OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE NEW ENGLAND PGA

WE WORK SO HARD TO GET OUR CLASS A ACCREDITATION THROUGH THE PGA, AND THEN TO SQUANDER THAT BY NOT GETTING ENOUGH MSRS, THERE’S NO REASON NOT TO GET IT NOW.”

SEAN DUONG, PGA  |  PG. 6

NEPGA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!
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“THE USGA AND R&A HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY’RE WILLING TO ADJUST THE RULES OF GOLF AS NEW ISSUES COME UP”

MAX DOCTOROFF
THE DOCTOR IS IN  |  PG. 14
On the cover…
Sean Duong, PGA, Assistant Professional and Director of Instruction at Milton-Hoosic Club, talks all about taking full advantage of the NEPGA University digital platform.

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New England Section OFFICERS
Hello fellow New England Section Members and Associates,

As I sit here in my office and look out the window at the winter weather, all I can do is hope and pray it goes away soon so we can enjoy an early spring season and let everyone make up for the dismal end of fall and early winter we had.

It is important to know where we have been, but it is crucial to know where we are going, and your Board and Executive Committee are working on the future of The NEPGA and I can say with confidence we are moving in the right direction.

Your NEPGA Executive Committee and Board of Directors have been busy preparing for the upcoming 2019 season and I know everyone is ready to get back to the work and game that we all love.

This time of the year also reminds me that it will soon be time for elections of our next secretary, so I would like to reflect on what it takes to be a leader and what leadership means to me.

If you all remember my campaign for President included an acrynon for being a leader and I would like to share that with you now:

L - A leader needs to Listen
E - A leader needs to Enthusiastic
A - A leader needs to be Active in conversations
D - A leader needs to be Dedicated to the people he or she represents
E - A leader needs to be Engaged
R - A leader needs to have respect and be Responsible

These attributes in my opinion are what make a leader. I never thought ten years ago I would be in this position as your leader, but I can tell you it has been the best time of my life and career. The people I have met and the friends that I have made over the last ten years of my tenure, first as a board member then as an officer, are years that I would not trade for anything.

So if you think you don’t have the time or you are not ready, ask any of my fellow officers or Board members how it has helped their career or personal life and think about serving.

Sincerely,
Ron Bibeau, PGA
President of The New England Section of The PGA
The New England PGA University rollout has been a huge success. Well over 200 NEPGA Professionals have paid their tuition and are experiencing quality education at their fingertips. PING has come on board as a University partner which has helped us roll out the first ten seminars, with another ten in the pipeline coming soon. This member benefit reaffirms our commitment to making the best PGA Professionals in the country even better.

The partnerships that we have put into place are poised to help enhance our programs and events, support our PGA Professionals and provide member benefits both personally and professionally. I am very excited to announce some of the new partnerships during my Spring Meeting travels around the Section over the next few months. I encourage you to consider supporting the partners that are invested in the Section and in you.

We have completed our new staff acquisitions and have put together what I feel to be an all-star team of talent. We welcomed a new Foundation Manager Christian Comeau, PGA, and a new Marketing and Communications Manager Nick Heidelberger to compliment our already talented staff. Everyone is excited and anxious to provide quality service and programing to the best Section Professionals in the country.

If you have recently visited any of our social media or websites, you will have already noticed some new looks and a few changes. This off season our team partnered with Web.com to launch a new Section website, and we partnered with Blue Golf to roll out new Junior Tour and New England Series websites as well. These are all cleaner, easier to navigate, as well as a friendlier mobile device experience. Our social media platforms have been extremely active bringing exciting NEPGA news and updates to all our followers.

This off season I was very involved with employment throughout the Section. Without an Employment Consultant in New England for most of the winter, (Welcome Jim Remy!) Facility Relations Committee Chair Larry Kelley, PGA and I were quite busy. We worked with over 30 facilities this employment season to assist with the hiring of PGA Professionals and we worked with over 100 PGA Professionals to assist with interview preparation, career advancement/advice as well as contract negotiation and career advice.

I have learned that the employment season can cause stress on actively searching PGA Professionals, and the start of a new season can even cause a seasoned veteran to become anxious. Over the last few months I had many conversations with Associates questioning their career choice and veteran PGA Members wondering if it was time for a change.

During a few of these conversations I referenced a story of a parent who provided a life lesson to his struggling child who felt overwhelmed. His daughter felt as though once one problem was solved in her

Would you rather be the potato, the egg, or the coffee bean?

Michael Higgins
Executive Director
New England PGA
life, another was soon to follow. Each of us can certainly relate to this scenario, since we all have more than likely felt the same way at one point working in the golf business. Maybe it was during the budget process for your facility, hosting a major event, or even during a club membership drive. The advice given in the following story always makes me think, and my hope is that you can relate, and it will do the same for you.

The story goes: The father, who was a chef, took his daughter to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the boiled eggs out and placed them in another bowl, and then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to his daughter the father asked, “What do you see?”

“Potatoes, eggs, and coffee,” she hastily replied.

“Look closer,” he said, “and touch the potatoes.” She did and noticed that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

Not completely understanding the lesson she asked her father “What does this mean?”

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity—the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently.

The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

“Which are you,” he asked his daughter.

“When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?”

Personally, I know that at different times in my life I have been the potato, the egg and the coffee bean. As you look at the season know that in life, things happen around us, things happen to us, but the only thing that truly matters is what happens within us.

I sincerely wish each one of you a prosperous and successful 2019 season. If either myself or any of your talented NEPGA Staff can ever be of assistance to you or your facility, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,
Michael J. Higgins
Executive Director

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- Redeem points for cash or merchandise
- No Annual Fee, No Balance Transfer Fee
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Do what you love and you’ll never work a day in your life.

While the sentiment is appreciated, the application can be lost on PGA professionals, who are not just surrounded by what they love day-in and day-out, but sometimes drowning in it. Instead, too much of a good thing can sometimes be, well, too much. Between running a golf course, food & beverage operations, merchandising, teaching, managing tournaments, and maintaining a cart fleet, to name a few of a PGA Professional’s daily responsibilities, the grind can be cumbersome. With all that in mind, it should come as no surprise that many Pros put off earning their Member Service Requirement (MSR) credits until the last minute. But this can create even more stress when the 54-credit requirement feels out of reach when the deadline approaches.

Mike Daron, PGA, Golf Operations Manager at the Cape Club of Sharon, was forced to backload a chunk of his MSRs when he accepted his position on short notice. But that stress, Daron says, should be avoided at all costs.

“At the last second I was put into a role here to replace somebody who had left so I had a lot of credits to make up at the end of the cycle,” Daron said. “I’m determined not to have that stress again the next time it comes around.”

Toss in the fact that no matter what day of the week, time, or location an education opportunity occupies on the calendar, it’s not going to be accessible for every Pro in the sprawling New England section. These are the exact issues that New England PGA University aims to alleviate. The NEPGA U digital platform launched at the beginning of 2019, allowing the section’s PGA Professionals to access courses digitally and earn MSRs after completing the course and a required test. The content comes directly from the live educational opportunities around the section, which are recorded and edited for the digital platform. A test is then created and the content is uploaded to the NEPGA U portal, where users can learn and earn MSRs from anywhere in the world.

Given the compact golf season within the section and the fact
that many of the NEPGA Professionals scatter during the winter months, this allows NEPGA Pros access to valuable MSRs at their convenience. This, Sean Duong, PGA, Assistant Professional and Director of Instruction at Milton-Hoosic Club, is one of the best features of the NEPGA U digital platform.

“It is a very valuable tool because we work so hard to get our Class A accreditation through the PGA, and then to squander that by not getting enough MSRs, there’s no reason not to get it now,” Duong said. “During these months when you’re off, you’re not working, golf courses are closed, you may be in Florida playing events, but there’s going to be down time at some point that you can give yourself time to get the education. You could pick up one sentence of something that may change your teaching for next year, or you may pick up something that you’ve never even touched upon before as far as fitting a member or doing something in merchandising.”

The NEPGA U digital platform launched at the start of 2019 with a debut offering of six courses at an introductory rate of $49 before transitioning to the full $99 price. Since then, the course catalog has expanded to 10, and is anticipated to grow to up to 20 by the end of 2019. Courses fall into one of the following categories: Teaching & Coaching; Merchandising; Personal Wellness; Golf Operations; and Career Development. Some of the most popular courses thus far include 10 Steps to Visual Merchandising, Teaching Speed in the Modern Golf Swing, and Building Displays to Enhance Your Golf Shop, with courses covering all aspects of the profession.

Daron, who worked as a sales representative for Callaway and Nike before taking on his current role, plans to implement what he has learned from several courses at the Cape Club of Sharon this season.

“I loved the speed demonstration that was at Framingham Country Club. I’m looking forward to the follow-up and I’m still interacting with the presenter about how I can do it here,” he said.

“I thought [10 Steps to Visual Merchandising] was great and I haven’t done it in a long time. There was certainly something that we preached as sales reps to map out your pro shops. I would bet that 99 out of 100 pros don’t know what their pro shop can hold comfortably. I thought that was a great point by the presenter.”

Another benefit of the NEPGA U digital platform is that it isn’t limited to digital content. The registration cost covers entry into any live education seminars. With a buzz about the upcoming seminar by Ping Vice President Marty Jertson, and several others throughout the section each year, that’s one benefit that isn’t lost on NEPGA U users.

“I think it’s very cool,” Duong said of gaining entry to live seminars. “Say it costs $20 to go to that, if you go to two, or five of them per year to earn a handful of credits here and there, that’s $40 to $100 when you paid $50 (to register for NEPGA U).”

Daron echoed Duong’s thoughts on taking advantage of the live seminars, adding: “That pays for itself, it’s crazy for people not to. Obviously you’re paying to get access to all that stuff, why wouldn’t you try to cram as many hours into that first year as you possibly could? I’d love to get it banged out in the first year.”

When you do what you love, you tend to work a lot harder. You put passion into your career and strive to be the best you can be. While that grind can at times feel like too much, NEPGA U aims to make the burden just a little lighter.
MASSGOLF RULES OF GOLF SEMINAR SERIES
Hosted by Kevin Eldridge & Max Doctoroff, PGA
Five full-day Rules of Golf seminars

March 9
Andover Country Club (Waitlist only)
Andover, Mass.
Contact Kevin Eldridge (keldridge@massgolf.org)
to be added to the waitlist

March 23
Twin Hills Country Club
Longmeadow, Mass.

March 30
Blue Hill Country Club
Canton, Mass.

April 6
Willowbend Country Club
Mashpee, Mass.

April 8
Charter Oak Country Club
Hudson, Mass.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

March 20
NEPGA Rhode Island Chapter Rules Seminar
Wednesday, March 20
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Kirkbrae Country Club
197 Old River Rd.
Lincoln, RI 02865

March 28
NEPGA Maine Chapter Rules Seminar
Thursday, March 28
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Purpooodock Club
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
5 PGA Required Education Hours
PING VP of Fitting & Performance Marty Jertson is bringing an education seminar on Golf Physics, Club Design & Engineering to New England. Marty will present on March 18, 2019 at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club. REGISTER HERE!

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**2019 NEW ENGLAND PGA TEACHING SUMMIT**

**When:** April 29-30, 2019  
**Where:** Framingham Country Club  
**MSRs:** Up to 14 Required MSRs  
**Cost:** $120 for NEPGA U members  
$250 for all others

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**

**Guest Speakers include:**  
Andrew Rice  
John Dunigan  
Henry Brenton  
Ian Highfield  
Matt Aikens
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PGA New England Section Foundation
Improving Lives through the Game of Golf
The New England PGA section has rounded out its staff with the addition of Christian Comeau, PGA, and Nick Heidelberger. Comeau will serve as the NEPGA Foundation Coordinator while Heidelberger will work as the section’s Marketing and Communications Manager.

Comeau comes to the NEPGA after serving as an Assistant Golf Professional at Wannamoisett Country Club. Prior to working at Wannamoisett, Comeau served as an Assistant Golf Professional at Hinsdale Golf Club in Chicago. In 2016, while working at Hinsdale, he earned his Class-A Membership.

Comeau graduated from the Professional Golf Management Program at the University of Central Oklahoma in 2015. As a student at UCO, Christian interned with the New England PGA in 2014, working primarily on the Junior Tour.

As Foundation Coordinator, Comeau will oversee growing the New England PGA Foundation, manage our PGA Hope initiative throughout the Section; operate the Section’s Drive, Chip and Putt events; PGA Junior League Section events, and assist with the development of new initiatives to get more people involved in the game of golf. If you have any questions regarding the New England PGA Foundation, or if you would like to get involved in some of these initiatives, Christian will be happy and eager to help.

Heidelberger comes to the NEPGA after serving as the Assistant Athletic Director for Communications at Elms College in Chicopee, Mass., and spent most of the last 10 years working in collegiate athletic communications.

Before working at Elms College, Heidelberger worked in three NCAA Division I athletic departments, including the University of Hawaii, the University of Idaho, and Tennessee Tech University. In his role at the NEPGA, Nick will utilize both his bachelor’s degree in journalism, and his master’s in sport management.

Heidelberger will handle the NEPGA communications efforts, from writing original content for the news magazine Full Swing, to managing social media accounts and website, and more. Don’t hesitate to contact him about exciting news, events, or unique stories going on with your club, pros, or members, he would love to help spread the word.

Contact Christian & Nick

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TOURNAMENT SOLUTIONS COMMITS TO NEW ENGLAND PGA FOUNDATION
‘Fore The Foundation’ Fundraiser In Effect Again For 2019

Tournament Solutions has committed its generosity to the New England PGA Foundation once again in 2019, and PGA Professionals all around the New England section can help maximize the impact.

Tournament Solutions will donate 10 percent of all purchases made by PGA Professionals within the New England section to the NEPGA Foundation. As an added incentive, Tournament Solutions will track every dollar spent by each facility, with the top fundraising facility earning entry into the 2019 New England PGA Foundation Pro-Am at Eastward Ho!

The NEPGA Foundation is committed to its mission of impacting lives through golf, specifically for youth, military veterans and their families, and diverse populations. Some of the programs the NEPGA Foundation supports include Junior League; Junior Tour; Drive, Chip and Putt; Clubs for Vets; PGA Hope; and Adaptive Golf.

Founded in 2002 and located in Newburyport, Mass., Tournament Solutions is a national leader in customized tournament gifts and emphasizes giving back locally.

DONATE A FOURSOME TO THE NEPGAFOUNDATION

YOU can impact lives through the game of golf by donating a foursome from your facility to the NEPGA Foundation. The Foundation will auction off each foursome, with all the proceeds supporting the NEPGA Foundation and its mission. Our 2019 goal is to raise $30,000! CLICK HERE TO DONATE!

2019 NEW ENGLAND PGA FOUNDATION GRANT

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

The New England PGA Foundation is continuing its grant program for 2019, available to all New England PGA Members in Good standing. $15,000 has been set aside, with the following allotment:

$2,500 available per NEPGA Chapter (6), prior to March 31. After March 31, unallocated funds are available to all NEPGA Members without chapter restriction.

A committee comprised of members of the Foundation Board of Directors will be assigned to review grant requests. The committee conducts initial reviews and determines if all information required is provided. The committee may meet with an applicant. The committee then determines the benefits of each grant request and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, which will make the final decision.

Consideration will be given to New England PGA Members based on:

- The degree of potential benefit to the golf community
- Programs that target youth (under 18 years old), military, veterans and their families, as well as diverse populations

Examples: Scholarships for Junior Golf Camps/Access, Free or reduced fee Instruction for Veterans, Minorities or Women, Adaptive or other Golf Equipment
- The span of communities the project will reach...
The 11 New England PGA Professionals and NEPGA Partner who will be recognized for their hard work, dedication and success as 2019 NEPGA Special Award Winners have been announced. The group of honorees will be honored during the annual NEPGA Awards Banquet this fall.

Robert Green will accept one of the most prestigious awards of the year as the PGA Professional of the Year honoree. Green has dedicated nearly 50 years of service to Tedesco Country Club (Marblehead, Mass.), and has served as the club’s Head Professional for 40 years (1978-present). In that time, Green has overseen the Club’s remarkable growth, marked by exponential increases in merchandise sales, advancement of Assistant Professionals and outside operations staff, and rounds played. The award will be the most recent in an outstanding career for Green, one that includes the inaugural 2017 Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund Professional of the Year, the 2006 NEPGA Bill Strausbaugh, and the 2003 NEPGA Eastern Mass Chapter Horton Smith Awards.

Six awards will be presented to first-time recipients this year, while five will go to honorees who have previously been recognized as section or chapter award winners, in New England or otherwise. The 2019 New England PGA Awards Banquet will be held Saturday, November 2nd at Cyprian Keyes GC in Boylston, Mass.

Award winners are chosen after a thorough and selective process. After being nominated to the NEPGA Awards Committee and Board of Directors by a fellow PGA member, nominees compete and submit their application. The Awards Committee then reviews each application before making its recommendations to the NEPGA Board of Directors.
Avidia Bank continued its commitment to the New England PGA Foundation, presenting the Foundation with a $20,345.78 donation at the NEPGA board meeting in February.

Avidia Bank donates a percentage of every purchase made with the Avidia NEPGA MasterCard back to the NEPGA Foundation, resulting in Monday’s $20,345.78 gift, a nearly 20 percent increase over the Bank’s donation a year ago.

Founded in 2016, the New England PGA Foundation supports a variety of programs for Juniors, Military Veterans and their families, and diverse populations around the New England Region. Some of those programs include the NEPGA Junior Tour; Junior League; Drive, Chip and Putt; PGA Hope; Clubs for Vets; Adaptive Golf, and more. In 2018, the New England Section had the greatest Junior League participation of any of the country’s 41 PGA sections.

The New England PGA Charitable Foundation is designed to encourage fellowship, good sportsmanship, continued skill development, honesty, integrity and etiquette.
following several years of anticipation and discussion over the new Rules of Golf, the change has finally come. Those of you who are spending the winter in warmer climates have no doubt played your first few rounds under the new Rules, experimenting with whether or not to leave the flagstick in the hole, and taking advantage of your newfound right to move loose impediments in bunkers and penalty areas. At long last, we finally have a new set of Rules that will be set in stone for the next three years, right? Well, not so fast.

Just as the updated Rules are new to you, they’re equally new to the USGA and R&A, and now that the Rules have finally been put into practice, some unexpected results are already arising. As such, the USGA and R&A have made it clear that they’re willing to adjust the Rules of Golf as new issues come up, to ensure that the game of golf continues to be as fair as possible for all players, and that the spirit of the game remains intact despite the changing language of the Rules.

If you’ve been tuning into the various PGA Tour events so far this winter, you’ve surely been privy to the controversial rulings regarding caddies standing behind their players (on an extension of their line of play). At the Phoenix Open last month, Denny McCarthy received a two-stroke penalty when his caddie stood behind him as he prepared to make a stroke from the fairway, and the penalty was later rescinded. The original “violation,” as well as PGA Tour Official Slugger White’s explanation of the entire situation can be viewed by clicking the image below.

The USGA and R&A wasted no time in addressing this situation (as well as several others just like it). Almost immediately, they released an addendum to the new Rules of Golf which clarifies what it means for a caddie to “deliberately” stand behind a player as the player takes their stance. The most substantive change to the Rule is that the player can now avoid penalty under this Rule by backing out of their stance (the Rule, as previously written, explicitly contradicted this). If you use a hard copy of the rule book, I’d recommend making a note on page 86 that this Rule has changed pretty dramatically, so you don’t wind up in the awkward position of penalizing one of your members inappropriately.

While it’s important for us all (whether as a golfer or a golf administrator) to be aware of specific Rules of Golf such as this...
one, the most important thing to take from this article is that the Rules are not a static document that stays the same from day to day. They can, and will, change on a daily basis as unexpected situations arise. Therefore, knowing and understanding the Rules is an ongoing process, and if you don’t keep up with the changes, you’ll get left behind. Probably the most effective way of staying up to speed is by downloading the Rules of Golf app, which will be updated regularly as these changes occur. I’d also recommend periodically checking in on the R&A’s Rules Clarifications page, which keeps a running list of Rules updates that are not included in the printed rule books. This list of clarifications can be found here.

As Thomas Pagel of the USGA said, “Experience has taught us that introducing a new Rule requires us to balance patience with a willingness to act quickly when necessary.” Act quickly they did, and it’s up to us as golfers to react just as quickly, and stay on top of the ever-changing Rules of Golf!

MASSGOLF/NEPGA RULES SEMINARS

The NEPGA will be collaborating with MassGolf to conduct five day-long Rules of Golf seminars in March and April. Click here for more info and registration.

NEPGA/Maine Chapter Rules Seminar

The seminar will highlight the major changes to the New Rules of Golf and how these changes will affect your member’s play during the upcoming 2019 season. The Seminar will be March 28 at the Purpodock Club in Cape Elizabeth, Maine from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Registration is $30.

Click here to register.
PAT Modifications

The PGA Board of Directors, at their January 2019 meeting, named the following changes to the Playing Ability Test:

- **Extend the validity of a Playing Ability Test from Two (2) years to Eight (8) years (effective immediately).**
  
  The Board considered and passed a recommendation from the Membership and Employment Committees that the validity of a PAT Qualifying Score, and PAT passing score be modified from two years to eight years. Therefore, one entering the PGA Professional Golf Management Program would need a PAT Qualifying or passing score that is within eight years of the matriculation date into the PGA Professional Golf Management Program.

- **Allow Collegiate Events to be used as a Playing Ability Test (effective immediately).**
  
  The Board considered and passed a recommendation from the Membership and Employment Committees allowing scores from the first two competition rounds of a collegiate golf tournament (Division I, II, III and NAIA) be used to satisfy the 36-hole PGA Playing Ability Test requirement. Playing Ability Test Validity would extend eight years past the date of passing. Applicant would be responsible for submitting documentation of scores, yardage and course rating to verify Playing Ability Test eligibility, and all PGA minimum standards for the Playing Ability Test must be met. This is consistent with what is allowed for the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship.

There is still time to complete the 2019 PGA Compensation Survey

The deadline to complete this year’s PGA Golf Professional Compensation Survey is March 31, 2019.

Completing this survey helps to ensure that one of our Association’s most powerful employment tools remains effective for PGA Professionals.

PGA members who complete the survey by the deadline can receive up to two (2) Member Service Requirement (MSR) credits.

**A maximum of eight MSR credits can be earned in one cycle year for completing National/Section Surveys.**

Your Section’s participation is key to ensuring the compensation information is valid and meaningful. Your support of this important PGA initiative is greatly appreciated.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)
2019 NEPGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Registration opens March 15!

CLICK HERE for more information and to register
YOUR VIEW FROM THE FAIRWAY

March Membership News

It’s that time of the year for our PGA Professionals and associates to reconnect after the off season and save the date not only for the NEPGA Spring Meeting but also for Chapter, Assistants’ Association, and Seniors’ Association Spring Meetings. Please click here for the complete Spring Meeting Schedule.

ACH Payments for Purse Winnings Now Mandatory

Beginning in 2019, ACH Payments for purse winnings is now mandatory. Paper checks will still be issued for the 2019 season but individuals who request a check to be re-issued will be subject to a stop-payment fee. Beginning in 2020, no paper checks will be issued.

As we begin the 2019 Tournament Season, again a reminder about the advantages of receiving your purse winnings as a direct deposit either into your checking or savings account.

- Why wait to receive your money?
- Why risk the possibility that the check may get lost in the mail?
- Why wait for the check to be sent or forwarded to a new address?
- Why have a stop payment fee deducted from your check when the Section has to stop payment because you never received the check?

The simple solution is to have the money deposited directly into your account.

NEW PGA of America Direct Deposit Link!

Click here for the PGA of America’s new link for direct deposit.

This is an online form and once it is completed it is automatically received by the Finance Department for setup. No need to send voided checks anymore. This could not be easier!
STILL LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT?

All NEPGA Professionals who would like to list an Assistant Professional or Teaching Professional opening for 2019 on www.nepga.com can email the information to Joan Stuart (jstuart@pgahq.com) and it will post under our website’s Employment Tab until that position is filled or the deadline for applications has passed. Please include a brief job description, the deadline for resumes, the dates of employment, and contact information. It is always recommended that these positions are also posted on www.pga.org. If you need help for outside operations, we can also list those positions for you. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the NEPGA office 508.869.0000.

If you are interested in obtaining a position or a new position, we do also offer this service on our website. Please email Joan Stuart at jstuart@pgahq.com if you would like to use this service.

Contact Joan Stuart at jstuart@pgahq.com or by phone 508.869.0000 if the position that has been posted on the website has been filled. Click here to view the Assistant/Teaching Positions that are still on www.nepga.com.

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2019 SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

* Seminar after followed by optional Par 3 Event

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 16</td>
<td>The Woodlands Club</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Thursday, April 18</td>
<td>Intervale Country Club</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 23</td>
<td>Granite Links Golf Club</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Cape Cod</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 24</td>
<td>Sandwich Hollows</td>
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<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Thursday, April 25</td>
<td>Shelter Harbor GC*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>Friday, April 26</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Monday, April 29</td>
<td>Rutland Country Club</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistants</td>
<td>Thursday, May 2</td>
<td>Marshfield Country Club</td>
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New England PGA Section Meeting
Tuesday, March 26
Andover Country Club
Thank you to everyone who was involved as a Captain or Coach of a PGA Jr. League team this past year. 2018 was the most exciting year we’ve seen in PGA Jr. League and that can be credited to the individual golf professionals and facilities bringing families together around this unique format. With a high level of flexibility for the Golf Professional to tailor the program to meet their needs, we saw a record number of Captains and Players participating this year. New England PGA Professionals had another Triple Crown year leading the country once again in teams, facilities and players. This drove direct value to our local captains of over $562,000 and saw over 3,400 kids participating in the team format of golf that will help keep them engaged in a sport that can last a lifetime. As we look forward to the 2019 season, there are a few exciting new features that will continue to make PGA Jr. League even more valuable to the golf professional, our local courses, and to the kids that make up the future of the sport.

Brian Bain, PGA
Regional League Manager
bbain@pgahq.com
617-820-4411

NEW ENGLAND PGA JR. LEAGUE CONTINUES TO SHINE

PGA Jr. League continued its success in the section in 2018. We saw a record number of captains and facilities hosting teams and player participation increase. While there are many factors that help to make this program such a hit with kids and families, there is one common denominator that every PGA Jr. League team has, and that is a New England PGA or LPGA Professional.

At the end of the season our parents are invited to participate in a program survey. While there are many common program elements that they applaud (fun, friends, format, team, etc.) I am proud to see them mention the element of the program that sets PGA Jr. League apart from all other sports. Positive comments about the “Captain, Coach, and PGA Professional” consistently appear when parents talk about what they like about the program. Professional coaching is something that sets us apart from most other youth sports and is undoubtedly the biggest contributing factor leading the success of PGA Jr. League. To all of you who participated in PGA Jr. League, thank you for helping make it such a success.

SECTION TO RECEIVE AT LARGE BID FOR SECOND TEAM TO ATTEND REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

New England section professionals did so well with PGA Jr. League, and enlisted so many new players, that the New England Section will receive an at large bid for the 2019 All-Star Regional Championship in addition to the section champion bid. All 41 sections get to send their section champion to a Regional Championship, but there are also 7 at large bids issued. Four bids to the largest four sections by participation, and three bids to the sections with the largest ratio of players to professionals in the section. New England once again had the largest participation. What an incredible testament and reward for the hard work our professionals did to reach out into the community and bring new kids into the sport.

2019 IMPROVEMENTS SET TO ADD CONTINUED VALUE

New Seasons

The regular season has been expanded, and you can now start as early as March 1st and end as late as July 31st. Also, following some pilot programs in 2018, PGA Jr. League will now be fully supported for anyone looking to keep the excitement going with Fall Rec Leagues.
New Mobile App
While the PGA Jr. League mobile app provided some great features for running your teams, we have decided to phase out the branded app, and begin encouraging our captains to use the **Sports Engine** mobile app. All the features from the branded app will be available, but there are a lot of new great additions offered by upgrading to the Sports Engine flagship platform. It is easier than ever to schedule, organize, and communicate everything you need for your season by using your smartphone. Look for the Sports Engine App on Apple or Android!

Safe Sport Act
To comply with the new federal abuse training laws that come into effect in 2019 under the Safe Sport Authorization Act, the PGA is adopting a company-wide online abuse prevention course which must be completed prior to working with any youth in a National PGA Youth Program. The education component has been already implemented as part of PGA Jr. League Captain Registration. The training is worth two MSR’s and is good for two years. Your facility player registration will not go live until you have completed the training. To learn more about the Act and the new standard of care that affects youth-serving organizations, visit PGA.org.

Steph Curry & Alex Morgan Announced as New Ambassadors
Two-time NBA MVP Steph Curry and Olympic Gold Medalist and FIFA Women’s World Cup Champion Alex Morgan have been named the newest PGA Jr. League Ambassadors. As the first non-professional-golfer Ambassadors for PGA Jr. League, Curry and Morgan will leverage their widespread fan bases to promote the program to an audience that may not be familiar with the sport of golf. They join Ambassadors Rory McIlroy, Michelle Wie, Rickie Fowler and Lexi Thompson, all of whom are committed to growing youth golf.

Captain Resource Center
We are launching the Captain Resource Center to provide a one-stop-shop for everything you need to run your team and be successful. Check it out at [www.pgajrleague.com/crc](http://www.pgajrleague.com/crc) and bookmark the site for easy access in the future. The goal is to simplify your work flow and identify the strategies and tools you need to have the best season yet. The Captain Resource Center will feature tools for helping you become a captain, find kids and families, and run your season. There is also a dedicated section for captain testimonials and best practices. Captain Registration for 2019 is now open, so please visit the Captain Resource Center to get started.

Captain & Coach Jerseys
Our captains and coaches have been asking for years, and we are now able to support both home and away jerseys for captains and coaches. Every Captain that registers a program at their facility and fields a team will receive complimentary home and away jerseys. Additionally, all coaches will have the opportunity during coach registration to purchase additional jerseys in pairs for a total of $30.

Scholarships
In 2018, the New England Section issued 35 PGA Jr. League scholarships. Available through PGA REACH, scholarships are issued based on financial need and military family qualifications. The application process is simple, and a stockpile of best practices is available on the Captain Resource Center. Let’s continue to make golf accessible for kids of all backgrounds and keep golf in the New England Section growing for years to come.

Facility registration is winding down at [www.pgajrleague.com](http://www.pgajrleague.com) and 2019 Player registration opened up at the PGA Show and New England is already doing very well, with 35 percent of registered players new to PGA Jr. League. Parents are looking for spring and summer activities to get their children registered.

Thank you all for your continued support of PGA Jr. League. If there is anything we can do to assist you with implementing PGA Jr. League at your facility, or with getting more out of your current programming, please reach out.

**Brian Bain, PGA**
NEW ENGLAND PGA JUNIOR TOUR INTERNS NEEDED

The NEPGA Junior Golf Tour is a series of 120+ events at some of the finest facilities in the region. The tour requires ten (10+) interns to operate this incredibly busy schedule which begins in June and ends in late August. Considering this, we need to have the best interns to run the NEPGA Junior Tour. We’re looking for someone who has the following qualities: golf experience, strong work ethic, and strong organizational skills. If you know anyone of interest or someone who you would recommend to join the NEPGA Junior Golf staff as an intern, please have him/her email their cover letter and resume to:

Mr. Jacy Settles, Director of Junior Golf Operations
New England PGA
P.O. BOX 743
81C Shrewsbury St.
Boylston, MA 01505
508-869-0000 ext. 204
jsettles@pgahq.com

Click HERE for the Job Description/Requirements

HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PGA JR. LEAGUE CAPTAINS
You’re a PGA Jr. League Captain – Now What?

Did you know that all PGA Jr. League Captains and Coaches have access to the Captain Resource Center on PGAJrLeague.com? Inside are the resources you need to successfully plan and run your PGA Jr. League program! Located in the “CAPTAINS” tab or directly at PGAJrLeague.com/CRC, the Captain Resource Center is divided into three sections, each with several resources and quick links:

1. Becoming a Captain, where you’ll find a document that helps you plan your schedule, links to edit your account and registration information, and two toolkits designed for you to make the most out of your PGA Jr. League experience.

2. Finding Kids & Families, which includes scholarship applications, recommended email copy to use in reaching out to your PGA Jr. League players and families, and marketing materials – many of which are fully customizable – designed to easily personalize in order to spread the word about your program to your current customers and the larger community around you.

   TIP: The PGA Jr. League Marketing Toolkit includes social media posts, email templates, promotional materials and more to make it as easy as possible to reach families in the community to make them aware of your program.

3. Running Your Season, where you can download game day materials, links to player rostering and team management, and a revenue tracking document to help you monitor your program’s impact at your facility.

4. Recommended Reading & Watching, which includes informational articles and videos, as well as the newly launched Carlos Finds His Game: A PGA Jr. League Animated Short that will help you explain the program in a fun, kid-friendly format.

If you have questions or need help in navigating the Captain Resource Center, please reach out to us. We’re looking forward to a great 2019 season!
MEMBERSHIP UPDATES
CHANGES REPORTED BETWEEN JAN. 8-FEB. 15, 2019

### NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Facility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan C. High, PGA</td>
<td>A-8</td>
<td>Nantucket GC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denis G. Moleres, PGA</td>
<td>A-8</td>
<td>Nantucket GC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd W. Prescott, PGA</td>
<td>A-8</td>
<td>Cochecho CC Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle J. Schroeder, PGA</td>
<td>A-8</td>
<td>Cohasset GC</td>
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### NEW QUARTY CENTURY MEMBERS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard W. Hasenfus, PGA</td>
<td>Needham Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robb W. Herron, PGA</td>
<td>Northport Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert W. Braga, PGA</td>
<td>Callaway Golf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark T. O’Brien, PGA</td>
<td>The Captains Golf Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Rooney, PGA</td>
<td>LeBaron Hills Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank E. Dully II, PGA</td>
<td>Kernwood Country Club</td>
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### NEW CLASS A TRANSFERS

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<tr>
<td>Chad T. Penman, PGA</td>
<td>Boothbay Harbor CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven M. Field, PGA</td>
<td>Plymouth CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel C. Taylor, PGA</td>
<td>Charles River CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward F. Clark, PGA</td>
<td>Wannamoisett CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas P. Erlichman, PGA</td>
<td>Sankaty Head GC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew S. Lombard, PGA</td>
<td>North Andover CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan R. Tamburro, PGA</td>
<td>The Kittansett Club</td>
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<td>Robert D. McCarthy, PGA</td>
<td>TGC at Sacconnesset</td>
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<td>James B. LeClair, PGA</td>
<td>Lake Morey CC</td>
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<td>David J. Jankowski, PGA</td>
<td>Burlington CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian A. Comeau, PGA</td>
<td>New England Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>David W. Brasington, PGA</td>
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<td>Daniel S. Calderwood, PGA</td>
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<td>Andrew M. Norris, PGA</td>
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<td>Wianno GC</td>
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### EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

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<td>Scott S. Mayer, PGA</td>
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<td>Bob McGraw, PGA</td>
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<td>A-12</td>
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CHAPTER ROUND UP
NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE SECTION

MAINE

2019 Schedule Now Available
After our fall 2018 annual meeting we distributed a survey so that our membership could comment on various topics such as: Best day of the week to have Pro-Ams, cost of playing, number of events etc. Based on those responses we put together our schedule for 2019. Registration will go live on April 1.

Click the image for complete schedule

New Slate of officers elected
Also elected at our fall meeting were the following slate of officers: Tony Decker - President (Purpoodock Club); Chris Twombly - Vice President (Prouts Neck CC); Doug VanWickler - District Director (Woodlands Club); Peiter Devos - Director (Kebo Valley GC); Dan Linauro - Director (Ledges GC); Don Roberts - Director (Waterville CC); Dan Venezio - Director (Portland CC); Don Doyon - Operations Manager (NEPGA Staff).

Save the Dates

Thur., 3/28 Rules of Golf Seminar (Purpoodock Club)
Tue., 4/16 Annual Spring Meeting (Woodlands Club)

MASSACHUSETTS

2019 Tournament Schedule
The Massachusetts Chapter is nearly done with it’s tournament schedule and it is as follows:

Monday, April 8; TPC Boston – 6,6,6
Tuesday, April 23; Granite Links GC - MA Chapter Spring Mtg & Pro-Pro
Wednesday, June 5; Foxborough CC - Pro+3Am
Tuesday, October 22; The Haven CC - MA Chapter Fall meeting & Pro Pro
Monday, November 4; Thomson CC - Individual Stableford
Monday, November 11; Blue Hill CC – Pro-Pro Chapter Championship-TBD

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Golf Day is back!
The New Hampshire Chapter PGA will conduct its 2nd Annual New Hampshire Golf Day outside the New Hampshire State House, in Concord, this September, targeting the state’s Veto Day. The NH Golf Day is a collaborative effort with the New Hampshire Chapter PGA, New Hampshire Golf Course Superintendents Association, New England PGA, New Hampshire Golf Association, The First Tee New Hampshire and the New England Golf Course Owners Association. The event aims to celebrate the game and bring awareness to the state legislators of the issues golf courses in New Hampshire are facing.

Public is welcome to take part, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in free lessons from the PGA Professionals, sign up for a variety of giveaways, or sample some of the great food prepared by golf course restaurants from around the state. Professionals throughout the golf industry will be there to answer questions and to interact with state representatives to educate all who attend on what it takes to operate a golf facility in New Hampshire. It is an ongoing effort by all the NH golf associations to stay aware of what is happening at the state level. Those issues that get to the state level range from adding a tax to customer fees, water conservation, as well as best management practices for maintaining the playing surfaces.

Most recently John Clark, Golf Course Superintendent from Rochester Country Club, spoke in opposition to HB 646 and another bill which sought to remove integrated pest management from school grounds, and golf courses. He highlighted that NH golf course Superintendents make responsible applications, only as needed and follow rules and regulations which protect pollinators.

Join us on Veto Day, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in mid-September to learn about the NH golf industry. For more details and date of event Google New Hampshire PGA.

VERMONT

The Vermont Chapter spring meeting will once again be held at Rutland CC and is scheduled for Monday April 29, 2019. Registration will begin at 8:00am followed by the start of the meeting at 9:00am. As tradition the sponsor appreciation lunch and blind draw Pro-Pro tournament will take place following the adjournment of the meeting. A special thanks goes out to Jim Mayo and Antigua Golf for helping make this event a success year after year.

On an education note the NEPGA continues to offer NEPGA University which you can find information about on the section website www.nepga.com. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for Chapter education, please reach out to our education chair Tom Mackey or myself.

The tournament committee spent a great deal of time this winter discussing new ways to improve participation. This included condensing the schedule, securing partnerships, and changing the payout system just to name a few. The changes will all be discussed in detail at the spring meeting. Hope to see you there!

The upcoming Vermont Chapter Pro-Am schedule is located below:

April 29, 2019 - Spring meeting and Pro-Pro @ Rutland CC
May 13, 2019 - Pro-Am @ Manchester CC
May 28, 2019 - Pro-Am @ Pine Hills Golf Club (NEPGA Pro-Am Championship)
June 3, 2019 - Pro-Am @ Rutland CC
June 10, 2019 - Pro-Am @ Burlington CC
**CAPE COD**

**Proposed Schedule for 2019 Season**
The Cape Cod Chapter proposed tournament schedule will go live on BlueGolf on April 1st and is as follows:

- **4/24** - CC Spring Meeting
- **4/25** - CC Pro-AM - Cummaquid
- **5/2** - CC Pro-AM - Pocasset
- **5/16** - CC Pro-AM - TGC at Saccoonnesset
- **5/30** - CC Pro-AM - Miacomet
- **6/6** - CC Pro-Lady - White Cliffs
- **6/12** - CC Pro-Pro - Hyannisport
- **6/27** - CC Pro-AM - Plymouth
- **7/16** - CC Pro-Junior - Squirrel Run
- **9/12** - CC Pro-Senior - Olde Barnstable
- **9/15-16** - CC Championship - Wianno
- **9/23-24** - CC Match Play - Woods Hole
- **10/1** - CC Cup - Willowbend
- **10/9-10** - Island Classic - Miacomet/Sankaty
- **11/5** - Pro-3AM - Eastward Ho!
- TBD - Fall Meeting (TBD)

**The Cape Cod Chapter is pleased to announce its 2019 slate of exemplary golf professionals**

**2019 CCPGA PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**
Brian Hamilton, PGA Head Professional at Eastward Ho! CC

**2019 CCPGA JUNIOR GOLF LEADER**
**2019 NEPGA Youth Player Development Award**
Darren Falk, PGA Head Professional at Holly Ridge GC

**2019 CCPGA TEACHER OF YEAR**
Gregg Richbourg, PGA Teaching Professional at Cape Cod National GC

**Not pictured:** Tom Rourke, PGA Assistant Professional at Cummaquid GC – winner of Assistant of Year.

Along with Falk, three other Chapter members were cited by the Section Awards Committee!

**2019 NEPGA MERCHANDISER OF YEAR (PUBLIC)**
Jesse Schechtman, PGA Head Professional at Hyannis GC

**2019 NEPGA TEACHER OF YEAR**
Jennifer Hudson, PGA Teaching Professional at Sankaty Head GC

**2019 NEPGA DEACON PALMER AWARD**
John Paesani, PGA Assistant Professional at The Bay Club

**RHODE ISLAND**

The Rhode Island Chapter has announced its 2019 Award Winners. Congratulations all.

**2019 RHODE ISLAND PGA TEACHER OF YEAR**
Michael Robinson, PGA Teaching Professional (left)

**2019 RIPGA PROFESSIONAL OF YEAR**
Dave Tiedemann, PGA Head Professional – both at Shelter Harbor GC

**2019 RIPGA ASSISTANT OF YEAR**
Nathaniel Adelson, PGA Assistant Professional at Warwick CC

**2019 RIPGA YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AWARD**
Brendon Ray, PGA at Point Judith GC

**Not pictured:** Barry Westall, PGA Head Professional at Newport GC who won Merchandiser of Year

**SENIORS’ ASSOCIATION**

The Senior Association Spring Meeting will be April 26 (9:00 a.m.) at Cyprian Keyes, followed by Pro-Pro tournament. The complete 2019 Senior Association schedule is:

- **5/23** - Pro-3 AM (Gannon GC)
- **6/18** - Pro-3 AM (George Wright GC)
- **7/TBA** - Pro-3 AM (Louisquisset GC)
- **8/5** - Pro-3 AM (Tatnuck CC)
- **9/19** - Pro-3 AM (Bass Rocks CC)
- **TBA** - Pro-3 AM (Needham GC)
- **10/10** - Fall Meeting followed by golf (Kirkbrae CC)

Registration for 2019 Senior Association Membership is now available. Membership Dues are $25 and the Senior Association is open to any PGA Professional in good standing who will turn 50 years of age in 2019. For more information, please contact Joe Carr, PGA 508.873.7768 or Dennis Selvitella, PGA 508.410.4984.

**ASSISTANTS’ ASSOCIATION**

The complete 2019 Assistants’ Association schedule is coming soon. The 2019 National Car Rental Assistant’s Championship will be Sept. 16-17 at Pocasset Golf Club in Pocasset, Mass. Lat year, Robert Bruso won the weather-shortened 18-hole event after shooting 70 (-2).
DRIVE, CHIP AND PUTT REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Online Registration Can be found HERE!

## 2019 DRIVE, CHIP & PUTT SCHEDULE

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>Val Hall Golf &amp; Rec Center</td>
<td>Cumberland, ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Button Hole</td>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
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<td>June 23</td>
<td>Cyprian Keyes Golf Club</td>
<td>Boylston, MA</td>
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<td>June 27</td>
<td>Cranberry Valley Golf Course</td>
<td>Harwich, MA</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Bay Club at Mattapoisett</td>
<td>Mattapoisett, MA</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>LeBaron Hills Country Club</td>
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<td>Windham Country Club</td>
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<td>July 24</td>
<td>Granite Links Golf Club</td>
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<td>Aug. 1</td>
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<td>Aug. 11*</td>
<td>Renaissance Golf Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 14*</td>
<td>Pinehills Golf Club</td>
<td>Plymouth, MA</td>
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* Sub Regional

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK ONLINE!

The **NEW** nepgajuniortour.com

The **NEW** nepga.com

The **NEW** newenglandseries.com