



**2017 CPGA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, February 20, 2017**  
**Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center – Greensboro, NC**

The Carolinas Section conducted its Annual Meeting on Monday, February 20, 2017 at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center in Greensboro, NC. In attendance were President John Marino, Vice President Paige Cribb, Secretary Bob Byrnes, Honorary President Chad Newton, Tournament Chair Larry George, PGA District 10 Director Kelly Williams, At-Large Director Andrew Shuck (NC), Area Directors Bret Miller, Tom Mason, Josh Wagaman, Rocky Brooks, Jens Klemsche, Marc Lapointe, Donald Clement, Chris Byrd, Mike Mueller, Buddy Lawrence, PGA CEO Pete Bevacqua, Executive Director Jeff Abbot, and approximately 700 PGA Members and Apprentices.

Marino called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked Awards Chair Mike Harmon to give an invocation.

Executive Director Abbot recognized Club Car for its support of the CPGA Awards & Honors Dinner which took place on Sunday evening. He also thanked the Greensboro CVB, Page & Tuttle and Source4 for their support of the Annual Meeting. Longstanding CPGA accountant Mike Davis and retired PGA Employment Consultant Dick Bradow were presented with plaques for their numerous years of dedicated service to the membership.

President Marino observed a moment of silence for the CPGA Members who had passed away in the previous year. Secretary Byrnes performed the official roll call for those on the Board of Directors. The minutes for the 2016 Annual Meeting and all 2016 Board of Directors Meetings were approved.

President Marino delivered his report which included a review of the past season highlighted by the hiring of Jeff Abbot as the new Executive Director. He also reported on the success of PGA Junior League, the improvements to the tournament program and the highlights for the upcoming 2017 PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club. He recognized the 2016 Section Award Winners and encouraged all members to get out and play more golf in 2017.

Vice President Cribb delivered her report with an update on the Section's financial status. The Section reported a net operating gain of \$27,104 in 2016. The Investment Fund income was up 9.3% for the year which yielded a \$78,057 gain and a year-end balance of \$916,498. This gain was in line with industry benchmarks, and the board of directors recently approved moving additional liquid assets to our investment account with the goal of utilizing a portion of these returns for direct member benefits in 2018. The combined operations yielded an overall net income gain of \$86,551 for 2016.

Cribb reported the Board of Directors annually reviews dues amounts and there will be no changes for 2017. Cribb also noted the Section will be launching the Carolinas PGA REACH Foundation which will coordinate growth of the game, military and diversity initiatives. In conclusion, Cribb reported the Section is in a favorable financial position with positive cash flow, healthy cash reserves, a strong investment fund balance and zero long term debt.

Secretary Byrnes gave his report on the status of the Section's Membership. As of February, there were 1,743 Members and 268 Apprentices in the Section – a total of 17 fewer than this time in 2016. Byrnes also emphasized the importance for all Members to complete the PGA Compensation Survey which is due by March 31, 2017.

Executive Director Abbot commented on his first year of service and how much of an honor it is to serve the largest of the 41 PGA Sections. Abbot introduced and thanked his staff and reported on staff initiatives for 2017 highlighted by the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow Club, the launch of the PGA REACH Carolinas Foundation and the replacement of the old printed membership directory with the new Carolinas PGA smartphone app.

Tournament Chair George presented the dates and locations of the four major stroke play championships and the three Section Professional Championships. George reviewed the renewed Global Golf Sales partnership which includes title partnership of the 10 Section Area Meetings, presenting partnership of the Section Pro-Pro

Championship, and title partnership of the Global Golf Sales Par-3 Cup which replaces the former Global Golf Sales Par-3 Challenge and Shootout. He touted the success of the E-Z-GO Pro-Pro Championship with 320 attendees, and announced the CPGA will adopt the local rule in 2017 events which eliminates a penalty for a ball that is accidentally moved on the putting green.

Executive Director Abbot then recognized the Section's military initiatives highlighted by \$446,000 raised for the Folds of Honor in 2016, bringing the total since inception to \$3.5 million. He then addressed the success of the new PGA H.O.P.E (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) program with 9 HOPE Chapters in the Carolinas. He introduced former marine and PGA HOPE Coordinator Chris Nowak to speak on the HOPE initiatives. PGA Professionals which supported Folds of Honor or a HOPE Chapter were asked to stand to be recognized.

PGA of America CEO Pete Bevacqua, District 10 Director Williams, Marino and Abbot assembled in front of the stage for a town hall meeting. Topics included the PGA's stance with President Trump, future ADP funding, online tee times and PGA diversity initiatives.

There was no old business. Two new business questions on behalf of Area I professionals were submitted by Area Director Brett Miller. Byrnes answered these questions on why the PGA of America does not place a temporary moratorium on PGA memberships until employment opportunities increase, as well as the section's current stance to not offer a local online tee time platform.

Several Section Past Presidents spoke words of encouragement and appreciation to the Section's Membership and Board of Directors.

Incoming Area Directors Bill Hall (Area IV) and Jason Toryk (Area VI) were sworn into office. Area Directors Rocky Brooks and Marc Lapointe were recognized and presented a plaque for their service to the Board of Directors.

President Marino conducted Open Forum. There was a comment from PGA member Brad Clayton who encouraged the membership to embrace PGA HOPE or other military initiatives which offer therapy through golf.

Executive Director Abbot went over a few important items relating to the CPGA Merchandise Show and Education Seminars.

President Marino thanked the Membership and adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.