's longstanding principles and character.

Implementation of the New Rules in 2019

The USGA intends the new Rules to go into effect on January 1, 2019. The anticipated process and schedule between now and then is as follows:

- Now through the end of August 2017 – Receive feedback and continue to evaluate the Rule changes.
- September 2017 to early 2018 – Finish work on the Rule changes and the draft Rule book and obtain final approval from our Rules of Golf Committees and boards.
- Remainder of 2018 – Complete and publish the full Rules of Golf, Player's Edition, Handbook, Committee Procedures and other materials; facilitate the translation of these materials; finish work on a new Rules app and other means of electronic delivery; and educate golfers and officials at all levels of the game.

More details are available at: www.usga.org

SECTION NEWS



BE A PART OF THE **PGA TOUR** RIGHT HERE IN THE
CHAUTAUQUA – ERIE REGION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE WEB.COM TOUR'S
LECOM HEALTH CHALLENGE
AT PEEK'N PEAK RESORT, JULY 3 – 9, 2017



Volunteers are critical to the success of the LECOM Health Challenge. Volunteers perform a variety of tasks required to conduct this Web.com Tour event such as scoring and marshalling.

Reasons to volunteer:

- ✓ Watch future PGA TOUR superstars up close
- ✓ Support your community and local charities
- ✓ Meet new people with similar interests
- ✓ Get outside and enjoy a beautiful setting
- ✓ Earn a free round of golf at Peek'n Peak by volunteering 3 shifts

Visit www.lecomhealthchallenge.com to learn more.

SECTION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are short on MSR Hours we have some great opportunities for all PGA Professionals to gain coveted MSR's while getting involved in your PGA Section Initiatives.

Please contact the following individuals below for more information.

Local Drive, Chip & Putt Qualifiers

Please contact Bob Ashley, Junior Golf & Player Development Director to volunteer for any of the Drive Chip and Putt local qualifiers. MSR credits are available for those interested.

WNYPGA Junior Tour Events

Please contact Bob Ashley, Junior Golf & Player Development Director to volunteer for any of the Junior Tour events. MSR credits are available for those interested.

Web.com Tour @ Peek' n Peak Resort

Please contact Steve Bartkowski, Executive Director, to volunteer for any of the below opportunities:

Wednesday, July 5th – 2 PGA Professional Starters

Thursday, July 6th – Sunday, July 9th – 2 PGA Professional Starters
Each Day

Sunday, July 9th – 1 PGA Professional to Announce Arrival to 18th Green

We hope this also serves as an excellent opportunity to promote yourself, your facility, your Section and gain MSR Hours!

SECTION NEWS

“PROS FOR HIRE” WEBSITE TAB

We hope that you all enjoy the updated section website. Once we finalize the complete construction of a few more pages we will be sure to send out a manual to help you navigate through the menu items.

In the meantime, we wanted to make you aware of the NEW “Pros For Hire” tab located under Employment. This is a portion that only WNYPGA Professionals (while logged in) can view. It allows for WNYPGA Professionals to have their resume posted while in the process of looking for employment. It also allows for WNYPGA Members who are looking to hire to find local PGA Professionals who may be a great fit for their facility.

To Access:

Visit www.westernnewyork.pga.com

Scroll your mouse over “PGA Member”

Click on “Professional Login”

Login with PGA.org credentials

Once logged in scroll your mouse over “Employment”

Click on “Pros For Hire” and view resumes

The section is currently populated so we encourage you to check it out if you are still looking to hire!

BEST PRACTICES

Chris Kulinski, PGA shares how to promote to his junior golf membership.

In an attempt to help share some new and innovative ideas that fellow PGA Professionals are doing around the Western New York Section, PGA we have started the “Best Practices” section in our Newsletter. Please see below what Chris Kulinski, PGA is doing at Orchard Park CC to promote to his junior golf membership.

Junior Golf Baseball Model to help shape a game plan for Junior Golfers

“Single A” - OPCC spring and summer junior golf clinics - These clinics are geared toward all levels of golfers. OPCC takes kids ages 5 to 17.

“Double A” or “AA” - PGA Junior League Golf / Drive Chip and Putt programs and training.

“Triple A” or “AAA” – BDGA Interclub.

“Major League” - WNYPGA Junior Tour golf, AJGA and other national Junior Tours



2017 MASTERS

April 6-9; Augusta National Golf Club,
Augusta, Georgia



For those PGA Members who look to take advantage of the Complimentary Masters Access please see below details:

As a courtesy extended by Augusta National; Class A PGA Members, Life Members and Master Professional Members only (this offer is not extended to Class F, Inactive, Retired Member nor Apprentices). No spouse or families (including Practice Rounds). Must show Membership Card and Photo I.D. each day. Go to North Gate off of Berckmans Road, follow signage to PGA Booth located to the far right of the ticket pavilion to receive daily ticket. NOTE: Daily tickets are not available to purchase for spouse. Ticket Information (706) 667-6700. themasters.com

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Perry Weather is a weather technology company based in Dallas, Texas that specializes in providing lightning detection software and alerting hardware for the golf industry. With our informative mobile app, online web dashboard and completely wireless, solar powered on-course Lightning Warning Systems, Perry Weather is the future of lightning detection and weather management.

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