

# 2018 Maine Chapter NEPGA Spring Meeting



The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

After leading the crowd through introductions, Chapter President Tony Decker, PGA spoke about the work ethic of the PGA Professional. He asked what new programs each club professional would be introducing to their members in 2018. Encouraging attendees to volunteer as rules officials, or as mentors at the Drive, Chip & Putt event at Val Halla GC, Tony also reminded the club professional to always take time to acknowledge the support of their staff, club leadership and especially their families.

Next on the agenda was Chapter Operations Manager Don Doyon, who gave a brief recap of some of the changes he has started to implement. The list includes: enhancements to the chapter website, more detailed and frequent newsletters, reviving the EZGO Player of the Year point system, new forms and procedures for chapter award nominations, and event schedule access through the NEPGA mobile app or a printed pocket schedule. Don also discussed what was happening with the Maine Junior Tour and elaborated on the need to find sponsors for junior events.



Rob Jarvis, PGA, NEPGA Foundation President, followed and the first order of business was to recognize a special guest. After a brief synopsis of the work being done by the Travis Mills Foundation, Brandy Cain was presented a check for \$1,000 from the NEPGA Foundation. The Travis Mills Foundation renovated the former Elizabeth Arden estate into a place of respite and relaxation for America's military families. Brandy stated that the donation would pay for a veteran and his family to come to the retreat for an entire week.

Rob continued with a presentation on foundation grants, explaining the availability and application process. He also described various initiatives from the PGA of America, such as PGA REACH which endeavors to improve the lives of young people through the game of golf, and PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) an adaptive golf program offered by PGA Professionals as a rehabilitation tool to improve our veterans' quality of life by enhancing their mental, social, physical, and emotional well-being. Finally, Rob commented on the NEPGA Scholarship Program and encouraged attendees to reach out to the Scholarship Committee for more information and guidance through the application process.





Next came Ron Bibeau, PGA, President of the New England PGA. Ron discussed the Section's strategies to grow programs, services, financial strength and the game of golf. He thanked both the Section level and Chapter level directors for all their time and effort in accomplishing these goals. Ron then described his personal goals as Section President. Those included, promoting PGA professionals, and the PGA brand, focusing on employment, keeping jobs in New England and in Maine. Developing new and enhancing current partnerships, and growing the Foundation. In closing President Bibeau talked about the major accomplishments of the NEPGA in recent years and the programs which are on the horizon.

District Director, Brian Bickford, PGA followed with his report. He stated that his term would be ending in 2018 and hoped someone would step up into this rewarding position. Brian then reiterated that the New England Section is financially strong, as are member numbers and participation throughout the Section. He thanked all committee members for their continued support of the Section and ensured everyone that the Section will continue to support the Chapter with sponsorship dollars.



After the break, The Woodlands Club host professional Doug VanWickler, PGA, substituting for Chris Twombly, PGA who was unable to attend, presented the Chapter Awards. Doug gave a brief rundown of each application submitted by the award recipients. The following received 2018 Chapter Awards:



- Professional of the Year - Brian Bickford
- Assistant Professional of the Year - Todd Lytle
- Bill Strausbaugh Award – Ron Bibeau
- Youth Development – Peiter DeVos
- Merchandiser of the Year – Private – Chris Twombly
- Merchandiser of the Year – Resort – Gary Soule
- Merchandiser of the Year – Public – Rob Jarvis
- Teacher of the Year – Scott Mann
- Patriot Award – Don Roberts
- Player of the Year – Leon Oliver

Next in line was Education Chairman, Scott Mayer, PGA who reiterated that the education period for MSR credits ends June 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. 26% of the Chapter's members have not met their required credits. Scott, stating that there is still plenty of time to get credits, went into detail on what educational opportunities are currently available, both in person and by video. These can help professionals and assistants fulfill their education requirements.





Brian Bickford, this time as Junior Golf chair, returned and spoke about the collaboration between the Maine State Golf Association and the NEPGA in creating the Maine Junior Golf Tour. He briefly explained why the two entities merged into one Junior tour and went into detail on membership and event fees. The change will facilitate juniors being able to also play in out of state Junior events. Brian also explained that the Junior leadership will be looking to extend the Junior season into the spring and fall.

He also stated that Maine now has 19 clubs that are participation in the PGA Jr. League program, which is the fastest growing program in the country. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chebeague Island Golf Jamboree is scheduled for June and there will also be a Junior Golf Jamboree in August at Wawenock GC. The Drive, Chip & Putt event will be at Val Halla GC on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any PGA member who volunteers can earn MSR credits. In conjunction with D,C&P there will be a Junior Golf open house, where anyone can obtain varied information on Junior programs in Maine.

Dan Limauro, PGA followed with the Scholarship Committee report. He stated that although the Section has given up to \$40,000 in scholarships Dan felt that the Chapter is in a great position to directly benefit the Maine professional. The current Chapter scholarship fund balance is just over \$49,000 and in order to create a viable plan for future use of that money the Scholarship Committee will be distributing a data collection form to better understand the needs of the membership. Dan also stated that the Prouts Neck and Portland Pro-Ams have been designated as scholarship revenue generating events. There will be a \$10 per player increase in the fee and extra monies will go directly to the scholarship fund.



Next came Peiter Devos,PGA, Tournament Committee Chair, who stated that in response to last fall's member requests the tournament schedule would reflect more variety in formats. A new event for 2018 is the Pro-Pro Match Play Championship, where teams of two players can compete at venues of their choice and must play their match by a designated deadline. Any player in the top 12 of the 2017 Player of the Year point's race cannot be paired with another in the top 12. See the website for details. Peiter then explained that the State of Maine Championship would be played at Sugarloaf, August 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. This was done so the event wouldn't

compete with the MSGA Match Play Championship. The Chapter Championship will again be contested at Rockland/Samoset but this year the Senior Championship moves to 36 holes. We will be adding a Super Senior division for those over 65 years. They will only play 18 holes. Amateurs in Pro-Ams will be able to "Play It Forward" if their age plus handicap equals 80 or more.

Peiter was followed by Mike Packard, PGA. Mike is a PGA Career Consultant who serves as the employment resource for PGA Professionals in the Northeast region. The Career Consultant's mission is to positively impact PGA Professionals' careers, assist employers, foster win-win employment relationships, and promote the hiring of PGA members. Mike went on to say that a directive from national level has been to make sure that the PGA professional has the tools necessary for career advancement. There are many more opportunities and self-assessment programs in place but the need for qualified assistant professionals still remains the number one priority. Mike stated that he is being asked to send stories to National, outlining success stories of the PGA professional. These stories will be made into videos for what will be called PGA Journey, a series of videos describing what the PGA professional does to impact the community.



Brian Bain, PGA followed with an update on PGA Jr. League which features team vs. team competitions in structured leagues that provide a popular, less stressful scramble format as opposed to stroke-play competition. This is a great way to get kids involved in the game! The New England Section is leading the country in growth of the program with 48% of green grass facilities taking part. Every town generally has a little league baseball team, so why not host a PGA Jr. League team at every golf course.

Lastly, NEPGA Director of Operations, Dave McAdams who spoke about the programs being offered at the section level such as the NEPGA Foundation, Scholarship Fund and NEPGA University. Dave went over the list of Section Award recipients for this year and invited everyone to attend the awards dinner on May 19th at Kirkbrae CC in Rhode Island. He also emphasized that members should follow the NEPGA on social media and share the posts, helping spread the word about our programs. Dave then discussed the Section tournament schedule including the Section Championship which will be from August 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Quidnessett & Warwick Country Clubs in Rhode Island.



The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Following the Spring Meeting a 2-hour State of the Industry – Round Table Discussion was held with participants submitting anonymous subjects for a blind draw discussion that was centered on subjects contained in any of the 5 pillars of PGA educational growth. The seminar qualified for two PGA Education credits.

The Chapter board would like to thank the sponsors who were present at the meeting. Without these partners our tournament schedule and programs could not exist.

