

MESSAGE FROM NEPGA PRESIDENT JIMMY NORIS

Fellow NEPGA Professionals:



It is indeed my honor to serve as the President of the New England Section. Our Section has seen much growth and change in 2012 and I am excited about the direction we are heading. It is hard to believe that only one year ago the New England Section membership elected for the first time a Secretary and Vice President along with the President. I can report to you that this was the right move for the NEPGA and it is working out great! Vice President Larry Kelley, PGA and Secretary Susan Bond, PGA are both serving the Section with passion, dedication and have the best

interest of the NEPGA Member in mind when making every decision. It is a pleasure to work alongside these fine PGA Professionals.

The entire Board of Directors has worked diligently throughout the year and I am very excited to be working with the newly sworn in District Directors.

Ron Bibeau, PGA – representing the Maine Chapter John Fields, PGA – representing the Massachusetts Chapter (Eastern MA) Troy Pare, PGA – representing the Rhode Island Chapter Zack Wyman, PGA – representing Vermont Chapter Jack Neville, PGA – representing the Senior Association

I am confident that each Director will proudly represent their Districts bringing new perspectives and ideas to every Board Meeting.

We started early in 2012 and we closed our doors late. Some doors are still open! I strongly believe that our industry is on the rebound from the economic downturn we have faced over the last few years, and we as PGA Professionals are better positioned now more than ever to be the leaders in growing the game of golf at our facilities and in New England. The PGA Professional is the most influential person at a facility to grow the game and drive revenue! Position yourself to spearhead the rebound at your facility with new programs, fresh ideas or simply a new positive outlook.

As we head into the winter months in New England, I have encouraged my staff, the NEPGA staff and I encourage you to recharge over these next few months. I hope you all enjoy your off-season and get as much family time in as you can, because the 2013 season will be here before we know it.

Thank you to everyone that helped to make 2012 a great year for the NEPGA! If there is ever anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me. Don't forget to lean on our Section staff either...they are very talented people and are there to serve you.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season,

Jim Noris, PGA
President, New England PGA
inorisdcpc@aol.com



NEPGA Officers



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inorisdcpc@aol.com

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Frank Swierz (NH) f.swierz@comcast.net

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MESSAGE FROM MIKE HIGGINS



It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter of the 2012 season. This could possibly be the final newsletter ever if the Mayan prophecy of the world coming to an end on December 21, 2012 comes true. It is the holiday season, and I am a half full kind of guy, so I would like to go out on a limb and borrow a quote from Ebenezer Scrooge and say "Bah Humbug" to the prophecy and I look

forward to the many newsletters in 2013!

This was a terrific year for the New England PGA and I have enjoyed serving the New England Section as your Executive Director. We have an extremely talented and dedicated staff that cares about the New England PGA and each one of our members and apprentices. My sincere thanks go out to the entire NEPGA staff for your time and hard work this season. I have enjoyed working with each of you.

I also want to express my appreciation to those companies and representatives that have supported the New England PGA. We would not be able to produce our high quality programs if it were not for your support.

Lastly, I would like to thank each and every NEPGA Member and Apprentice for their support and dedication to their Chapter and Section. Our membership is the backbone of the New England PGA and we truly have one of the best Sections in the country.

December is the month filled with holidays, giving and a time to reflect and rejoice. Let us all be thankful for what we have, and for those service men and women that keep us all safe each and every day. I would like to wish you and your families the very happiest of holidays.

Thank you for a wonderful year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

Respectfully,

Michael Higgins Executive Director, New England PGA

PS: For a more formal year in review letter from the Executive Director click **here**.

UPDATED 2013 SCHEDULE

Click <u>here</u> to view an updated version of the 2013 NEPGA Tentative Tournament Schedule. The schedule can also be found on the homepage of NEPGA.com under Quick Links on the right side of the website.

NEPGA WINTER PRO-PRO



Registration is now open for the NEPGA Winter Pro-Pro! The NEPGA will return to the PGA Golf Club - Wanamaker Course in Port St. Lucie for this year's event. The date will be Sunday, January 27, 2013, which is the day after the PGA Merchandise Show ends. There will be a mid-morning tee time start.

Entry is \$300 per team, which may be comprised of NEPGA Members or Apprentices in good standing - OR - a NEPGA Member or Apprentice in good standing along with a PGA Member or Apprentice in good standing from another Section.

Golf, Cart, Range, Lunch and Purse will be included in the entry fee. Click <u>here</u> to register! The entry deadline is January 22, 2013 at 5PM. We hope to see you in the Florida sun!

PGALINKS OUT-OF-SERVICE DATES

The PGA of America's financial and membership systems will soon be upgraded causing limited access to these systems while enhancements are being made. CareerLinks and portions on PGALinks will be out-of-service from midnight on December 26th through January 2nd at 8AM. Sections of PGALinks that will be unavailable include:

Membership ProFile
Membership Change Form Processing
Performance Trak Data Entry
Event Registrations
CPP Course/Library Purchases
South FL PGA Section Golf Pass purchases
Disaster Relief Contributions
Dues Payments
Scholarship Applications
PGAPGM Registrations

All other features of PGALinks will remain in a read-only state during this time. Any changes made during the system upgrades will not be retained in the membership system when the systems are restored. Please plan accordingly and we apologize for the disruption.



Official Card of PGA Professionals

MESSAGE FROM NEPGA SECRETARY



Hello Everyone,

At our Annual Meeting I mentioned that it seemed like yesterday we were at Andover Country Club, greeting old friends, meeting new professionals to the area, welcoming new members to the association, and listening to Ginger Ravella tell her emotional and inspira-

tional story. We left that room, with not only tears in our eyes, but with a motivation to contribute more to the Folds of Honor and support the families of our Nation's heroes. I am happy to report that the New England Section contributed more in 2012 than in previous years, so let's keep our contribution growing each year.

The New England Section, had one of its best seasons in all regards, and I would like to thank the staff; Mike, Joan, Dave M., Jacy, Ron, Ben, Frank, Tony, David C., Mickey and all the other interns for their long hours.

Congratulations to all our tournament winners, award winners and new members. Kudos to anyone reading my letter that may have accomplished or achieved something that they may never have done before. High Fives, Hugs and Fist bumps to all!

Since I became the Secretary of the New England Section, I have seen the suspension list go down, then go up, and now it is back down again. This downward trend is something I would like to see continue in 2013. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about getting removed from this list.

It has been a pleasure working with Mike and my fellow officers. Mike, Jimmy, Larry, and I have spent quite a bit of time together, and we have all learned so much more about our association. The New England Section is revered as one of the best Sections in the country, and our goal is to make our Section the leader in all areas. My competitive side shows when other sections win awards. Don't get me wrong, those Sections are very deserving of the awards, but We KNOW that our professionals should be winning those honors. Our day will come, and it will come in the near future where the New England Section is winning the Herb Graffis or Patriot Award.

I look forward to the future years working with the officers, our board and all of the members of our section.

In closing, the holidays are here and the off season is quickly approaching. I hope all of you have a wonderful time with family, friends, members and guests. Take time to relax and enjoy your days. Things will get done.

Please feel free to contact me by email cslcbond@aol.com with any ideas, thoughts, or concerns. In the January newsletter I will have some new goals for us to try in 2013.

All the best,

Susan Bond PGA Secretary, New England PGA

PS: ROLL TIDE!!!

2013 AWARD NOMINATION FORMS



The NEPGA is currently accepting nominations for the 2013 Section New England Section awards. The online award nomination forms were emailed to NEPGA

members on Thursday, November 1st. The Section is asking for members in good standing to complete and submit the form(s) by December 15, 2012. If you need to have the award nomination forms emailed to you again, please contact Joan at the Section office, istuart@pgahq.com.

Please click here to view the list of nominations as of December 4 at noon.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in the special awards nomination process!

LOOKING FOR PAT SITES FOR 2013

Thank you to the following PGA Head Professionals who will be hosting a PAT in 2013:

Shawn Campbell, PGA for Potowomut GC on April 22 Steve Sheridan, PGA for Meadowbrook GC on August 5 John Pawlak, PGA for Tater Hill GC on August 13 Jim Armentrout, PGA for Bass River GC on September 16 John Rainone, PGA for North Kingstown GC on October 2

We are looking for venues in Maine and New Hampshire also during the months of May, June, July, and October. Click here to view the course requirements. If you would like to host a PAT at your facility, please email Joan Stuart at istuart@pgahq.com or call her at the section office at 508.869.0000.

DID YOU KNOW?



The **Members-Only side** of NEPGA.com has some new additions. Year-end reports for 2012 and an up-to-date member listing can be found within the Members-Only Quick Links on the right of the homepage.

The newly-added **Board Meeting Minutes** page can be found under the Communications tab. This page provides easy access to this year's meeting minutes archive.

Don't forget to check the Head Professional Job Opportunities page while logged into the Members-Only side to view recently-posted positions. This page is located under the Employment tab.

Also found under the Employment tab is the Assistant Job Opportunities page. Be sure to send us details if you have any available positions. (You do not need to log in to view this page.)

As a reminder, enter the Members-Only side of the website by clicking on the Professional Login button located in the upper right corner of the website.

GEORGE S. WEMYSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND HOLIDAY APPEAL



With the holiday season approaching, the NEPGA George S. Wemyss Scholarship Fund Committee is holding its annual Holiday Appeal asking for your help and support in awarding college scholarships to children and grandchildren of PGA Professionals.

George S. Wemyss

The Fund has two main venues for fund raising, the annual Scholarship Pro-Am's and individual donations. If you participated in one of this year's Scholarship Pro-Am's, please accept our heartfelt thanks. Be sure to join us in 2013!

During this holiday season, we ask that each New England PGA member make a tax deductible donation to the fund, preferably by December 31, 2012. With these tough economic times, any amount you can contribute will be most welcomed and appreciated. Please click here to submit your donation online. Or click here to download the donation form. You will receive a personal letter acknowledging your contribution for income tax purposes.

On behalf of the entire Scholarship Committee and all the NEPGA students we will assist, please accept our sincere thanks for your valuable support.

We especially thank the following PGA Professionals who have so generously donated to this year's Holiday Appeal for the Scholarship Fund. As of December 1st, their donations are \$2,575!



Donated by:

Mark Larrabee, PGA
Pete Meagher, PGA
Lou Katsos, PGA
Brian Hamilton, PGA
Donnie Lyons, PGA
Stuart Cady, PGA
Steve Mann, PGA

Jack Negoshian, PGA Jim O'Leary, PGA Troy Pare, PGA Paul Rudeen, PGA Bill Safrin, PGA

Jimmy Noris, PGA Chris Sleeper, PGA Steve Demmer, PGA Brendan Walsh, PGA

Jack Neville, PGA Joe McKinney Jr., PGA Barry Pearson, PGA

Jim DiMarino, PGA Bob Beach, PGA Devin Beck, PGA Chris Carter, PGA

Larry Demers, PGA Shawn Hester, PGA Matt Walsh, PGA In Memory of: Jeff Hadley



Warren Birch

Bill Flynn, Bill Barclay, Tom Murphy

Mal Negoshian Sr. Tom Murphy Hank Sherblum Paul Rudeen Jr.

Tom Murphy

Richard Demmer

Warren Birch, Tom Murphy George Kamal Bill Flynn Ken and Andrea Campbell Katy Beck

Ron Rolfe

SEMINARS ADDED TO SCHEDULE

Recently added to the MA Chapter education series schedule is a seminar on "How to Build Financial Security". It will be held on Tuesday, December 11 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm at The Country Club in Chestnut Hill, MA. The seminar will be conducted by Brian Diamond, PGA Member and Financial Representative at Northwestern Mutual Financial Network and Michael Kraics, Regional Director for Russell Investments' US Private Client Services. Click here for more information. To register for this seminar, please click here.

"Teaching Technology Crackerbarrel with Skip Guss, PGA" has also been added to the seminar schedule. This seminar will take place on Monday, December 17 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at The Harmon Golf & Fitness Club in Rockland, MA. The discussion will include using technology for teaching, Trackman and the new rule regarding belly/long putters. The cost is \$25. There will be an informal holiday lunch with pizza after the Crackerbarrel. Click here to register.

PGA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program application is now available on the homepage of **PGALinks.com**.

Please keep in mind that for students to be considered for the NEP-GA Wemyss Scholarship, they <u>must</u> apply for The PGA of America's Financial Assistance Scholarship.

After submitting the application, you must send an "official" transcript from your school to Linda Bennington, Grant & Scholarship Specialist at: PGA Foundation, 100 Avenue of the Champions, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418. The online application deadline date and receipt of the transcript is March 15, 2013, 5:00 p.m. Click here for more information.

In addition, click <u>here</u> to view tips for searching for available scholarships as well as tips for filling out scholarship applications. Click <u>here</u> to view additional web sites to help you with your search for scholarships.

CLUBS FOR VETS

From the desk of Bob Beach, PGA...

I have good news regarding Clubs for Vets. Five NEPGA Professionals have contacted me about donating golf clubs for veterans. Larry Kelley, PGA and Rob Hardy, PGA got together and donated a brand new ladies set of Adams clubs. Fred Corcoran of Golf for All has already picked up the clubs and gave them to a woman named Stacey Ward Turko. All great stuff and extremely generous.



Clubs for Vets is an ongoing drive to collect sets of golf clubs for Veterans. If you are able to donate clubs, bags, etc for the Veterans involved in "Golf For All" and in Bob's Veterans' Clinics, please contact Bob at

bbeach@braintreema.gov or 781.843.6513 ext 2.



Bob Beach, PGA working with Stacey Ward Turko, a recipient of clubs from the Clubs for Vets program.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Free Golf Lessons for Veterans/Disabled Veterans

Volunteers are needed to give free indoor golf lessons to veterans and disabled veterans at the Cedar Hill Golf Course in Stoughton, MA. in December. There will be free lessons for veterans and disabled veterans on Tuesday, December 4th, 11th, and 18th from 4:00pm till 8:00pm. There will also be free lessons for this same group on Saturday December 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th from 10:00am till 2:00pm. Each of these sessions will be worth 4 MSR hours under Growth of the Game Category.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Bob Beach at 781-843-6513 or bbeach@braintreema.gov.

Visit the "Community Outreach" page on NEPGA.com found under "About Us" to view new volunteer opportunities.

GOLF 2.0 MESSAGE





Player Development = Your Future
It's Personal

Growing Rounds & Revenue at Your Facility

2012 was a great year in New England Golf. For the first time in years, we saw a growth in rounds and revenue at many of our facilities. Of course we had the benefit of a mild winter and outstanding Spring weather resulting in more open days than in the past eight years. 2013 can provide a great opportunity to keep the momentum going, but it will take some effort to produce the even better numbers.

NOW is the time to start preparing for 2013 and put your schedule and ideas into action! Please let me know how I can be of assistance in any way.

Happy Holidays to you and your families,

Brian Bain, PGA PGA Player Development Regional Manager ~ Boston

2013 GOLFPASS COURSE OFFERINGS



The 2013 New England PGA Golf-Pass is looking for new and returning golf courses for our 2013 GolfPass. New for 2013, we would like to also

list golf instruction, ranges, pro shop merchandise and course restaurant discounts. Sales of the GolfPass support our NEP-GA Foundation with proceeds used to promote the growing NEPGA Junior Tour Programs, Community Outreach Programs and Growth of the Game Programs. For further information, please contact Joan Stuart at jstuart@pgahq.com or call 508.869.0000.

MESSAGE FROM NEPGA INTERN



I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to work for this wonderful membership this season. Being a part of the New England PGA staff has taught me a great deal about responsibility and what goes into a top notch championship golf season. I have learned valuable lessons about leadership, dedication

and team work. I have also experienced the professionalism and loyalty that New England PGA Professionals bring to the golf course each and every day. The PGA Professionals, apprentices and sponsors have made me feel at home, and treated me as if I was a ten year veteran, and not just an intern. Thank you again, and I look forward to working with the New England PGA in the future.

~Ben Vandal

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Terry Frechette









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CHAPTER & ASSOCIATION NEWS



CAPE COD & RHODE ISLAND CHAPTERS



CAPE COD & RHODE ISLAND HIT THE LINKS IN LAS VEGAS

Forty-six fivesomes from New England departed for Las Vegas in early November to compete in the annual NEPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am at the phenomenal Pauite Golf Club, sponsored by Five-Star Golf Cars. Squeezing in three tournament rounds between the Monday Night Football party, an NEPGA poker tourney and a few other things to do in the city of sin...these are some pictures of many of the intrepid travelers from the Cape Cod & Rhode Island Chapters. 75 degrees, sunny each day, no wind...does it get any better?

Mickey Herron, PGA NEPGA Tournament Operations Cape Cod & Rhode Island Chapters mherron@pgahq.com























CHAPTER & ASSOCIATION NEWS Continued...

MAINE CHAPTER



I'm often asked what the Chapter does this time of the year...We certainly slow down but I like to think of us as never stopping. We use this time to review, reflect and plan for the following year. I've already sat in on a few committee meetings and have more planned for this month and January. It is that time of the year when we

do what I am guessing most of us do at our own clubs. Catch our breath, acknowledge our accomplishments and plan for the following year. Most of November and December is spent wrapping up the season and finishing up the tournament schedule and creating a blue print for sponsor proposals that we roll out at the PGA Merchandise Show in January.

I also will be meeting with some of our allied golf associations to properly plan for next year.

The Chapter had a good year all around. We saw an increase in participation in our events as well as sponsors which helped us finish ahead of budget. I am also proud to announce that Maine was one of only two chapters in the Section to conduct a Chapter wide Growth of The Game Initiative. We are looking to build our partnership with the Portland Sea Dogs and are looking at other ways we can grow the game.

The Chapter is currently trying to fill a few open slots on the tournament calendar. The Chapter is pleased to announce the following Championship sites and dates...

- The Pro-Pro Stroke Play Championship will be played once again at Webhannet on May 7th.
- The Chapter Championship will be moving south in 2013 to Biddeford-Saco CC on June 18-19.
- Our Senior Championship is set for June 18 at Biddeford-Saco.
- Maine's premier golf tournament the State of Maine Championship will be returning to Sugarloaf GC July 16-17 with a Pro-Am scheduled for Monday, July 15.
- The Pro-Assistant Championship will be held in conjunction with the Annual meeting on October 3rd.

We will have the full schedule available on the website once it is completed.

Please let me know if I or the Chapter can be of any service to you or your facility. I would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Tony Decker, PGA NEPGA Maine Ch. Tournament Operations Manager

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER



Even though the NHC tournament schedule officially ended on October 15th at Nashua CC, Chapter members continued to shine in outside events. Of note was the winning team of Dan Wilkins, Laconia CC and Bill Andrews, Portsmouth CC, who captured first place in the inaugural NEPGA Round Robin Team Finals at

Turner Hill Golf & Racquet Club. The twosome shot a 9 under par score of 63 to win the event by five strokes over their nearest competitors. Finishing in a tie for sixth place were Jim Sheerin and Ben Alexander of Abenaqui CC and Wayne Natti, Profile Club and Todd Rollins, Laconia CC.

Congratulations to Todd Rollins of Laconia CC and his amateurs who won the 2012 NEPGA Pro-Am in Las Vegas.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the NHC members as well as the NEPGA staff and their families a very joyous holiday season! Only four more months and we get to do it all over again!

Frank Swierz
NEPGA NH Ch. Tournament Manager
fswierz@comcast.net

VERMONT CHAPTER



The Vermont BOD and Chapter members would like to wish a Happy and Healthy Holidays to all our fellow professionals in the New England Section. We also would like to extend our Holiday wishes to all our generous sponsors from this past season.

On November 20th, our education committee conducted a refresher 2.0 seminar with Brian Bain, PGA. Brian presented the three new initiatives Player Development Playbook, Know Your Customer Playbook, and the recently released Connecting with Her. We invited our state allied associate partners to the seminar.

Our facility relations committee, through the leadership of Mike Packard, PGA, has completed two new job bulletins at CC of Vermont and Orleans CC.

The VT Chapter BOD has begun the process of finalizing our 2013 playing schedule and budgets for the coming year. Meetings have been scheduled to complete these tasks by the beginning of the year.

David Christy, PGA NEPGA Vermont Ch. Operations Manager 802-476-7007 dchristy@pgahq.com

CHAPTER & ASSOCIATION NEWS Continued...

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER



Happy Holidays from the Massachusetts Chapter! The Chapter is already working hard on making 2013 a great success.

Todd Cook, PGA MA Chapter Secretary 781-828-9717

SENIORS' ASSOCIATION



Seniors, Save the Date!

The Senior Championship/PGA Senior PNC Qualifier will be held at Woodstock Inn & Resort Golf Club on Wednesday, August 7th and Thursday, August 8th.

The 2013 Seniors' Association tournament schedule will be announced in March.





HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The NEPGA Section office will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1st. The staff will be checking their email periodically during this time. We will resume normal business hours on Wednesday, January 2nd. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

DON'T WAIT FOR WINNINGS! SIGN UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT

If you are a NEPGA member or apprentice who plays in Chapter and/or Section events, please consider going green by receiving your tournament winnings through an ACH transfer to your checking or savings account.

Every year there are instances of paper checks getting lost in the mail. When this happens, we have to notify our bank to stop payment on the lost check (and there is a fee involved) and have a new check re-issued. This process can delay your payment for about two weeks! The section has paid the stop payment fee in the past but this fee is now passed on to the professional.

To avoid this happening to you, please click <u>here</u> to download the ACH Form from PGALinks.com; it is very easy to fill out. All you need to do is to send it to the office (P O Box 743, Boylston, MA 01505) along with a voided check.

CAREERLINKS SURVEY UPDATE

The CareerLinks system was developed to help golf industry employers and qualified PGA professionals connect for employment opportunities. The CareerLinks Profile is the method used to quantify the skillsets, background, experience, etc., of our PGA professionals and allows the system to search and identify matching candidates for jobs in the golf industry. Please go to PGAlinks.com to complete your Profile.

The new deadline date to complete the Profile and remain active in CareerLinks is December 25th. If you have questions please contact PGA Employment Consultant Michael Packard at 860-851-9008 or call 1-800-314-2713.

PGA IR I FAGUE GOLE

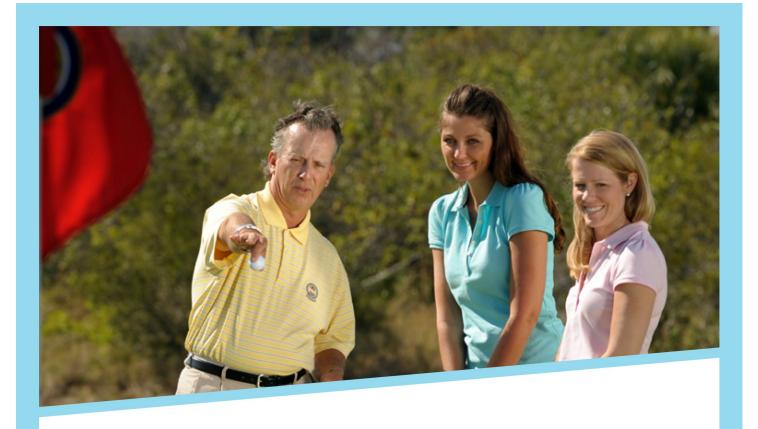


PGA Junior League Golf (PGA JLG) is designed to better socialize the game for boys and girls, ages 13 and under. PGA JLG features team vs. team competitions in structured leagues that provide a popular, less stressful scramble format as opposed to stroke-play competition.

This is a great way to get kids involved in the game!

PGA Junior League Golf (PGA JLG) is designed to generate multiple benefits for golf professionals and facilities. The program was created with an understanding of the need to find efficient and innovative ways to boost revenue without increasing demand on time and resources. PGA JLG generates profits for teams, creates new and incremental revenue streams and provides participants and families with an unmatched golf experience. Click here to learn how to host a team.

Visit <u>www.pgajrleaguegolf.com</u> today to learn more about the program.



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New Members

<u>Name</u>	Class	Facility
Andrew Jordan, PGA	A-8	Wollaston GC

New Apprentices

1.1		
<u>Name</u>	Class	Facility
Benjamin Benson	B-8	Kwiniaska GC
Richard Currid	B-8	Lake Sunapee CC
Marc Lowell	B-8	Red Tail GC
Dennis Maxfield	B-8	Maynard CC, Inc.
Mike Uhlman	B-I	Ridgewood CC

Employment Changes

Name Cla	ss Start	Facility
----------	----------	-----------------

Ray Kelm, PGA A-14 11/2 Legends Golf & Family

Rec Dr Rng

Jason Monk, PGA A-15 11/12 Dick's Sporting Goods

Classification Changes

<u>Name</u>	Class	Facility
Richard Berberian, PGA	LM	
Jason Monk, PGA	A-15	Dick's Sporting Goods
Greg Sandell, PGA	A-I	The GC of New England
John Stacy, PGA	LM	

^{*}These reports reflect changes made between November 2, 2012 - December 3, 2012.

