



PGA

Western New York Section



Official Publication of the Western New York Section

January -
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Letter From Chip Clover, Western New York PGA President

President's Message-March 2011

I hope this off-season provided you with plenty of time to recharge your batteries –time to spend with family and friends, and time to design a plan for 2011 that will include improvements that your members, students and clients can see and take advantage of. Please remember that the PGA Links website and fellow Professionals are a great source of help when you need an idea or two that might interject some new life into an area of your operation that need new life.

I saw many of you at the ceremony recognizing Jim Mrva as the Golf Professional of the year this past January at the Merchandise Show and it was terrific. The speeches delivered by Jim and the other award recipients were emotional and inspirational and served as a great reminder of the struggles, bond, and passion that we all share as PGA Professionals.

Derek Sprague, newly elected Secretary of the PGA of America, will be attending our section Spring Mtg. held at Transit Valley Country Club on Monday, April 11th. Featured in a "town hall" format, Derek will be interacting with each of us in a very casual question and answer session over lunch, sponsored by PGA Resort and Spa. Please take the time to prepare a few questions for Derek that you would like answered and that might help to create some meaningful back and forth dialog.

Our section has a great history of rallying around good causes and I am asking for your support of a new event on our tournament schedule this year. On Monday, August 29th, the inaugural **WNYPGA Foundation Event** will take place at Ridgemont Country Club who has graciously agreed to host this event at a reduced cost to our section. This event will feature a Pro and 3 members from his or her own club playing in a best ball format. This is an opportunity to travel and entertain those players that you really enjoy playing and spending time with. This event will serve as the primary fund-raiser for WNYPGA Foundation. Rather than reciting a list of details that are not yet complete what I can tell you is that this will be a 1st class event from start to finish and one that your members will enjoy and want to play in again. While the entry fee will be more expensive than a traditional Pro-Am, the purpose will be to put us in a position along with other fundraising efforts to begin issuing grants in 2012. Please mark this date on your calendar and commit to helping us make this event a success! Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

As the end of the MSR cycle approaches, please keep the following opportunities to earn credits in mind...

April 4, 2011
USGA Rules Seminar with RDGA
Location: Ridgemont CC
Deadline: March 21, 2011
Time: 10 am - 2 pm
MSR: 4 MSR Credits
Cost: \$30

April 18, 2011
Titleist Club Fitting
with John Webster
of The Breakers Palm Beach
Location: Ridgemont CC
Deadline: March 31, 2011
Time: 8 am - 12 pm
MSR: 4 MSR Credits
Cost: FREE

April 29, 2011
Stack and Tilt Seminar
with Andy Plummer & Mike Bennett
Location: Brookfield CC
Deadline: March 15, 2011
Time: 8 am - 3 pm
MSR: 7 MSR Credits
Cost: \$125

Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Meeting,

Chip

NOTABLE QUOTE

"I've always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never quit trying; I never felt that I didn't have a chance to win." - Arnold Palmer

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Note from Joe Bertino, Western New York PGA Executive Director

What an exciting off-season the WNYPGA has had! It was great to see so many of you in Orlando at the PGA Merchandise Show, whether it was in the show halls themselves, or at the fabulous awards ceremony highlighting Jim Mrva's award as PGA Golf Professional of the year. We all owe a big thanks to Mike Dziabo of Lancaster CC, who took the time to stop by and win \$2500 for the section in the Merchandise Show Short Game Challenge. Winter has proven good for the WNYPGA short games; this is the second victory in as many years for us! Thank you also to the nearly 60 folks who stopped by our hospitality room for a few refreshments the first two days of the show.

I'm thrilled to announce that Steve Bartkowski joins our staff in mid-March as Tournament and Junior Golf Director. Steve had previously spent two seasons working with the Buffalo District Golf Association and also wintered in the southeast as part of the tournament staff for the Hurricane Junior Golf Tour. Steve, a graduate of Cortland State, hails from Tonawanda, NY so we won't have to break him in with our weather. Please give him a warm welcome when you call, I have no doubt he will be a tremendous asset to our members.

As Chip mentions in his letter, our section does indeed rally around a good cause. In addition to our section's very own initiative with the Foundation, I'd also ask that you consider pitching in on Patriot Golf Day; the PGA's designated drive to raise funds for the Folds of Honor Foundation, established by PGA Professional and Air National Guard F-16 Pilot Major Dan Rooney. The Foundation awards scholarships to the families of disabled or deceased veterans of our armed forces. I am extremely proud to announce that Major Ed Pulido, whose family was one of the Foundation's early scholarship recipients, and who now serves as Vice President of Program and Military Affairs for Folds of Honor, along with the Baaden family, scholarship recipients from Hope Junction, NY will be attending our Spring Meeting. I know that their presence and kind words will do far more to inspire you to help give than any emails or correspondence from our office can ever hope to.

Its time to brush off the dust that might have settled, and get started making 2011 a great year. Please make an effort to attend the spring meeting at Transit Valley CC on April 11th (you'll even get a free breakfast and lunch), and to take advantage of the array of educational opportunities available for you to kick off the new season. Tournament season will soon be upon us, so let's get active and participate!

Cordially,
Joe

Employment Briefs by Tom Kendrick, PGA Employment Consultant

COMPENSATION SURVEY ENDS MARCH 15th – DON'T MISS OUT!

As you know the PGA of America's annual Compensation Survey is now live at PGALinks.com. I receive regular requests from the members and apprentices of the Western New York Section seeking comparable compensation statistics. While national figures are always available, my experience is that the most sought after and credible numbers are those that are specific to the section. (We also have the reporting capability to provide chapter data.)

The Survey ends on March 15 and to date the Western New York Section's completion percentage is only 37% ranking it 31st of the 41 PGA Sections.

I am personally reaching out to ask your help. I hope that you will take a few minutes and complete the PGA Compensation Survey at http://surveys.pgalinks.com/professionals/apps/surveys/index.cfm?survey_id=363

A final note: Those PGA Members completing the Survey by March 15 receive 2 MSR credits and **most importantly, all Survey responses are completely confidential.**

Thanks in advance for considering participating in the 2011 PGA Compensation Survey. If you encounter any difficulties or if I can provide any additional assistance or information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Tom Kendrick, at tkendrick@pgahq.com or 513-738-9943.

For more of Tom's Employment Briefs, please visit www.westernnewyork.pga.com and login to the professional side of the website. The employment briefs are on the homepage.

2011 PGA Compensation Survey

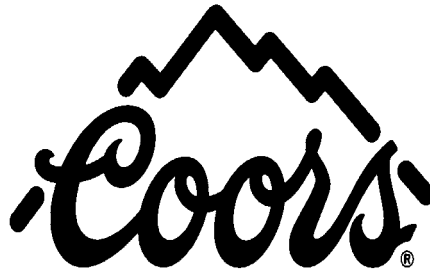
The 2011 PGA Compensation Survey is now available on PGALinks. We ask that you and all members of your PGA Professional staff complete this survey. Your participation will help provide you and your fellow PGA Professionals with accurate compensation information when you need it for negotiations, job searches, and budgeting. It will also help the Employment Consultants who work with employers on your behalf in their efforts to upgrade compensation for all PGA positions.

All individual responses are completely confidential, so please take a few minutes and complete the survey. PGA members who complete the survey prior to March 15, 2011 will receive 2 MSR credits (maximum 5 survey credits per MSR cycle). [CLICK HERE](#) and login with your PGALinks username and password and complete the survey. Thank you for your participation.



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NOTICES



PGA Scholarship Program

The PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program is available on the HOME page of PGALinks.com November 15, 2010 until March 15, 2011.

The PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program was established in 1986 to provide college scholarships for children and grandchildren of PGA members.

Since its inception, this program has awarded \$4.5 million in scholarships to over 2200 students. To learn more, please go to www.pgalinks.com and click on the PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program on the homepage.



The 2011 First Niagara/WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour Registration is now OPEN!!

Join us for a wonderful season of playing golf at some of the best courses Western New York has to offer! We look forward to meeting each of you. If you need any assistance with registration or have questions, please call Julie Krasinski at the WNYPGA Office. Phone (716) 626-7095 or by email at jkrasinski@pgahq.com.

2011 Play Golf America Programs Now Available

The PGA Player Development Department is excited to announce that registration for 2011 Play Golf America programs is now available. PGA Professionals nationwide, from all facility types, have reported using Play Golf America to attract new and existing golfers and increase participation in the game. There is a menu of choices so you have the flexibility to pick and choose what works for you and your facility.

Coming soon: Menu of fun junior programs:

- PGA Sports Academy
- PGA / USGA Course Access
- Kids Play Free
- Junior Rates

This menu encourages a la carte flexibility to pick what works for you - especially if you already host player development programs. Use the success of these programs to promote your efforts and expertise as a PGA Professional. You'll attract new customers and increase your business.

Click [HERE](#) to register for Play Golf America promotions today!



PROfiles

The Western New York Section has been sending out letters and emails for the past year asking our Professionals to complete a PROfile questionnaire and be displayed on the Western New York Section Website. If you haven't seen this section of our website before, please click here and check it out. This program was developed as a way for you to learn more about your fellow members and to help inspire others to grow the game of golf. If you receive a questionnaire in the mail or in your email, please complete it and send in your picture so we can make you our PROfile of the month. If you have any questions please contact Julie Krasinski at JKrasinski@pgahq.com

Member Updates

Are you still in Need of MSR?

The end of the current MSR cycle is just around the corner. You will need to have met your Member Service requirements (MSR) as of June 15, 2011. To help you achieve this The PGA of America has a list of opportunities available from now until June 15, 2011. Please Click [HERE](#) to see what is available. PGALinks also has some online courses that qualify as MSR Education Credits. Click [HERE](#) and type in your PGALinks Username and Password to find out more. If you are unsure of where you stand with MSR credits and requirements, please log into www.pgalinks.com and look on the right side column to see your summary.

Congratulations to our Newly Elected Member!

Marc Rosa was elected to Membership on January 7th. He is a A-8 at the Country Club of Buffalo.

Welcome to our New Members

Stephen Parker transferred from the Northern Ohio Section and is now the A-1 at Wanakah Country Club.

Terry Sinclair transferred from the Carolinas Section and is now the A-6 at Golf Galaxy - Amherst.

Congratulations to our New Apprentices!

Robert Gilbert was registered as an Apprentice on January 13th. He is a B-8 at Champion Hill Country Club.

Jason Parker was registered as an Apprentice on January 31st. He is a B-1 at LeRoy Country Club.

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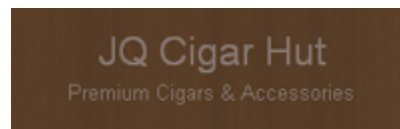


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