



**Carolinas PGA Section
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Greensboro CC – Irving Park
Monday, October 9, 2017
3:00PM

Officers: John Marino – President, Paige Cribb - Vice President & Bob Byrnes – Secretary

Board Members: Brett Miller, Tom Mason, Josh Wagaman, Bill Hall, Brock White, Jason Toryk, Donald Clement, Chris Byrd, Robb Wade, Buddy Lawrence, Larry George, and Derrick Garrou

Absent: Chad Newton and Andrew Shuck

Staff Present: Jeff Abbot and Kurt Battenberg

Special Invitees: Mike Mueller, Heidi Wright-Tennyson, Marc Isaacson, and Collin Jewell

Call to Order

President Marino called the meeting to order at 3pm. Secretary Byrnes conducted roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Byrnes asked for a motion to approve the June 13, 2017 Board of Directors meeting minutes. The motion was offered, seconded, and approved.

President's Report

President Marino gave a verbal report. He thanked Bud Taylor and the staff of Greensboro Country Club for hosting the meeting and welcomed Robb Wade who replaced Mike Mueller as Area IX Director and also welcomed Heidi Wright-Tennyson who will be joining the Board as Area III director in February. Marino noted how special it was for of the Section to host the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow and thanked everyone for helping to make it such a huge success. Marino was pleased to announce that Kevin Harvick agreed to partner with the Section's Foundation to hold a celebrity Pro Am event to fundraise for PGA REACH. The inaugural tournament will be on October 1, 2018 at Charlotte CC.

Vice President's Report

Abbot presented the Section's finances and reported that the Section was in a sound financial position with zero debt and ownership of the Section Headquarters building. He announced that the Section's investment account was now at \$2,130,000 with a year to date return of 6.5%. With the current investment policy in place, the Section is projected to utilize \$85,000 from the investment account in its 2018 budget. The Board will discuss how to use those funds in the upcoming planning session.

Secretary's Report

Abbot reported that the Section's membership numbers had decreased slightly since the June meeting but noted that was normal following the end of the billing cycle when many members fall off until they make up late payments. Abbot noted, however, that the trend over the past seven years shows a decline in apprentices which reflects participation in PGM University programs.

Report of the PGA of America – Kelly Williams – District 10 Director Report

Abbot presented Kelly Williams' District 10 Report which is on file at the Section Office. Highlights of the report include confirmation of changing the PGA Championship date from August to May starting in 2019. This will likely increase the Section's chances of hosting future PGA Championships as it will be less likely to hold the event in northern states in May. The PGA of America's Education Committee gained first level Board of Director's approval to have education programs tailored towards specialized training for designated career paths. South Texas is likely to propose a resolution that would be voted on at the Annual Meeting regarding a possible change in classifying A-3 Life Members and their ability to participate in the PGA Professional Championship. This stems from the backlash following Omar Uresti's win in 2017. The Section's board voted unanimously to support the resolution unless there are compelling arguments to the contrary at the PGA of America's Annual Meeting.

Area Director Reports

Buddy Lawrence noted that some members in his area had complained about problems with scheduling pro-ams with too many pro-ams drawing from the same base of professionals and competing for their participation. The Board agreed that it was important to enforce the Tournament Regulations and suggested the Tournament Committee review the process. Mike Mueller questioned the necessity of Sanction Fees for small tournaments of only PGA professionals. Brett Miller reminded the Board that events held in conjunction with area business or educational meetings were not subject to Sanction fees, and encouraged Area Directors to include education with their local playing opportunities.

Committee Updates

Most of the committees planned to defer their reports for the Business Planning Session to be held the next day.

Education Committee – Paige Cribb reported that they were still searching for a featured speaker for 2018 Big Week.

Employment Committee – Mike Mueller asked the Board and everyone agreed that they preferred his written monthly reports over having conference calls.

Partnership Committee – Jeff Abbot reported that they had a strong year in growing partnerships by over 40%, adding several new partners and maintaining good relationships with existing partners.

Youth Player Development – Tom Mason reported that Kiawah Resort provided an awesome venue for the Regional PGA Junior League Championship and hoped it could be used again in the future.

Old Business

Abbot announced that the Section signed a three-year agreement with the Greensboro Coliseum for Big Week. The multi-year agreement included discounts and incentives making it a significant savings over all other venues that were considered. In addition, the Section will hold the Awards Dinner at the Greensboro Country Club for 2018 providing a premier venue at a lower cost than the Coliseum. The Section will release an announcement to the membership regarding the contract soon.

The Board discussed whether to continue having the entire Board on stage at the meeting versus just the Officers. The consensus was to continue having the entire Board on stage.

Abbot reported on the success of the Carolinas PGA REACH Foundation. The PGA REACH Charity Pro-Am was very successful and surpassed fundraising goals considerably. Abbot reviewed the Foundations programs and staffing and suggested that the Section keep the CPGA Player Development Position on hold likely for the next 10-12 months to determine the Foundation's best needs.

Abbot gave a recap of the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow and highlighted the opportunity to raise money by selling the leftover merchandise from the championship with the help of the Section's partner, Source4. He also

noted the success of PGA Access and also the PGA Junior League day with over 350 kids attending. Lastly, Abbot asked for feedback regarding the Member Tent location and the pricing for food and beverage.

Abbot mentioned that Rick Murphy was strongly considering running for PGA of America Secretary again. The Board discussed what requirements they would want from Murphy before agreeing to provide financial support for his campaign.

New Business

Abbot asked the Board to provide any potential New Business items for the National Annual Meeting so the Section could present them if needed.

The Board discussed possible changes to the CPGA Section election procedure, primarily whether to add distribution of YouTube videos for candidates before the meeting and whether to change the length of time allowed for candidates to speak at the meeting.

The Board next discussed the Youth On Course program proposed by the Carolinas Golf Association. Tom Mason suggested that the Section request that the program give preference to facilities that have PGA Junior League programs.

Open Forum

Abbot announced that the next Board Meeting would be in Greensboro at the Greensboro Country Club Irving Park on Sunday, February 18.

Executive Session

Marino excused staff and non-BOD members from the room to conduct Executive Session.

Adjournment

Marino adjourned the meeting at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Abbot
Recorder for Secretary Byrnes