

# WNYPGA NEWS

**Official Newsletter of the**

**Western New York Section,  
PGA of America**



**PGA**

Western New York Section



WESTERN NEW YORK

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Honorary President**

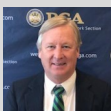
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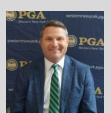
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## INSIDE THE ISSUE

## 2 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Dan Antonucci's President Message*

## 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Steven Bartkowski message about the Board Planning Meeting*

## 4 2020 TENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL SCHEDULE

*Thank you to our 2020 host sites*

## 5 2020 TENTATIVE JUNIOR SCHEDULE

*Thank you to all our 2020 host sites*

## 6 PASSING OF BILL DIMAS

*First Executive Director of the WNYPGA*

## 7 MEMBERSHIP UPDATES/ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

*Lakeside CC and Monroe GC are now hiring.*

## 8 SMILING "FORE" LIFE

*Thank you to all of our Professionals who have volunteered!*

## 9 3RD ANNUAL PGA REACH WNY CHARITY HOCKEY CLASSIC

*Raised over \$9,100 for the Special Olympics NY Golf program*

## 10 PGA WORKS WNYPGA 2020

*Don't miss this opportunity to make a splash in the Golf Industry*

## 11 SANTA'S VISION

*Volunteers and perishables needed!*

## 12 BE SOCIAL WNY

*Follow our new WNYPGA Jr page on Instagram*

## 13 GOLF DIGEST'S BEST GOLF TEACHERS BY STATE

*Congratulations to our WNYPGA Professionals in NY & PA*

## 14 LAS VEGAS PRO-AM

*See the results and who came out of Vegas victorious*

## 15 PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP 2020

*The application opens Dec. 10th, make sure to sign up!*

## 16 PGA WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS/ PGA MERCHANDISE SHOW

*Registration Links are her for your convenience*

## 17-18 SECTION PARTNERS

*Thank you to all our sponsors and partners from 2019!*

## CONTACT THE SECTION

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# WNYPGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## DAN ANTONUCCI, PGA



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The cold temperatures and snow have arrived and the pins are out of the greens. It's time to relax a bit and recharge the batteries during the winter months. If you stay in WNY or travel to warmer weather, please enjoy your time off from our normal summer pace. Remember to still work on your golf game, whether you can play or hit balls in your local dome.

Our WNYPGA Board of Directors recently met on Monday December 9th to begin with our Board Planning Session. The main objective of the meeting was for each Committee Chair to provide their tactics/objectives to execute in 2020 that will get us closer to realizing our Long Term Strategic Vision. We feel confident that we created a great game plan for accomplishing The Section's goals for the next fiscal year.

Additional objectives that I would like to concentrate on in the next two years are to:

- 1.) Make the WNYPGA Professionals the "Leaders in Golf" in WNY, through the local television, radio, print and social media. When someone thinks golf, they should be thinking the WNYPGA.
- 2.) Grow the WNYPGA Foundation and explore new ways to help the Foundation benefit local golf programs, the Section and our Professionals.

As a Board we will be discussing ways to accomplish these two additional initiatives. As a Section member, if you have any ideas to promote these two thoughts, please contact me at [PGAGolfman@aol.com](mailto:PGAGolfman@aol.com).

Our Executive Board, Rob Horak, Jake Northrup, Mike D'Agostino, Executive Director, Steve Bartkowski and myself, traveled to the PGA National Meeting in West Palm Beach in November. It was a very upbeat meeting with the National Board. The theme of the week was Leadership, which was truly inspirational. We as PGA Professionals are not only the leaders in the WNY Golf Community but also at our Clubs. We need to be at the forefront and take on golf leadership opportunities. It makes us as individuals, and as a Section, stronger.

At the National Meeting, CEO Seth Waugh announced that they are seriously looking into direct member benefits for PGA Professionals. This is not the first time he has announced this, so I do feel he is really pushing the National leadership for answers to this. Seth always states that his goal is to make life better for the 29,000 PGA Professionals. I am excited to see where this goes.

I hope everyone had a successful and prosperous golf season in 2019. From my family to yours, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

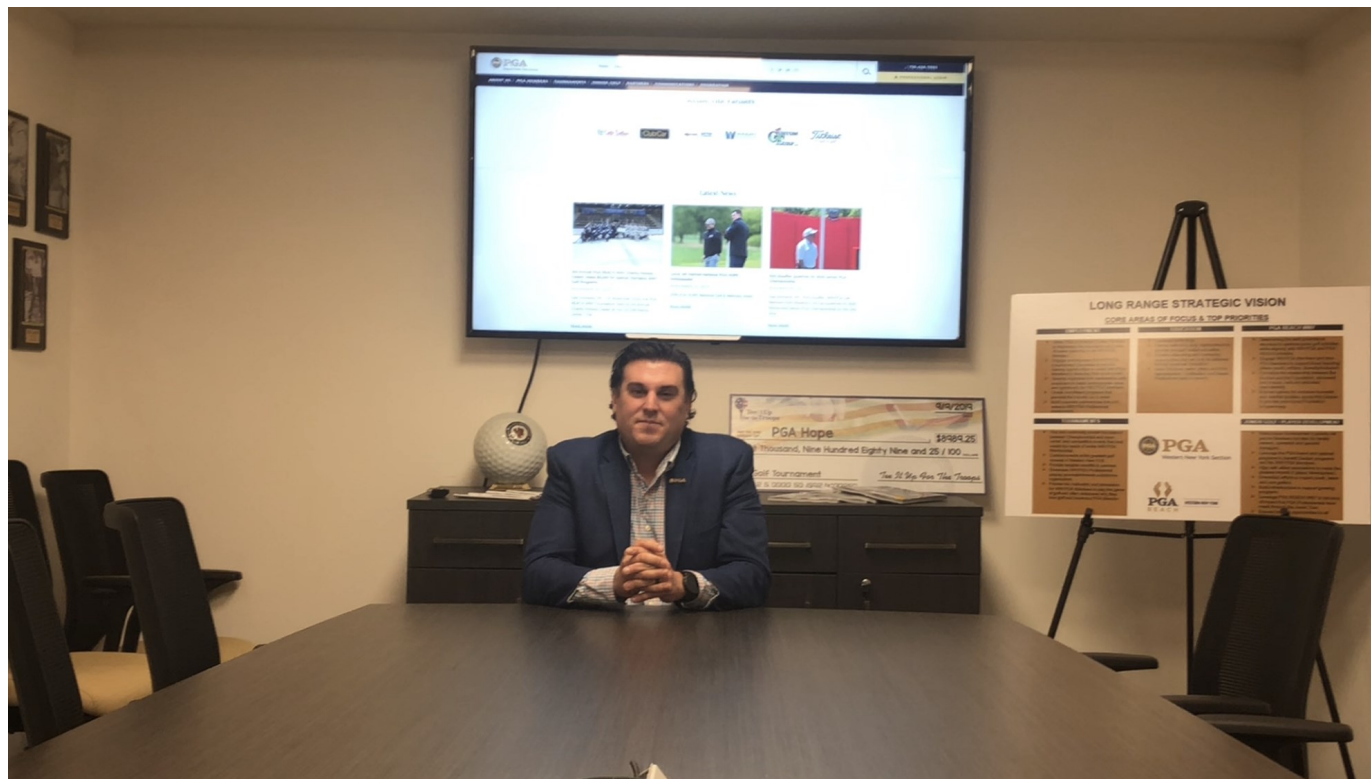
Thank you for all you do every day as a PGA Professional, promoting golf and making it the greatest game on earth.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Antonucci, PGA Certified Professional  
WNYPGA Section President



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIDEO MESSAGE

STEVEN BARTKOWSKI



**Click the video above to view Steven Bartkowski's message regarding the recent Board of Director planning session.**



# PGA

Western New York Section





# PGA

Western New York Section



## 2020 Tentative Tournament Schedule

- Please note sites and dates are subject to change -

<b>APRIL</b>	Mon	<b>20</b>	Spring Membership Meeting	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY
<b>MAY</b>	Mon	<b>4</b>	Pro-Pro Scramble	The Links at Greystone, Walworth, NY
	Mon	<b>11</b>	Titleist Scratch Pro-Am	Brook-Lea CC, Rochester, NY
	Mon	<b>18</b>	Stableford	Lancaster CC, Lancaster, NY
	Tue	<b>26</b>	Club Car Pro-Officer/ Superintendent Champ	Ravenwood GC, Victor, NY
	Fri	<b>29</b>	Lawrence Park Invitational Pro-Am	Lawrence Park GC, Harborcreek, PA
<b>JUNE</b>	Mon	<b>1</b>	Seneca Allegany Resort Pro-Am	Elkdale CC, Salamanca, NY
	Fri	<b>5</b>	Lake View Invitational Pro-Am	Lake View CC, North East, PA
	Mon	<b>8</b>	Children's Hospital Invitational Pro-Am	Park CC, Williamsville, NY
	Wed	<b>10</b>	NYS Open Qualifier	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY
	Mon	<b>15</b>	Moon Brook Invitational Pro-Am	Moon Brook CC, Jamestown, NY
	Mon	<b>22</b>	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Pro-Am	Chautauqua GC, Chautauqua, NY
	Mon	<b>29</b>	Western New York Open	Stafford CC, Stafford, NY
<b>JULY</b>	Mon	<b>6</b>	Pro-Scratch Charity Classic	Crag Burn GC, East Aurora, NY
	Mon	<b>13</b>	Africa 6000 Intl's Pro-Am Charity Golf Event	The Kahkwa Club, Erie, PA
	Mon-Tue	<b>20-21</b>	Blaisdell Pro-Am & Open	Pennhills Club, Bradford, PA
	Mon	<b>27</b>	WNY Classic	TBD
	Fri	<b>31</b>	Bartlett Pro-Am	Bartlett CC, Olean, NY
<b>AUG</b>	Mon	<b>3</b>	Ellicottville Memorial Library Pro-Am	Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
	Sun	<b>9</b>	Midvale Invitational Pro-Am	Midvale CC, Penfield, NY
	Mon	<b>10</b>	Sr-Jr Pro- Pro Pro-Am & Championship	Penfield CC, Penfield NY
	Mon-Tue	<b>17-18</b>	WNYPGA Section Championship	Cobblestone Creek CC, Victor, NY
	Mon	<b>24</b>	Wellsville Pro-Am	Wellsville CC, Wellsville, NY
	Fri	<b>28</b>	National Car Rental Assistant Championship	Shorewood CC, Dunkirk, NY
<b>SEPT</b>	Thur-Fri	<b>3-4</b>	WNYPGA Senior Championship	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY
	Tue	<b>8</b>	Pro-Assistant Championship	TBD
	Sun	<b>13</b>	Locust Hill Pro-Am	Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, NY
	Mon-Tue	<b>14-15</b>	Match Play Championship	Crage Burn GC, East Aurora, NY
	Mon	<b>21</b>	Pro-Pro Championship	Niagara Falls CC, Lewiston, NY
	Mon-Tue	<b>28-29</b>	OMEGA Tour Championship	The Kahkwa Club, Erie, PA
<b>OCT</b>	Mon	<b>5</b>	Junior-Senior Cup Matches	Holiday Valley Resort, Ellicottville, NY
	Mon	<b>12</b>	WNYPGA Annual Meeting	Glen Oak GC, East Amherst, NY



# WNYPGA 2020 Tentative Junior Tour Schedule

\*Dates are subject to change\*



<i>Day and Date</i>	<i>Facility</i>
Saturday 4/18	Midvale CC
Sunday 4/19	Ridgemont CC
Saturday 4/25	Greystone GC
Sunday 4/26	Orchard Park CC
Saturday 5/2	Terry Hills GC
Sunday 5/3	Stafford CC
Saturday 5/2 Fore Golf Tour Tri State	Tam O'Shanter GC (Rd 1)
Sunday 5/3 Fore Golf Tour Tri State	Tam O'Shanter GC (Rd 2)
Saturday 5/9	Holiday Valley GC
Saturday 5/9 Fore Golf Tour Northeast NY	Leatherstocking GC (Rd 1)
Sunday 5/10 Fore Golf Tour Northeast NY	Leatherstocking GC (Rd 2)
Saturday 5/16	Lake Shore Roch CC
Sunday 5/17	Wild Wood CC
Saturday 5/23 College	Chautauqua GC
Sunday 5/24 College	Shorewood CC
Saturday 5/30 College	Lake View CC
Sunday 5/31 College	Downing GC
Saturday 5/30 Fore Golf Tour Central NY	Robert Trent Jones GC (Rd 1)
Sunday 5/31 Fore Golf Tour Central NY	Robert Trent Jones GC (Rd 2)
Sunday 6/7 College	Bartlett CC
Saturday 6/13	Gowanda CC
Sunday 6/14 College	Elkdale CC
Thursday 6/25 DCP JC Martin	JC Martin GC
Sunday 6/28 College	Timber Ridge CC
Tuesday 6/30 PGA Jr Champ	Glen Oak GC
Thursday 7/2	Mendon CC
Monday 7/6	Brook Lea CC
Tuesday 7/7	Eagle Vale CC
Thursday 7/9 DCP Glen Oak	Glen Oak GC
Saturday 7/11 Fore Golf Tour Western NY	Glen Oak GC (Rd 1)
Sunday 7/12 Fore Golf Tour Western NY	Glen Oak GC (Rd 2)
Thurs 7/16 DCP Genesee Valley	Genesee Valley GC
Friday 7/17	Geneva CC
Monday 7/20	Lancaster CC
Tuesday 7/21	Livingston CC
Thursday 7/23 DCP Hickory Stick	Hickory Stick GC
Monday 7/27	Webster CC
Wednesday 7/29	Shorewood CC
Thursday 7/30	Kahkwa Club
Monday 8/3 Jr Tr Champ	Stafford CC (Rd 1)
Tuesday 8/4 Jr Tr Champ	Stafford CC (Rd 2)



# PASSING OF BILL DIMAS

## THE WNYPGA'S FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with a heavy heart to inform you that Bill Dimas, the first and long time Executive Director of the WNYPGA and 2001 Inductee into the WNYPGA Hall of Fame passed away on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. After many years as a successful PGA Head Professional, Bill was employed by the Section in 1984 to initially to promote the WNYPGA Golf Professional's image in the golf community and build the quality of positions that they held. Bill was instrumental in assisting many young professionals become successful in the golf industry. Very soon after accepting the position, he conducted all the business of the Section and was named Executive Director. He held the highest respect on a Section and National level and collaborated with many National PGA programs to insure their success.

William G. Dimas, 73, was born in Rochester, NY in 1946 and is survived by his wife Maureen, son William, Jr., daughter's Karen and Kristen and grandson Lucas. Bill requested that no funeral services be held. Instead, he wished his family to have a celebration of life party for his last time to buy. The family is in the process of planning a social event in Bill's honor. Notification emails will be sent as soon as details are finalized.

Instead of any type of gifting or flowers, Bill had a wish of donations to the WNYPGA Foundation in his name. Please contact the Section Office for donations.

### **William G. Dimas Career Highlights**

Inducted in the WNYPGA Hall of Fame in 2001  
 Elected to PGA Membership in 1970.  
 Member of PGA Quarter Century Club  
 Assistant Professional at Lake Shore C.C. in 1964  
 Assistant at Transit Valley C.C. 1968-1970  
 Head Professional at Niagara Frontier C.C. 1971-1976  
 Director of Golf at Glen Oak G.C. 1977-1980  
 WNYPGA Tournament Chairman 1975 – 1977  
 WNYPGA Treasurer: 1977-1978  
 WNYPGA Vice President: 1975-1980  
 WNYPGA Executive Director: 1984-2009

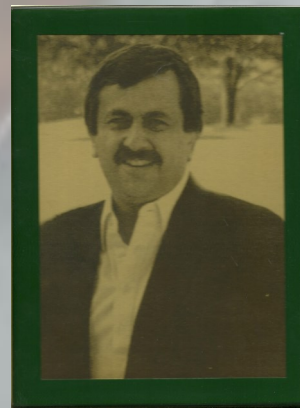
### **AWARDS**

WNYPGA Professional of the Year: 1976, 1988  
 WNYPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award: 1979, 1987, 1989, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998  
 WNYPGA Horton Smith Award Winner: 1988

### **COMMITTEES**

National PGA Club Relations  
 National Golf Day  
 National PGA Education  
 National PGA Membership & Apprentice  
 National Technology Task Force  
 Chairman or Member of numerous WNYPGA Section Committees: 1975-2009  
 Chairman of PGA Section Executive Director Group: 1997-2000  
 Member of Oldsmobile Golf Advisory Committee 1998-1999  
 Member of Town of Amherst Golf Oversight Committee: 2000-2009

**Condolences may be sent to: Maureen Dimas  
 96 Patrice Terrace  
 Williamsville, NY 14221**





# CONGRATULATIONS

*December 2019*

## QUARTER CENTURY MEMBERS

Mary Lynne DiFolco , PGA  
**PGA LIFE MEMBER**



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE WNYPGA

If you know of any individuals who would be suited for our WNY PGA Works Fellowship, please have them apply at the link below! In addition to your employment opportunities on PGA.org, if you would like to list an Assistant Professional Position on our website please contact Executive Director, Steven Bartkowski, at [sbartkowski@pgahq.com](mailto:sbartkowski@pgahq.com) and your job will be listed in similar fashion. Please note the positions must follow 2020 NYS Labor Law requirements regarding minimum wage and/or exempt employee standards.

**PGA Works Fellow, WNYPGA 2020—View posting [HERE](#)**

**Assistant Professional, Lakeside CC—View posting [HERE](#)**

**Assistant Professional, Monroe GC—View posting [HERE](#)**

### “PROS FOR HIRE” TAB ON THE SECTION WEBSITE

In 2017 the Western New York Section Website underwent an upgrade. As part of this upgrade we added a Section called “Pros for Hire” which we hope will help both local job seekers and job posters. The “Pros for Hire” tab is only accessed by PGA Professionals logging into the Professional side of the site and allows for those who are currently in the job market to post their most updated resumes. Please contact Section Staff Member Steven Bartkowski if you wish to post your resume, or if you have any questions how to view the resumes.





**PGA**  
Western New York Section



WESTERN NEW YORK

# SMILING “FORE” LIFE

Western New York Section PGA /  
PGA REACH WNY Foundation

**SMILING “FORE” LIFE** is a program started by local PGA Professionals and focused on providing golf to kids outside of their hospital room. The goal of the program is to allow the kids to forget the monotony they are facing and focus on having fun and “smiling.” Our WNYPGA Professionals go to children’s hospitals across the section and teach the game of golf right at the hospital.

**IMPACT**—First and foremost, to see the smiles on the kids faces and to give back to the community that has given us so much. We want to introduce or reintroduce the game of golf to patients, families and visitors at the facility, while also showing individuals the proper fundamentals of the game and to promote a positive, fun and entertaining environment.

“On our 1st week of the program, there was a patient that said I will see you guys next week. When his parents told him he was going home the next day he said can’t I go home next week after the golf... This program is not just for the kids. It also helps the parents that are going through a very tough time.” - Mike D’Agostino, PGA

Check out our Flickr Page to see all of our Smiling “FORE” Life activities! Click [HERE](#)!

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WNYPGA PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE  
VOLUNTEERED FOR THIS AMAZING CAUSE!**

**Mike D’Agostino, Rob Horak, Brian Jacobs, Rob Krajewski, Tom Maloney &  
Jeff Mietus**





# 3rd ANNUAL PGA REACH WNY CHARITY HOCKEY CLASSIC



On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the PGA REACH WNY Foundation held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Charity Hockey Classic at the LECOM Harbor Center. **The event raised over \$9,200 for the Special Olympics of New York (SONY) to help support the Special Olympics athletes in Western New York.**

The festivities started at 8 PM and the game began at 8:30 PM, following the National Anthem and the Ceremonial Puck Drop being done by the Special Olympics and their athletes. There were countless events being held throughout the night like raffles, 2 Chuck-a-Puck contests for fans to partake in and a Special Olympics Hockey game played during the 1<sup>st</sup> Intermission.



The Charity Hockey Classic was played by the PGA REACH WNY Team, consisting of WNYPGA Professionals, and the Kiefer Team, consisting of various amateur hockey players lead by Matt Kiefer, one of the directors of the event. It was a close game throughout until the end when Team Kiefer was able to pull away and claim the Classic Victory 7-3. This is the first year that Team Kiefer has won the Charity Hockey Classic, with both previous games being won by the PGA REACH WNY Team.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the Charity Hockey Classic has been played and its first year being held at the LECOM Harbor Center. In the two previous years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for the Special Olympics of New York golf programs. Every year has seen an increase in funds raised, with \$7,300 in 2017, \$7,800 in 2018 and with an event high, \$9,100 this year.

The Charity Hockey Classic was started in 2017 to help support the SONY golf programs in the Western New York area. Over the past two years, over 29 new athletes have been able to participate in SONY golf programs due to the funds raised at the Charity Hockey Classic. Over the next few years, the WNYPGA is looking to raise money to create a new indoor facility for various PGA REACH WNY Foundation programs, including helping to establish a new home for our local Special Olympics athletes.

**1970-2020**

This event is so successful because of the continuing support it receives from the WNYPGA community and its volunteers. So, we would like to say thank you to all of our volunteers from the night's event and to our WNYPGA Professionals who raised funds through ticket sales and volunteered to play in this year's Charity Hockey Classic. With the support of the WNYPGA, the Charity Hockey Classic looks to continue and increase its impact on SONY and its athletes for years to come.

**Check out our Flickr Page to see all of the game action and activities that went down at the Harbor Center!**

Click [HERE!](#)







## START YOUR CAREER IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY TODAY

The PGA WORKS Fellowship provides the opportunity for a one-year, paid fellowship in a PGA Section's Foundation operations. This entry-level employment experience offers a taste of what a career in the golf industry can provide.

The PGA WORKS Fellowship is a program that offers access to individuals from diverse backgrounds—whether by gender, age, race or color, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, religion or Veteran status—into the golf industry to gain experience in all facets of the golf industry. Currently, there are eleven fellows in eleven PGA Sections. Since 2017, nine of our ten Fellowship alumni have acquired jobs in the industry, with one other remaining in the sports industry as well.



**Click the image to watch the video and learn about the PGA Works Fellowship and hear from current fellows about their experiences! Click [HERE](#) to apply!**

"The PGA Works Fellowship has been a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. Right out of school I was able to enter the work force and begin making a lasting impact in the golf industry. Not only am I learning new things about golf everyday, but I am building skills that will help me be successful no matter what opportunities are presented to me in the future."

-Jacob Coles, 2019 PGA Works Fellow, WNYPGA







**Free for all children in  
Buffalo/East Aurora/Amherst  
and surrounding  
communities!**

### **TWO SPECIAL DATES/LOCATIONS**

**Sun. Dec 22 9am-2pm**  
**Home2 Suites**

**3820 Ridge Lea Rd, Amherst**

**Sat Jan 11 9am-2pm**

**Hampton Inn**

**49 Olean St East Aurora**



- **Bring your camera for a free picture with Santa!**  
(Santa will only be at the Amherst Location)
- **Free pony rides**
- **Entertainment!**
- **Exotic Animals brought to you by Wildlife Rockstars!**
- **Meet your favorite costume characters!**

**Including:**

**PGA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**



**Please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to be given to a local food pantry here in Erie County!**

**Brought to you by Visions Hotels: Hampton Inn East Aurora and Home2 Suites Amherst**



# BE SOCIAL WNY



Check out our new WNYPGA Jr. Instagram to stay up to date on our Junior Activities with the link above!

Don't forget to follow our other channels to stay up to date with all the news in the WNYPGA!





# GOLF DIGEST BEST TEACHERS IN NEW YORK & PENNSYLVANIA

## NEW YORK



**John Graham, PGA**  
Webster GC, Rochester, NY  
Director of Instruction



**Brian Jacobs, PGA**  
Mill Creek GC, Spencerport, NY  
Director of Instruction



**Jeff Urzetta, PGA**  
Oak Hill CC, Rochester, NY  
Director of Instruction

## PENNSYLVANIA



**Dave Wedzik, PGA**  
Golf Evolution, N. East, PA  
Director of Instruction



**Erik Barzeski, PGA**  
Golf Evolution, N. East, PA  
Director of Instruction

**Congratulations to our WNYPGA Professionals selected for  
Golf Digest 2019—2020's Best Teachers in Your State!**

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the full article

**PGA**

Western New York Section

## Las Vegas Pro-Am:

# What happens in Vegas, Comes back to WNY

From Monday, November 18th—Wednesday, November 20th, the WNYPGA returned to Vegas for the Las Vegas Pro-Am. 8 teams went and competed in the 3—Day event to win the 3 divisions that were available.

### 2 Best Ball of 4

In the 2BB of 4 Division, the Bartlett Country Club Team, lead by Head Professional Dwayne Randall, finished in first place with a score of –16 (128).

Click [HERE](#) for full day 1 results



### Par 3—Par 4—Par 5

In the Par 3/4/5/ Division, the Niagara Frontier Golf Club Team, lead by Head Professional Frank Garcia, finished in first place with a score of –11 (125).

Click [HERE](#) for full day 2 results



### 1 Gross + 1 Net

In the 1 Gross + 1 Net Division, The Kahkwa Club Team, lead by Head Professional Michael O'Connor, finished in first place with a score of +53 (125)

Click [HERE](#) for full day 3 results



THE  
KAHKWA CLUB  
Erie, Pennsylvania

Congratulations to all of our winners and we hope you enjoyed your time at the Las Vegas Pro-Am!





## PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP 2020

**The application IS NOW OPEN. Click on the image above to go directly to the application page!**

### Important Scholarship Information:

- There is only one deadline for all materials this year, so applications must be submitted online at [PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program](#) by **11:59PM (Pacific Time) on April 3rd, 2020.**
- **A minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.4 is required. (Unweighted GPA based on a 4.0 scale).**
- Schools must submit via mail the applicant's sealed official transcript for the first semester of the current school year. Please be aware of your spring break times from school as school offices may be closed.

### High School Applicants:

- Official Transcript with Cumulative GPA (Must be 3.4 or above).
- SAT/ ACT Test Scores
- Student Aid Report (SAR) if applicable

### College Students:

- Official Transcript with Cumulative GPA (Must be 3.4 or above).
- Most recently completed semester GPA
- Student Aid Report (SAR) if applicable

**\*\*\*You or your child will have to create an account to access the application. This also gives you access to upload documents and check the status of the application\*\*\***



## PGA WINTER SERIES

If you are heading South this Winter and were looking to play some golf, registration is now open for the PGA of America Tournament Series. [CLICK HERE](#) for eligibility information,

TOURNAMENT DATES	TOURNAMENT DEADLINES
DEC. 16-17: WANAMAKER	DEC. 10 (5 PM)
DEC. 19-20: RYDER	DEC. 13 (5 PM)




**PGA**  
 2020 MERCHANDISE SHOW  

# SAVE THE DATE 2020

**TUESDAY, JAN 21**  
 PGA SHOW DEMO DAY & EDUCATION CONFERENCE  
**WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, JAN 22-24**  
 PGA SHOW EXHIBITS & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

## "Grow your business & career at the MAJOR of Golf Business"

Join us at the golf industry's leading trade-only event, where PGA Professionals & Golf Industry Professionals gather to discover the latest trends in golf equipment & technology, apparel & accessories. At the PGA Show you can attend the world's largest Outdoor Demo Day, discover revolutionized education sessions taught by world class golf instructors, network with industry experts and much more.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register for the 2020 Show!



## 2019 SECTION TITLE PARTNERS



## 2019 SECTION PRESENTING PARTNERS



## 2019 SECTION SUPPORTING PARTNERS



American Manufacturing & Embroidery



PRIVATE ESTATE

DESIGNED IN AMERICA



STUART MILLER  
GOLF SALES



## 2019 JUNIOR PROGRAM PARTNERS

