



**Carolinas PGA Section  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
Greensboro Country Club – Irving Park  
Sunday, February 18, 2018  
12:00 noon

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**Officers:** John Marino – President, Paige Cribb – Vice President, and Bob Byrnes – Secretary

**Board Members:** Larry George, Andrew Shuck, Brett Miller, Tom Mason, Josh Wagaman, Bill Hall, Brock White, Jason Toryk, Donald Clement, Chris Byrd, Robb Wade & Buddy Lawrence

**Absent:** Chad Newton, Derrick Garrou

**Staff Present:** Jeff Abbot, Cory Armstrong

**Special Invitees:** Ben Smith (incoming Area III Director), Kelly Williams (PGA District 10 Director), Daryl Batey, Rob Rose, Marc Isaacson, & Collin Jewell

**Call to Order**

President Marino called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

**Special Guest Recognition**

PGA Regional League manager Daryl Batey reviewed PGA Junior League in 2018.

**Approval of Minutes**

President Marino asked for a motion to approve the October 9, 2017 Board of Directors meeting minutes. The motion was offered, seconded, and approved.

**President's Report**

President Marino referenced his written report which thanked everyone who served during his tenure as President and highlighted a few key accomplishments including being the host Section for the 2017 PGA Championship, the establishment of PGA Reach Carolinas, and aligning with the PGA of Americas accounting department.

**Vice President's Report**

Vice President Cribb presented the year end 2017 financial report and the 2018 budget. The Section reported a net operating gain of \$44,187, mainly due to partnerships and PGA Championship revenue. PGA REACH Carolinas generated net revenue of \$213,521, mainly due to the National Car Rental PGA REACH Charity Pro-Am and PGA Championship merchandise sales.

Rob Rose of Scott & Stringfellow reported that the Investment Fund was up 8.9% for the year, yielding a \$183,454 gain and a year-end balance of \$2,178,482, which was in line with industry benchmarks. 2017 was a solid financial year for the section, as such there will be no dues increase for 2018.

**Secretary's Report**

Secretary Byrnes gave his report on the status of the Section's Membership. As of February, there were 1,774 Members and 259 Associates (2,033 total) in the Section – a total of 22 more than this time in 2017. Byrnes also highlighted the benefit to the Section that having a dedicated PGA Career Consultant in Michael Mueller will be.

PGA Career Consultant Michael Mueller reviewed the programs and goals he has planned for 2018. He also emphasized the importance of the PGA Compensation Survey and that he will be focusing on promoting it with the help of the Section staff. Surveys are due by March 31, 2018, and our completion goal is 70%.

**Staff Reports**

Executive Director Jeff Abbot discussed his second year as Executive Director. He is very appreciative of the staff effort and is excited about where the Section is going. He highlighted the new PGA REACH Carolinas Harvick#4Heroes Celebrity Pro-Am to take place on October 1, 2018 at Charlotte CC, the ongoing success of PGA HOPE, and our efforts to lead the nation in PGA Junior League participation.

Tournament Chair George & Assistant Executive Director Armstrong reviewed the 2018 major championship schedule, new partnerships, and other tournament program highlights. They also conveyed a strong recommendation from the CPGA Tournament Committee that CPGA Sanction Fees be removed, particularly from locally-run tournaments.

Carolinas PGA Legal Counsel Isaacson and Jewell reviewed the complaint procedures for financial and accounting matters, as well as the Conflict of Interest/Confidentiality Disclosure statement which was issued in writing to all board members.

#### **PGA of America District 10 Director's Report**

District 10 Director Kelly Williams spoke about a number of PGA of America initiatives including changes to the PGA of America's Constitution & Bylaws, the upcoming three pathways to membership within the Professional Golf Management Program (Golf Operations, Teaching & Coaching, & Executive Management), changes to the PGA Certified Professional Program, PGA Perks, Golf Retirement Plus, and the PGA Women's Cup, which relates to the greater goal of diversity and inclusion.

#### **Area Director Reports**

Area Directors' reports were each supplied in writing. Abbot requested that all Area Directors assist with each of the Sections 18 Drive Chip & Putt qualifiers. Quality volunteers are always needed. Abbot recognized outgoing Area Directors Tork & Hall. He also welcomed incoming Area Director Smith.

#### **Committee Reports**

All Committee Reports were submitted in writing. Abbot highlighted a few committee accomplishments and the 2018 committee chairs.

#### **Old Business**

Abbot reviewed the PGA Secretary election with Rick Murphy's candidacy.

#### **New Business**

The Board unanimously voted to approve \$1,000 in support of the South Carolina Chapter's Palmetto Cup Matches. Abbot is currently working on a location for the June 2018 Board Retreat. Andrew Shuck and Josh Wagaman will remain part of the Board as At-Large Directors for North and South Carolina respectively, pending the incoming Board's approval. Abbot also reviewed the Officer and Tournament Chair election process to take place the next day at the CPGA Annual Meeting on February 19.

During the 2017 Fall Planning Session on October 10, 2017, the Board of Directors discussed the need for a dues increase to keep up with inflation and growing costs. The Board reviewed a five year financial projection to evaluate the section's finances. At the November 28, 2017 Tournament Committee meeting, the topic of Section Sanction Fees was discussed and the Tournament Committee proposed a "strong recommendation" to the Board of Directors to eliminate Individual Facility Pro-Am Sanction Fees starting in 2019. As such, the Board of Directors had a healthy conversation about the purpose of sanction fees and dues. The sanction fees policies and dues increase will be evaluated in more depth at the June 2018 Board Retreat, with the goal of a final resolution proposal, if warranted, to be drafted by the October 2 Business Planning Session.

Lastly, Marino recognized and thanked outgoing board members. Abbot thanked the Officers for their support and presented them with recognition gifts from the 2017 PGA Championship.

#### **Executive Session**

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

#### **Adjournment**

Marino adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Abbot  
Recorder for Secretary Byrnes