

March/ April 2020 Edition

WNYPGA NEWS

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



PGA

Western New York Section



WESTERN NEW YORK

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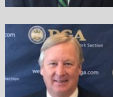
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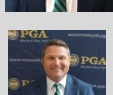
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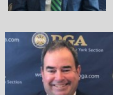
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**Director**

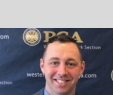
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**Director**

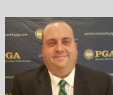
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Impacting over 1400 Junior Golfers

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PGA HOPE WNY: BUFFALO CHAPTER

PGA HOPE WNY held its inaugural PGA HOPE Winter Buffalo clinic in February 2020

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Sign up today, the deadline is April 20th

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Follow us on Social Media to stay up to date with WNYPGA News

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2020 SECTION PARTNERS

Thank you to all of our 2020 Section Partners

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WNYPGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAN ANTONUCCI, PGA



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I type this message, the sun is shining brightly through my Pro Shop window and the grass is already turning slightly green. Hopefully this means an early spring and once the COVID-19 pandemic clears we can get our golfers safely back on our respective courses!

To keep the Membership up to date, Jake Northrup, Mike D'Agostino, Steve Bartkowski and I attended the PGA Super Regional Conference in Atlanta on February 20th & 21st. The purpose of the trip was to meet the four candidates for National PGA Secretary. They were able to present their campaign platform to all attendees. We were able to ask questions of each in separate meetings with our District and

Section. It enabled us to get to know them personally and see what they are all about.

After the two days of meetings, we know that all four candidates have distinct qualities, want to better the PGA and are very qualified individuals. I have to say that all four did a fine job in presenting their plans of action for the PGA.

It is my privilege to announce that the Director of Golf at the Kahkwa Club, and PGA REACH WNY Foundation Resident, **MIKE O'CONNOR** has been elected unanimously as our 2020 inductee into the WNYPGA Hall of Fame. Mike is an extremely valuable member to our Section. He has served 20+ years on the WNYPGA Board, leading as our President in 2015-2017. Presently he continues to volunteer as the President of the WNYPGA Foundation. His playing career has been highly successful, with many victories to his name. Most notably, in his community of Erie, PA., he led the J.C. Martin Project, which brought back to life a historical landmark golf course for the good of Junior Golf. He will be enshrined in the Hall of Fame at our Section Awards Gala in October. This is Mike's year, so when you see him over the golf season, please congratulate him on this very deserving honor!

As a reminder, if you have not filled out our local Compensation Survey, please take the time to find that email and fill out the form. It is simple with easy questions and does not take very long. This information will help the Employment Committee compile statistics that will be essential in many different ways for our Section Professionals.

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

STEVEN BARTKOWSKI



PGA Professionals,

There is no hiding that we are all going through uncharted times, and no one has a “playbook” for surviving a global pandemic. However, we all know that we will get to the other side of COVID-19, so we need to **stay positive and prepared**. And, most importantly we need to focus on ourselves and the individuals that are closest to us, first and foremost. I continue to harp on the fact that there is no better time for self-improvement so that you are ready for the other side of this. This doesn't mean just work purposes, but also means can you become a better husband/wife, a better son/daughter, brother/sister etc. Taking the time to look someone in the face and truly ask, how are you doing? This goes a long way in times like these.

Have you heard that old allegory about the two lumberjacks?”

“Lumberjack A never takes time to sharpen his axe because he's so busy chopping down trees. But Lumberjack B sharpens his axe every week, no matter what. Guess who cuts down more trees? Lumberjack B with his super-sharp axe.”

If you're like most folks, you are constantly busy. There are a hundred things on your low-priority to-do list that you just never get to. So why would you take time you don't have to go to seminars on new programs... or workshops about growing your brand... or industry conferences and meetings....or reaching out to a mentor?

Taking time to “sharpen your axe” can actually save you time.

A time management seminar can help you learn how to be more efficient and get more done as we all are asked to work with less. A marketing seminar can help you reach more customers, faster, and improve your rounds of golf. An industry networking event can put you in contact with potential future employers or industry professionals that help you improve in your own businesses.

The WNYPGA Section Staff and its leadership are constantly trying to find ways to help our PGA Professionals “sharpen their axes” and we hope everyone can take the time to do just that. Keep an open mind and never stop improving.

Wishing everyone health and safety during this unprecedented time. On behalf of your Section Staff, we are looking forward to getting back out to our Section and Junior Events and seeing everyone competing in the game that we all love.

Thank you for everyone's patience with the ever-evolving schedules.

Respectfully,

Steven Bartkowski
WNYPGA Executive Director



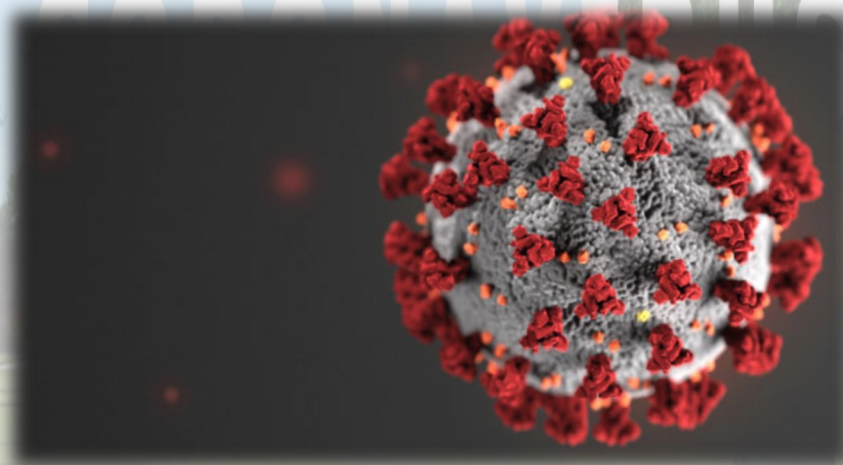
PGA

Western New York Section



WNYPGA EVENT UPDATE AMIDST COVID-19

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, The Western New York PGA hopes to be as transparent as possible during these unprecedented times. Whether it is the Western New York PGA Section, Western New York PGA Junior Programs or PGA REACH WNY Foundation, we will announce at least two weeks prior to an event what its status is. Below is the list of tournaments or activities that have been affected by the virus' outbreak and the recent CDC Announcement through April 30th. If a postponement date is confirmed, it will be added. We appreciate your understanding and support during this process.



- PGA HOPE Buffalo Chapter Graduation on Sunday, March 15th **POSTPONED**
 - World Handicap Seminar on Monday, March 16th **POSTPONED**
 - College Golf Seminar on Saturday, March 28th **POSTPONED**
 - Junior Tour Event @ Midvale CC, April 18th **POSTPONED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Ridgemont CC, April 19th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 19TH**
 - WNYPGA Spring Meeting & Education, April 20th **CANCELLED**
- Opening Day Professional Drive, Chip and Putt Event, April 20th **CANCELLED**
- Junior Tour Event @ Greystone Links, April 25th **RESCHEDULED TO JULY 5TH**
 - Junior Tour Event @ Orchard Park CC, April 26th **POSTPONED**
- PGA Hope Instructor Training @ Gen Oak GC, April 27 **POSTPONED**

CORONAVIRUS

DISINFECTION APPLICATIONS FOR COVID-19

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Keeping Your Club Safe for Everyone

Opening the doors isn't enough. It's important to assure staff, members and guests that your facility is safe. Disinfect and deliver peace of mind.

- Cleaned, disinfected, inspected and TESTED
- EPA certified chemicals
- Deep disinfection application and swab testing
- CDC virus killing strategies in place

DISINFECTION APPLICATION PROCESS

Jani-King's disinfection application process includes:

- Electrostatic sprayer, pump or battery sprayer, or manual spray process
- Use of hospital grade, EPA approved disinfectants
- Adherence to CDC guidelines including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

HIGH-FREQUENCY TOUCH AREAS

High-frequency touch areas for disinfection application include items such as:

- Light switches
- Handrails
- Elevator buttons
- Door handles and entryway doors
- Restroom faucets and dispensers
- Phones, keyboards and mouse devices

For immediate service or additional information, please contact:

Mike Biggs - mbiggs@janiking.com

www.janiking.com | 1.800.JANIKING

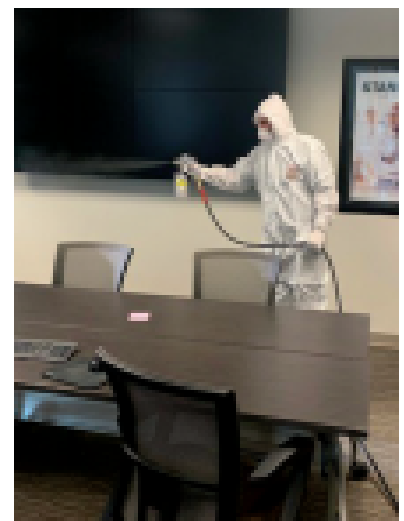
Jani-King
The King of Clean™

Official Cleaning Company
of The PGA of America



WE ARE IN YOUR AREA AND
AVAILABLE NOW TO MEET
YOUR CLEANING & DISINFECTION
NEEDS, INCLUDING:

Disinfection Applications
Deep Cleans
Additional Cleaning Labor
Day Porters



Employment Message from Chris Kulinski, PGA



Hope this finds you all well and safe from this unprecedented situation. We all know this is going to be a challenging time for the industry and our PGA Professionals. I believe if we view this as a time to evaluate ourselves, our facilities, and how we do business we can come out of this in a much better place than we and the industry were before it all started.

We at Career Services are doing all we can to help our Members and be a support system for the Section and Employers. We are doing our best to stay on top of all areas in each state as best we can. Attending industry webinars to update on what is happening with the virus. Our mission going forward is to make sure our Members and Associates know we are here as a support structure in any way.

With this said I will share some links to sites, (if you do not already have) that may be of help to you:

Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Expanded Family and Medical Leave
[CLICK HERE](#) for the Information

Coronavirus Updates from Federal Government
[CLICK HERE](#)

Valuable Unemployment Info:
[NEW YORK STATE](#)
[PENNSYLVANIA](#)

Your Money: A Hub for Help During the Coronavirus [CLICK HERE](#)

Facebook: Golf Professional National Disaster Page: [CLICK HERE](#)

Online Golf Lessons resources from V1 Golf:
[CLICK HERE](#) V1 - Supports golf instructors seeking alternatives to in-person lessons

For laid off, unemployed (hopefully, temporarily, golf professionals):
1575 Remote and local options from 100+ companies hiring: [CLICK HERE](#)
Flex Jobs -- Find Remote, Part-Time and Freelance Jobs by Location: [CLICK HERE](#)

Coronavirus Links:
[CLICK HERE](#) for updates on PGA.org
[CLICK HERE](#) Coronavirus – What clubs need to know from the National Club Association
[CLICK HERE](#) for GCSAA State-by-State Golf Course – Open/Closed and Restrictions

Career Services Links:
[CLICK HERE](#) for On-Line Career Planning
[CLICK HERE](#) to Update PGA Job Preferences
[CLICK HERE](#) for PGA Lifelong Learning Info – Free 90 Day Access
Dates: Starting April 1st through June 30th

Stay positive and Stay Safe!

Chris Kulinski, PGA
PGA of America Career Consultant and Recruiting Specialist



FREE ONLINE LIBRARY ACCESS AVAILABLE NOW FOR PGA SPECIALIZED LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM

All PGA Members now have free access (\$450 value) to this education through June 30th, 2020

PGA Education
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Optimum Computer Settings:

- Content is best viewed on a computer and/or laptop device
- Download and use the Mozilla Firefox browser
- Install and enable Adobe Flash Player
- At this time, Specialized content is not optimized for mobile devices due to screen size.
- For iPad use, download the Photon Flash Player app

Accessing Specialized Content Through June 30, 2020:

1. Sign Into PGA.org dashboard.
2. Click on the Resources tab along the top navigation menu.
3. Scroll to the Lifelong Learning section and click on "Specialized Professional Program."
4. Find and click on the "Enroll Now" button under the words PGA Specialized Program.
5. A OneLogin screen may appear here. Use the same username and password that was used to access PGA.org.
6. Once in the Education Portal, there will be 5 course tiles on the portal dashboard.
 - Career Path: Executive Management
 - Career Path: Golf Operations
 - Career Path: Teaching & Coaching
 - Library: Explore Your Learning
 - PGM Materials
7. Click on a Career Path course tile to access each Specialized career path's courses. Click on the Library course tile to access the Library electives.
 - Each Career Path contains the 30 required courses for the career path.
 - Specialized candidates choose 10 library courses
 - The content featured is in the form of online video and simulation courses (See optimum computer requirements above to ensure ideal course viewing).
 - Content is grouped into modules by competency and can be completed in any order. Scroll down to see more content.
 - A score of 80% is required for MSR credit in Library courses.
 - When a course is completed, a **green check** appears next to the course name and an MSR for the course will appear on your PGA.org dashboard.
 - If a course is reopened, the progress will revert back to 0%. However, once an MSR is recorded, the course is complete.
8. PGM Materials for all 3 career tracks are available for members registered in the Specialized Professional Program.
 - Materials that are not linked have not been uploaded yet but will be coming soon.



Capstone: There is a capstone requirement upon completion of the Specialized Professional Program coursework.





"PGA.Coach has had a major influence in my approach to coaching Junior players and preparing them for the game throughout their life. Kids will learn more through games than through specific skill instruction. Kids love to win and through these games, they will learn what they need to do to win. The drills and games that are available through PGA.Coach create your Junior Clinics for you. It takes me 5 minutes to layout an hour long clinic. Do yourself a favor and get your certification, you'll be glad you did!"

Rob Krajewski, PGA (Director of Instruction at Glen Oak GC)

GET CERTIFIED IN PGA.COACH— EARN 3 PGA MSR

How does PGA.COACH benefit the PGA Member?

- ◆ The ADM Certificate and PGACoach mobile app will allow PGA Professionals to evolve and adapt to the changes in the game and a new generation of players.
- ◆ PGA.Coach resources will enable PGA Members to promote their business through our marketing services so they can sell and retain customers at an executive level.

How do you get started?

- Go to **www.PGA.Coach** and sign up for the PGA.Coach training.
- Once you complete your virtual training, you will be given access to the PGA Coach app where you can build lesson plans, promote your business and more.

WNYPGA MEMBERS PGA.COACH CERTIFIED

Ric Alberico, PGA	Western New York Section	Sean Lalley, PGA	Ravenwood Golf Club
Bob Ashley, PGA	Western New York Section	Joseph Lusardi	Locust Hill Country Club
Kyle Benish, PGA	Holiday Valley Resort	Thomas Maloney, PGA	Webster Golf Club
Rodney Blair, PGA	Park Country Club	Jeffrey Mietus, PGA	Custom Turf WNY
Thomas Bolduc, PGA	Churchville Park Golf Course	Sean Moffat, PGA	Country Club of Buffalo
Chris Devincentis, PGA	Eagle Vale Golf Course	Linda Opalisky, PGA	Ontario Country Club
Brett Emrick, PGA	Park Country Club	Travis Perkins, PGA	Penfield Country Club
Timothy Fries, PGA	Glen Oak Golf Course	Clementina Rodriguez	Western New York Section
Travis Geiger, PGA	Town and Country Club of Lockport	James Russell	The Kahkwa Club
Stacy Harrower, PGA	Park Country Club	Paul Sanders, PGA	Ridgmont Country Club
Robert King, PGA	Lakeside Country Club	Kirk Stauffer, PGA	Life Member PGA
Robert Krajewski, PGA	Glen Oak Golf Course	Lauren Tallman, PGA	Ravenwood Golf Club
Chris Kulinski, PGA	PGA of America	Daniel Vanill	Midvale Country Club

Section Special Award Nominations NOW OPEN

The Awards Committee has received feedback over the last few years on the Section Award Nomination Process and is happy to announce two changes for the 2020 Season.

We have changed the timing to spring of when the nomination process is released to the Membership. We understand how busy our Members are in the middle of summer and wanted to allow more time and participation overall. Please note that your nominations in 2020 will most likely be based off the work done in the 2019 season.

Each nominee will now receive a standard template to fill out with supporting materials for the committee to review. Templates were created for each award and ensure consistency for all candidates, as well as touch on the most important aspects that the committee will be grading the candidates on.

We hope you enjoy the changes to the process! Submit your nominations today, [HERE!](#) **Deadline to submit is Friday, May 1st.**



PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

JAY SUTHERLAND, PGA



TEACHER OF THE YEAR

ERIK BARZESKI, PGA



MERCH. OF THE YEAR (RESORT)

JOE BOCK, PGA



BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

JEFF BEAVER, PGA



MERCH. OF THE YEAR (PRIVATE)

JASON BALLARD, PGA



PRESIDENT'S PLAQUE

MICHAEL O'CONNOR, PGA



ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR

CHRIS ZUMPARO, PGA



HORTON SMITH AWARD

MIKE D'AGOSTINO, PGA



MERCH. OF THE YEAR (PUBLIC)

MIKE ROEDER, PGA



YOUTH PLAYER DEV. AWARD

LAUREN TALLMAN, PGA



PGA

Western New York Section





2020/2021 SECTION BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Per the changes in the Constitution and By-Laws in 2017, we would like to recognize the following individuals who have been nominated by April 1st for the next Board of Director Elections. We encourage you to take their calls and reach out to them as they begin their campaign to election which will happen on October 12th at the Membership annual meeting.

DIRECTOR—SEAN MOFFAT, PGA (INCUMBENT)

- ♦ Assistant Professional at The Country Club of Buffalo
- ♦ Currently serves as the Assistant Association Chairman

DIRECTOR—JAY SUTHERLAND, PGA (INCUMBENT)

- ♦ Head Professional at The Country Club of Buffalo
- ♦ Currently serves as the Employment Committee Chairman and Governance Task Force

DIRECTOR—RICH CONWELL, PGA (NEW)

- ♦ Head Professional at Shorewood Country Club
- ♦ Currently serves on the Junior Golf/Growth of the Game Committee

DIRECTOR—DAN CORDARO, PGA (NEW)

- ♦ Head Professional at Wellsville Country Club
- ♦ Currently serves on the Junior Golf/Growth of the Game Committee

DIRECTOR—JONATHAN DECKER PGA (NEW)

- ♦ Head Professional at Transit Valley Country Club

DIRECTOR—TOM MALONEY, PGA (NEW)

- ♦ Teaching Professional at Webster Golf Club
- ♦ Currently serves on the Junior Golf/Growth of the Game Committee

DIRECTOR—TERRY STILTNER PGA (NEW)

- ♦ Head Professional at Lockport Town& Country Club
- ♦ Currently serves on the Junior Golf and Education Committee

There are currently two (2) Director Positions opening this fall. Each Director position is a three year term. Individuals will still be allowed to be nominated from the floor on October 12th.

“PGA Member Milestone” Program

Presented by



The PGA Member Milestone program was created to highlight the accomplishments of both our newest PGA Members, as well as, pay tribute to our more tenured PGA Professionals reaching Quarter and Half Century status.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE WNYPGA

If you would like to list an Assistant Professional Position on our website please contact Executive Director, Steven Bartkowski, at sbartkowski@pgahq.com. Please note the positions must follow 2020 NYS Labor Law requirements regarding minimum wage and/or exempt employee standards.

Assistant Professional, Canandaigua Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)

Assistant Professional, Country Club of Buffalo—View posting [HERE](#)

Assistant Professional, Lancaster Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)

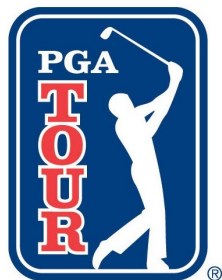
Assistant Professional, Shelridge Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)

First Assistant Professional, Moon Brook Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)

Golf Shop Manager, Tyoga Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)

Outside Golf Operations, Moon Brook Country Club—View posting [HERE](#)





PGA

Western New York Section



2020 Pro Tournament Schedule

***Sites and dates are subject to change with the current COVID-19 pandemic ***

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

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for the WNYPGA 2020 Professional Tournaments has been postponed. All Western New York PGA Section Professional Tournaments we will announce at least two weeks prior to an event what its status is. Below is the list of tournaments or activities that have been affected by the virus' outbreak and the recent CDC Announcement through April 30th. If a postponement date is confirmed, it will be added. We appreciate your understanding and support during this process.



Doubles Golf LLC Announces Formation of Organizing Committee and Doubles Golf National Am Championships

West Palm Beach - Doubles Golf, LLC announced the formation of the United States Doubles Golf Committee to serve as the organizing body for golf's newest competitive/recreational format: the trademarked rebranding of golf's 2-player scramble.

Jack Nicklaus and Seth Waugh, PGA of America CEO, will co-chair the Committee. They will be joined by PGA Tour Commissioner, Jay Monahan, and LPGA legend, Annika Sorenstam. The Committee will host the inaugural United States Doubles Golf Am Championships at The Bear's Club in Jupiter, Florida, this November. Doubles Golf teams in Men's, Women's, Senior and Mixed categories will have an opportunity to advance to the Amateur Championships through local club qualifiers and PGA Section Championships.

"In keeping with our mission to grow the game, we are excited to have this collaboration with two of the game's icons in Jack, and Annika, and our friends at the PGA Tour," Waugh said. "A number of our PGA Sections will be providing Doubles Golf programming through our PGA professionals and their facilities in this roll-out year. We see exceptional opportunity to keep players of all ages, abilities and walks of life, in the game longer, and bring new recreational players into the game, through Doubles Golf."

Jay Monahan's desire to participate came without hesitation. "We have been playing Doubles Golf in the first round of the Shark Shootout and in our PNC Father/Son event," Monahan said. "Jack's love of the Doubles format in our PNC event, and the opportunity it has given him to compete on a team with his sons, and now his grandson, gives us every reason to look for ways to allow other players to compete in this great format."

Sorenstam's record on the LPGA Tour is unsurpassed, but her latest competition was with her dad as her doubles partner in the PNC event. "I truly enjoyed being able to partner with my dad, and can understand why Jack and the other players have become fond of the Doubles Golf format."

Doubles Golf, as the fourth accepted format in the game, and first developed in the USA, is enhanced through a scoring/rating/ranking system to which all registered Doubles Golf teams will have access. A team's 9-hole rounds of Doubles Golf, social or competitive, posted to the proprietary scoring app, will create a rating for the team, and will continually re-rank them among the Doubles Golf teams at their Club, in their State/Section, and Nationally.

"Much like in tennis, a Doubles Golf team's posted scores will put them in either an A, B, or C Division, which are also flighted, so that handicaps are not necessary to create a level competitive experience," explained Bob Longmire, managing partner of Doubles Golf, LLC. "We have heard from our PGA Section Organizing Committee that they see a huge opportunity to develop league play for Doubles Golf teams, because of the less than 2-hour pace of play, and the natural flighting of teams through the Doubles Golf rating system."

For 2020, participating facilities will be conducting Club Championships for Doubles Golf, with their Club Champions in all four categories of play advancing to Section/State Doubles Golf Championships. Each participating Section will advance its four Championship teams to the United States Doubles Golf Am Championships, hosted by the USDG Committee.

Golfers can register on multiple Doubles Golf teams, and registration is now open at DoublesGolf.com. PGA Professionals can sign up their facilities at DoublesGolf.com and get a complete list of the PGA Sections participating this year.



[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Doubles Golf!

Contact Clementina Rodriguez at

crodriguez@pgahq.com to learn more.



What's in the Bag: Tim Fries, PGA

2019 Stats/ Awards:

- Finished 12th in the 2019 OMEGA Player of the Year Standings
- Finished 1st in the Locust Hill Pro-Am 2019
- 2019 Inductee of the WNYPGA Hall of Fame

I've had the great pleasure of competing in some of our games premier events at some of the most awesome venues in the country culminating in the Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor, Michigan. I grew up walking at a local daily fee and continue to this day enjoying a light carry bag. My father, brother, wife, and children have all caddied for me so no more than 6 ProV1x balls and a few other accessories accompany me on every round. A nice gentleman I was fortunate to play with when I was 12 years old gave me a roll of Canadian dimes after I placed a "manhole cover" ball marker behind my ball on the first green – he said these would never get in anyone's way. I still have a dozen of the originals left and use to this day. A Titleist Players glove, leather scorecard holder, sunscreen, Bushnell TourV3 rangefinder, light snack, and water and I'm off to making birdies!

Driver: Titleist TS3 9.5 set to D4 (+.75) – Project X HZRDUS Smoke 60g 6.0 45"

Fairway Wood: Titleist TS3 16.5 set to A1 (+/- .0) – Project X HZRDUS Smoke 70g 6.0

Hybrids: Titleist TS2 19 & 23 set to A1 (+/- .0) – Mitsubishi TENSEI Blue 80g S

Irons: Titleist U500 4-iron Project X HZRDUS Smoke 90g 6.0: 5-9 620 Forged CB S-300

Wedges: Titleist Vokey Design SM8 46(1 degree weak), 52, 58 S-200

Putter: Titleist Scotty Cameron Circle T Proto Plus Round Back (15g weights)

Carry Distances:

Driver: 270 yards
 Fairway Wood: 245 yards
 19 Hybrid: 230 yards
 23 Hybrid: 220 yards
 4 Iron: 210 yards
 5 Iron: 195 yards
 6 Iron: 180 yards
 7 iron: 165 yards
 8 iron: 150 yards
 9 iron: 140 yards
 46 wedge: 130 yards
 52 wedge: 115 yards
 58 wedge: 100 yards



Assistant Professional Spotlight:

Tim Falkner (Crag Burn Golf Club)



What is your original hometown?

I was born and raised here in West Seneca, NY

How long have you been a class A-8 Member?

I have been a Class A PGA member since 2013.

What/ who inspired you to get into the golf industry?

Originally, I was inspired to get into the golf business by my father Fred and my late Grandmother. Once I had my foot in the door, I worked under Jeff Mietus and he helped push me in the direction of becoming a PGA Member.

What is your tenure at Crag Burn Golf Club?

I started at Crag Burn in 2015 and will be beginning my 6th golf season there this spring.

Are there any fun programs you have initiated for the golfers at Crag Burn GC?

One of our main goals at Crag Burn the last few years was to grow the Junior Golf Program. Since beginning there we have grown the program exponentially. One of the most fun things the kids enjoy is the four day "camp." Juniors check in around 8:30am and we have activities all day for them that include lessons, on course play, lunch and even fishing before they get picked up around 4:30. This camp sells out every season and the juniors always look forward to it.

How long have you been in the section and have you had any other jobs?

I have been a part of the WNYPGA section since 2007 when I was a PGA Apprentice working at Lancaster Country Club under PGA Professional Jeff Mietus. After Lancaster I spent 5 seasons at The Park Country Club where I worked under PGA Professional Eddie Suchora.

Have you won any section awards?

I was lucky enough to have the honor of winning the WNYPGA Assistant Professional of the Year award in 2015 and again in 2018. I was also the WNYPGA Assistant Player of the Year in 2014.

What are some of your main goals, playing and professional, for the 2020 Golf Season?

My goals for 2020 are to continue to grow professionally and playing-wise to be in the top 10 again on the WNYPGA Money List. Another goal of mine would be to qualify for the 2021 National Club Professional Championship.



Play Like the Pros



Dial in Your Distance Wedges

Golfers generally understand the value of getting the ball close to the hole. From 270 yards out, many know that they *should* hit a 3W or at least a hybrid to get up close to the green. They *know* that a 50-yard shot should be easier than a 115-yard shot. But many golfers will lay up to the 115-yard shot because they're uncomfortable hitting the 50-yard shot. They rarely practice it, they don't know what wedge to hit, and they don't know how big of a swing to make. These less-than-full wedge shots are called "distance wedges," because you've got to develop a system that lets you hit your wedges, whether you have three or four in your bag, different distances. If you make a 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and a full swing with three wedges, that's 12 yardage/trajectory combinations that you can add to your arsenal. Let's attack the fear of the unknown: let's dial in your distance wedges and turn them into the weapons they're capable of being. Golfers generally struggle with distance wedges for two reasons:

1. They have no system in place to control or know how far a shot will go.
2. They lose the ability to hit the ball solidly when making something shorter than a full swing.

Before getting any specific instruction, golfers who struggle with partial wedges often make a full swing and then attempt to slow down on the downswing to take off yardage. Unless you're John Daly, this is often the worst possible method! Let's solve both problems at once. Whether you have three wedges or four, the simplest system to control your distance, hit the ball closer to the hole, and shoot lower scores is will require about 30 minutes of your time and six to ten golf balls. If you can do this with a friend, you might both be able to do this in 30 minutes. The system I'm about to tell you will eliminate the need to control distance by controlling downswing speed — every shot will be hit with a downswing that *feels* pretty much the same.

Find a place at your golf course where you can hit balls from 30 to 120 yards or so. The first fairway late in the evening is often a great choice. Set your bag down where you've got 100-125 yards of flat fairway. Then, follow this process:

1. Start with your pitching wedge. Hit six to ten balls with a full swing. Ignore any you hit poorly, and pay attention to where the balls *land*.
2. Walk to the spot where the balls landed and measure from that spot to your bag, which you left back by the spot from which you hit the balls. If you're with a partner, he can stand in the middle of the area in which your balls landed and you can measure the distance to him.
3. Write that number down. It's your full swing pitching wedge yardage.
4. Hit six to ten balls with your pitching wedge again, this time making a 3/4 swing. Continue to use your full swing mechanics with what feels like a similarly aggressive downswing. It doesn't matter whether your 3/4 swing is actually 3/4 as long, only that you can repeat it and that it's shorter than your full swing. Repeat steps 2 and 3 to measure the distance of your 3/4 PW.
5. Repeat the process for 1/2 swings and 1/4 swings. Maybe your half swing is when you feel the shaft get vertical, but again, it doesn't matter so long as it's shorter than your 3/4 swing, longer than your 1/4 swing, and you can swing it back to the same spot every time.
6. Repeat the process with your remaining wedges, with a full swing, 3/4 swing, 1/2 swing, and a 1/4 swing. If you never hit your lob wedge with a full swing, skip it.

If you'd rather make a chart with 1/3, 2/3, and full swings, do that instead. When you're done, you'll have anywhere from 9 to 16 yardages on a chart: three or four numbers for three or four wedges. Some of these numbers might overlap: a 1/2 PW might travel almost exactly as far as a 3/4 SW, for example. That's okay, because the trajectories will be different. At this point, I recommend printing the numbers on a small strip of paper and either taping it to the bottom of your wedge shaft, beneath the grip, or putting the sheet in your yardage book or somewhere handy. Then, when you're faced with a 62-yard shot to a hole cut in the back of a green, you'll choose the wedge with the trajectory you'd like and know exactly how far to swing it back to hit that shot the distance you need.

This system doesn't make you any less of a "feel player." You've still got to pull off the shot, and you've still got to make adjustments for wind, elevation, green firmness, temperature, how you're feeling that day... and so on. It simply provides a framework in which your feels have touchstones. Apply this system and you'll find yourself with a great system to control the distance of your wedges. You'll hit the ball more crisply, too, because the system will give you the confidence to know exactly how long your backswing has to go to send the ball a specific distance. Now, stop laying up to 115 yards. Get the ball up there closer to the green, and then hit that distance wedge closer to the hole. Remember, golf is one of the only games in which the Lowest Score Wins.



CONGRATULATIONS



Lauren Tallman

GameChanger Award Recipient



**Congratulations Lauren and thank you for
your outstanding with the Junior Golfers of
the WNYPGA!**



WNYPGA 2020 Tentative

Junior Tour Schedule

*Sites and dates are subject to change with the current COVID-19 pandemic *



Day and Date	Facility
Saturday 5/2	Terry Hills GC
Sunday 5/3	Stafford CC
Saturday 5/9	Holiday Valley GC
Saturday 5/16	Lake Shore, Rochester
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
Sunday 6/28 College	Timber Ridge CC
Tuesday 6/30 PGA Jr Champ	Glen Oak GC
Thursday 7/2	Mendon CC
Sunday 7/5	Greystone CC
Monday 7/6	Brook Lea CC
Tuesday 7/7	Eagle Vale CC
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)
Friday 7/17	Geneva CC
Sunday 7/19	Ridgemont CC
Monday 7/20	Lancaster CC
Tuesday 7/21	Livingston CC
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)

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for the WNYPGA 2020 Professional Tournaments has been postponed. All Western New York PGA Section Professional Tournaments we will announce at least two weeks prior to an event what its status is. Below is the list of tournaments or activities that have been affected by the virus' outbreak and the recent CDC Announcement through April 30th. If a postponement date is confirmed, it will be added. We appreciate your understanding and support during this process.



Junior Golf Programs Now Under One Roof—PGA REACH WNY

Expected Impact to 1400 Junior Golfers



BEGINNER



BEGINNER



**INTERMEDIATE/
ADVANCED**



INTERMEDIATE



ADVANCED

This past offseason, both the Western New York Section and PGA REACH WNY Foundation leadership voted to bring all WNYPGA Junior initiatives under the PGA REACH WNY Foundation brand. The reason for this change is both to create less confusion for juniors and parents, and ensure that PGA Professionals are making the greatest impact possible when it comes to growing the game of golf. With this change, PGA REACH WNY is expected to conduct junior programs for close to 1400 juniors in 2020, based on recent growth numbers.

"We are extremely excited for this re-branding of WNYPGA Junior Programs. The goal is to ultimately provide opportunities for kids of all ages, skills, demographics and financial means. Our Youth Pillar will go from conducting events for 550 kids 13 & under, to conducting events for close to 1400 kids ages 7-24. Now that all programs are under our 501c3 arm, we see a long-term opportunity to create scholarships for kids who may not be able to enjoy the game of golf due to financial barriers," said WNYPGA/PGAREACH WNY Executive Director Steven Bartkowski.

A complete list of each of the programs can be found below.

Drive, Chip and Putt is a FREE program hosted by PGA Professionals, open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Each participant will compete in all three skills (Drive, Chip & Putt) with the opportunity to advance to the National finals that are held in conjunction with The Masters at Augusta National.

PGA Junior League is a game-changing opportunity for boys and girls to learn and play golf with expert coaching from certified PGA Professional coaches. The program brings family and friends together around fun, team golf experiences similar to a structure of little league baseball. Each player gets home and away jerseys with numbers as they travel across the state competing against other facilities. PGA Jr. League is open to both boys and girls, 13 and under, of all abilities.

The WNYPGA Junior Golf Tour provides an opportunity and atmosphere for juniors to enjoy the camaraderie, friendship, and sportsmanship of competitive golf at a series of premier venues throughout the Western New York Section of the PGA of America. The Tour is open to boys and girls ages 10-18 with all different divisions and skill levels available. For the first time ever, the Tour will be providing opportunity for its members to compete in 36-hole nationally ranked events that are included in the onetime membership fee. The Tour is ideal for both those just starting out playing 9-holes or who are looking to get noticed by college coaches.

The Fore Tour Junior Series is NEW in 2020 and provides a regional affordable competitive 36 Hole Event opportunity for juniors. These events will be held at premier venues throughout the Western NY, Central NY, North East and Tri State PGA Sections of the PGA of America. The Fore Tour Junior Series is open to all Juniors ages 13 to 18. This is a great opportunity for those higher-level juniors to compete on a regional scale against some of the best competition across two states. Local PGA Professionals and Sections wanted to also ensure that the cost of the events did not hinder anyone who wishes to compete. The hope is that this will be an additional more affordable option than many other third-party tours.

The College Series is available to Men and Women who are at least 18 years old to 25 years old. They must also be currently enrolled in post-secondary education. This tour, that started in 2019, is an opportunity for both college golfers to keep their games sharp while home from school and non-college golfers have a structured league to continue to play competitively with their friends.

To learn more about the many opportunities provided by PGA Professionals through the PGA REACH WNY Foundation please contact Director of Junior Golf and Player Development Operations, Bob Ashley, at 716-707-3818 or bashley@pgahq.com.



Glen Oak Golf Course (Homesite of the WNYPGA) Announced as Official Training Center for Special Olympics NY Golf

East Amherst, NY – Special Olympics New York today announced that the Glen Oak Golf Course in East Amherst, NY will be the official training center of its Erie Golf Club, providing use of the course, equipment and PGA-certified coaches for the program.

The partnership began three years ago when Western New York PGA Professionals had a vision for a local fundraiser to help support and expand the area's Special Olympics New York golf program. Western New York PGA and their charitable arm PGA REACH WNY have raised \$25,000 to benefit the nonprofit in the three years since. "When Steve Bartkowski heard that our Erie Golf Club had lost its practice facility, he immediately worked to find the club a new home," said Stacey Hengsterman, president & CEO of Special Olympics New York. "We are so grateful for this growing partnership, which continues to have a positive impact on our golfers, our programs and the Western New York community."

The facility at Glen Oak offers an 18-hole championship golf course, natural grass practice tees and a strategically placed large practice green, including putting and chipping areas. The Erie Golf Club will have a practice schedule consisting of access to the range, the short game area with practice range balls, included by PGA REACH WNY. WNYPGA professionals will become certified coaches with Special Olympics New York and provide on-site lessons. Finally, athletes will have access to WNY PGA golf equipment as needed.

"On behalf of our 300 PGA professionals in the Western New York Section PGA, we are so proud to be able to announce the expansion of our partnership with Special Olympics New York's Western Region in 2020," said Bartkowski. "Through the Charity Hockey Classic we have been able to raise close to \$25,000 for their golf program over the past three years, and this just feels like the right next step in making a long term significant impact. To host their training program at our new PGA Section Homesite with instruction from our PGA professional certified coaches fits directly in line with our mission of positively impacting lives through the game of golf. With access being a major barrier for golf, we will now be able to provide that to these athletes. I look forward to seeing these athletes training at Glen Oak this summer."

"We are so very humbled here at Glen Oak to even be considered to host and train some of Special Olympics New York's golf athletes," said Tim Fries, Owner/GM/Director, Glen Oak Golf Course. "To have the opportunity to support, develop, and fine tune their abilities at our facility is awesome and inspiring. Golf challenges everyone, but it also teaches great values, as well as being social which is the fun part. We are genuinely excited to get started this summer!" Fries is also a PGA Certified Member and Vice President PGA REACH WNY Foundation Board of Trustees. Purchased in 2018, the Glen Oak Golf Course has now become the facility for the WNYPGA Section Offices, numerous professional tournaments, veteran clinics, PGA Junior League, First Tee of WNY and now a place that Special Olympics New York can call home.

About Special Olympics New York

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, Special Olympics New York is the largest state chapter in the country, serving more than 67,000 athletes across New York with year-round sports training, athletic competition, and health screenings. The organization also partners with more than 170 schools statewide to offer Unified Sports. All Special Olympics New York programs are offered at no cost to athletes, their families or caregivers. For additional information about Special Olympics New York, to learn more about getting involved, or to make a donation, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org.

About PGA REACH WNY

PGA REACH WNY was created by local PGA Professionals in 2010 with a goal of providing support to various organizations within the boundaries of the Western New York PGA Section. Through the game of golf, the Foundation will work to fund programs supporting its mission, including the Western New York Section PGA Junior Golf initiatives and various other underprivileged youth golf programs. The Foundation will conduct and/or support a variety of initiatives that serve the founding pillars: youth, military, and diversity in golf.





WESTERN NEW YORK

We are excited to announce that we hosted our inaugural PGA HOPE Winter Session in our Buffalo Chapter. Our classes took place at the Paddock Chevrolet Golf Dome in Tonawanda, NY. For this session we had over 40 veterans participating, one of our largest totals for any session we've hosted in the WNY Section.

The classes were hosted every Sunday night from February 9th—March 8th. If you know of any veterans who would like to participate or if you would like to volunteer, please reach out to our PGA Works Fellow, Jacob Coles at jcoles@pgahq.com, for more information.



CLICK ON THE PICTURE ABOVE TO VIEW WKBW CHANNEL 7'S NEWS STORY ON OUR NEW PROGRAM!



PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP 2020

The application **CLOSES ON APRIL 20th AT 11:59 PM.**

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 20th, 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:

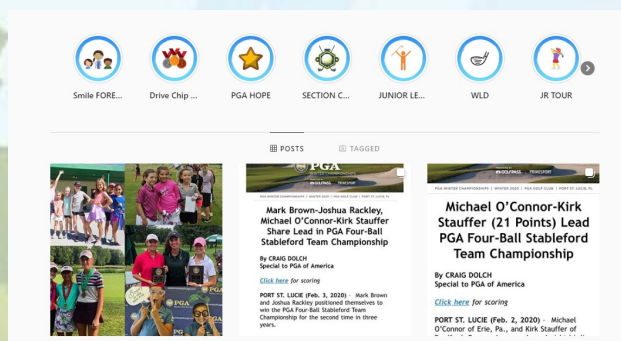
- Official Transcript with Cumulative GPA (Must be 3.4 or above).
- Most recently completed semester GPA
- Student Aid Report (SAR) if applicable

*****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*****



BE SOCIAL WNY

INSTAGRAM

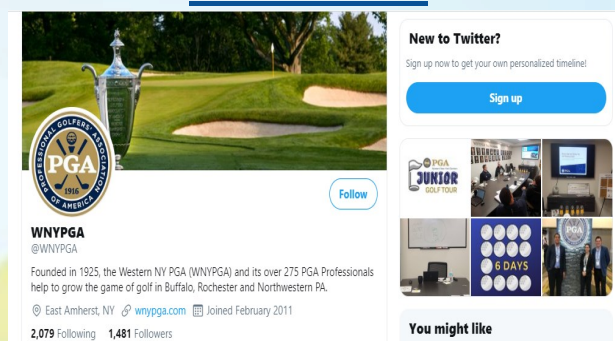


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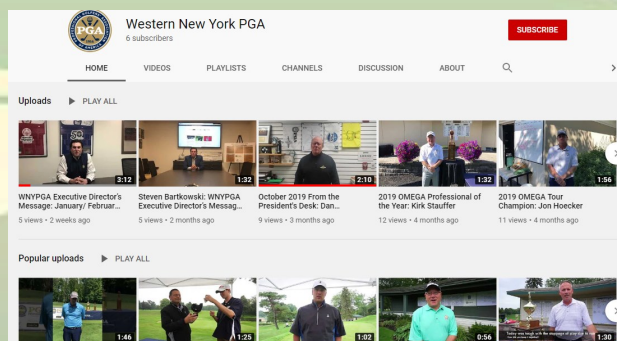
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YOUTUBE



Follow the Section and the Foundation on YouTube, Twitter and Instagram to stay up to date on our WNYPGA events!



2020 SECTION TITLE PARTNERS



2020 SECTION PRESENTING PARTNERS



2020 SECTION SUPPORTING PARTNERS



2020 JUNIOR PROGRAM PARTNERS

