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#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

# It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I write my first letter as your President.



Allan Belden, PGA

President New England PGA

I want to thank the membership, fellow board members and section staff for the opportunity to serve and work with all of you. This whole experience has been very humbling for me. I am grateful for the faith you have put in me to allow me to serve as your President for the next two years. I take this responsibility very seriously and consider it a privilege to be able to make a difference in the lives and careers of my fellow NEPGA professionals. I am so fortunate to have been able to make a career in golf and reap the benefits of the PGA and I am looking forward to giving back.

The PGA of America as well as the NEPGA are both in very good standing. We are strong financially. The NEPGA is getting closer to securing a new long term solution for a homesite. We have many programs in recent years that have afforded

our members countless opportunities. NEPGA U is cutting edge and the envy of other Sections nationwide. Our section staff does an outstanding job with tournaments and juniors. The Foundation is growing in resources and programming by leaps and bounds in just two short years from inception. With all of the good that is going on we should never rest on our laurels or be naive enough to not look at ways we can improve.

We as a board will meet once again this winter in early January for annual planning session to review the year that was 2019 and look for ways to improve for 2020 and beyond. With the help of my committee chairs we will spend time together to focus on how we can improve the service and benefits that are provided to all of our members. If you have suggestions, concerns, or would like to serve on a committee, please reach out to myself or the committee chair.

I am very thankful that the following NEPGA members have agreed to lead our committees:

Awards - Ron Bibeau, PGA, Country Club Enterprises
Education - Mike Bradshaw, PGA, Kirkbrae Country Club
Facility Relations - Larry Kelley, PGA, Five Star Golf Cars
Finance - Mike Bradshaw, PGA, Kirkbrae Country Club
Foundation - Rob Jarvis, PGA, Bangor Municipal Golf Club
Membership - Chip Johnson, PGA, Hatherly Country Club
Scholarships - Joanne Flynn, PGA, Windham Country Club
Junior Golf - Darren Falk, PGA, Darren Falk Golf/Holly Ridge GC
Tournaments - Chip Johnson, PGA, Hatherly Country Club

I look forward to working on your behalf over the next two years. It is my promise to you that with the help of the entire board of directors and the Section staff, we will do all we can to improve the services and benefits available for all NEPGA members. If there is anything that you need or would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome your feedback on how we can all get better. The sharing of ideas and the desire to help one another is what makes the PGA such a special organization.

My best to everyone for a great Fall and Winter season,

Allan J Belden, PGA





#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**





Michael Higgins

Executive Director
New England PGA

#### A TIME TO REFLECT

The tournament season in New England has come to an end and our Section transitions the focus to planning and organizing for 2020. The Section leadership attended the PGA of America Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida and returned energized and excited to get to work. The Annual Meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with Section leaders from across the country and learn about the PGA of America's direction. I am always impressed by the talented PGA Professionals and successful Sections across this country, but rest assured, your Section is admired, very well respected, and our Professionals are some of the best in the world.

Henry Clay's has a famous quote: "The time will come when winter will ask you what you were doing all summer." I think in our business we can slightly change the seasons around a bit and reconstruct Clay's quote by saying "The time will come when Spring will ask you what you were doing all winter." We certainly do not want to answer Spring by saying "well, I really didn't do too much."



There is no question we all can enjoy some well-deserved down time this offseason, but while the winter months can be a time to recharge, they also can be a great opportunity to evaluate the current year and prepare for the next one. Ask yourself a few questions: Did you set goals at the start of the year and track your success? What did you do well this year? What can you do even better next year? Where are we and where do we want to go?

Many of us have great ideas that we want to implement someday. If you look outside your window right now there's a good chance there's snow on the ground (at least within the Section boundaries). What better time to plan and implement those ideas than now? Maybe it's a membership drive, new tournament you've been contemplating, or creating or growing a social media presence for your facility. Maybe it's a personal fitness goal, or a goal to improve your golf game. Whatever it is that you've put on the back burner over the last eight months, I encourage you to take time this offseason to revisit it and see what can be implemented for 2020. This is exactly what we will be doing at the Section!

As I mentioned earlier, this time of the year is a great time to reflect on a personal level. For me I would like to reflect on something I wrote about a few years ago, that for me is very fitting this year. As we sometimes get distracted by the holiday lights, the extravagant department store advertisements and displays, or the radio stations that have been playing holiday music since Halloween, let us not forget those that are less fortunate or alone this holiday season. Call that friend from college you haven't spoken with in a

while. Reach out to your grandparents that are a few states away. Let your neighbor know that you are thinking about their family as their child is protecting our country while stationed in another part of the world. Connect with that someone who may have recently lost a loved one and will be spending the holiday without them for the first time. You will be happy that you did, and so will they.

Our green friend who lives on top of Mount Crumpit once had an epiphany.... "Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps, means a little bit more." I think he is right.

I have enjoyed serving the New England Section and its wonderful PGA Professionals this year. Thank you so very much for the opportunity, and I am excited for what 2020 has in store.

I sincerely wish you all a very Merry Christmas, the happiest of holidays and a safe and successful New Year!

Respectfully, Michael Higgins





#### **GIVE NOW!**

**YOU** can help the child or grandchild of a New England PGA member fund their education by contributing to the NEPGA Scholarship Fund!

Since 1985, the families of NEPGA members have benefited from scholarships through the NEPGA Scholarship Fund. Each year the New England PGA asks its members to make a donation of whatever amount they can in order to continue to help deserving students reach their academic goals. Our goal this year is to raise \$7,500 for the families of NEPGA members.

With the holidays just around the corner, please consider donating to this worthy cause. You can make your donation in the memory of or in the honor of any individual whom you would like to recognize. Any amount you can contribute will be most welcomed and appreciated. You will receive a personal letter acknowledging your contribution for income tax purposes.

#### Thank you to the PGA Professionals, Associates, and Friends of the NEPGA for their Donations!

Tom Rooney, PGA in memory of Thomas Rooney

Jim Sheerin, PGA in honor of Joan Stuart

Dave Christy, PGA in memory of Leon and Vye Christy

Lou Katsos, PGA Glenn Kelly, PGA

Mark Larrabee, PGA in memory of Jeff Hadley

Seul-Ki Park, PGA

Matt Walsh, PGA

Chris Carter, PGA

Shawn Hester, PGA in memory of Paul Gervais

Brian Hamilton, PGA in memory of Warren Birch

Donnie Lyons, PGA in memory of Bill Barclay & Bill Flynn

Steve Clancy, PGA in memory of David LeBlanc

Sean McTernan, PGA Stuart Cady, PGA

Bucky Buchanan, PGA in memory of Fran Love III

Jim O'Leary, PGA in memory of Tom Murphy

Bob Beach, PGA in memory of Ken and Andrea Campbell & Terry Frechette

Anthony Zdunko, PGA in memory of Russ Niven

Jim Lane, PGA in memory of Phil Lane

Greg Farland, PGA

David Sibley, PGA

Dick Fagan, PGA in memory of Robert Fagan

Peter Hood, PGA in memory of Ray and Coco Lajoie

Rob Baxter, PGA



As of Dec. 19 New England PGA Members and friends have contributed \$2,100!



#### REFERRAL PROGRAM

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 

See why Pure Drive Golf has New England golfers looking forward to winter

# TAKE IT SIDE

By Nick Heidelberger, New England PGA

**It's cold.** Daylight is scarce and there's snow in the forecast. But business is heating up for Adam Kolloff, PGA, at Pure Drive Golf.

Rather than avoiding the harsh Boston winter like many PGA professionals, Kolloff leans into it. His winter-proof golf facility just outside of Boston features five bays, each with a TrackMan, TV, projector, iPad, two video cameras and computer. The indoor facility also boasts club-fitting, golf leagues, and high-tech instruction that leaves traditional teaching in the dust.



#### **BUILDING THE DREAM**

An early adaptor to golf technology – Kolloff literally wrote the book on teaching & learning with TrackMan – Adam first had the idea to open an indoor golf facility years ago.

"Ever since I've been using TrackMan I thought the feedback was unbelievable," he said. "I wanted to create a place where people had access to this, because normally the common golfer does not. To take this idea and create a place like this, it was a long process."

The process began with finding the right location: a space close to Boston and large enough to house all the bells and whistles in Adam's vision. It took about a year to find the perfect 4,200 square-foot facility at the intersection of I-93 and I-95 in Woburn about 20 minutes, Lord willing, north of Boston. Once the site was selected, Adam spent another year decking it out with the proper flooring, padded walls, netting, screens, and the tech that sets it apart.

#### ATTRACTING THE GAMERS

When Adam opened the doors to Pure Drive Golf in April of 2018, he chose to cater to the serious golfer who was looking to improve rather than the social crew looking for a fun night out.

"Most of the other indoor facilities serve alcohol, it's more about entertainment, 'Let's go have a few drinks and have some fun,' which is great," he said. "Go do that if that's what you want to do. But we wanted to get the people who were focused on getting better, focused on playing the best that they can, and I think the facility caters exactly to that type of golfer. I don't think you see a lot of facilities like this."

With that philosophy, Pure Drive holds hours normally reserved for your local gym or coffee shop, opening the doors at 6:00 AM a couple times a week to cater to the motivated nine-to-fivers.

"We get a fair amount of guys that come over here and practice, then they go to work," Adam said. "You have to learn where the highest traffic is, and that's where you focus the hours you want to be open."

#### THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Kolloff's book, *The Ultimate Guide to TrackMan Swing Analysis*, which he co-authored with Jim McLean, focuses on getting key data points of a golfer's swing to fall into prescribed ranges, with tips and drills for metrics

that don't meet the standards. For example, an intermediate player's prescribed club path is anywhere from -6 to 6 degrees. The book offers opposite sets of drills for paths above and below that threshold.

"A lot of golf professionals and club-fitters would use it," Adam said of the book. "I started to get the idea of 'how do I create an application that would give some immediate feedback if your numbers were not within these suggested ranges.' Because otherwise you would have to keep referencing the book."

That's when he came up with the idea for the Pure Drive Golf App. The idea was to provide visual feedback on five aspects of each swing, with easy access to drills and tips to help keep a player's numbers within the pre-



**CLICK TO WATCH:** Adam Kolloff, PGA, demonstrates his Pure Drive Golf app, which uses TrackMan data to provide visual feedback and drills for specific misses.

scribed ranges.

"The first thing I had to do was talk to the CEO of TrackMan to see if he would allow me do to this, because you have to get permission from TrackMan. They don't allow a lot of people access to their data. Because I had written the book, they like what I'm doing with Trackman, I'm promoting Trackman, I own five of them, he was like 'Ok, no problem."

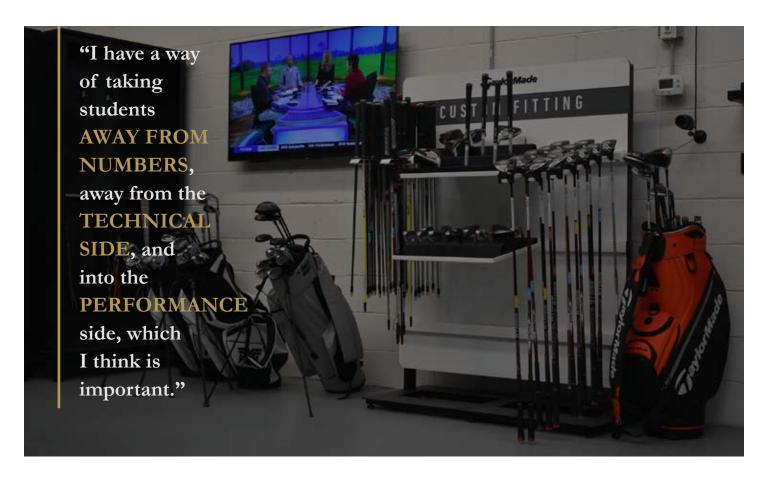
With no experience in the app developing world, Adam hired a programmer and built the Pure Drive Golf app. Using the app, which connects to TrackMan, a golfer takes a swing and instantly sees color-coded feedback on club path, face-to-path, smash factor, attack angle, and club speed. With one touch, users can click on any met-

"Let's say your FACE ANGLE IS EIGHT DEGREES OPEN, which is very common for a beginner who slices. The color is going to be red, they can go over and CLICK ON IT AND THERE'S THREE DIFFERENT TIPS, then they know what to work on."

rics in the red zone and see a video demonstration of tips and drills to improve that part of the swing.

"Let's say your face angle is eight degrees open, which is very common for a beginner who slices. The color is going to be red, they can go over and click on it and there's three different tips, then they know what to work on. So each bay is like a mini-lesson."

The Pure Drive app is not only hooked up to each unit inside is facility, but also used by instructors around the country.



#### MORE THAN JUST HITTING BAYS

Kolloff, who was mentored by Hall of Fame golf instructor Jim McLean and worked as the Director of Instruction at Liberty National Golf Course before opening Pure Drive Golf, takes giving a golf lesson to the next level. His private lesson bay in Pure Drive not only features all the tech of the other hitting bays, but is also mic'd up. This allows Adam to create a digital version of each lesson, which he sends to his students so they can review their lessons any time.

"You weren't able to do this 30 years ago," Adam said of giving lessons that revolve around technology. "You would just sit there on a range, watch a golfer hit shots, use divot patterns, the sound of the strike, and the ball-flight. All of that is awesome, don't get me wrong. There are many amazing teachers that use that who are teaching outside. But Trackman helps take the teaching to the next level. Coaches can assess a golfer more easily, they can determine from the assessment what they need to work on, and they can use the numbers to help track the progress, and that's huge."

With 26 launch monitor metrics gathered each time a student strikes a ball, Adam is very calculated about

mixing the perfect cocktail of data and shot-making to ensure students don't get bogged down by trying to make every swing perfect by TrackMan's standards.

"I make an effort to tell them 'Hey, you just have to look at one, two, maybe three numbers," he said. "If they get their numbers to within a certain range, I tell them 'Ok you can progress to looking at this.' I have a way of taking students away from numbers, away from the technical side, and into the performance side, which I think is important."

#### PEAK SEASON

While many New England PGA Professionals are headed south, Adam is gearing up for Pure Drive's peak season. He has bolstered his staff to include assistant professionals Ryan Train, PGA, Pat Bigelow, PGA, Sam Gerry, and master club-fitter Zack Morton, and expects business to keep picking up while area golf courses shut down.

"In the winter time we're cranking all hours. We're trying to make ourselves known as a place where you can improve your game, and I think we're doing a good job of that."



#### **Member benefits include:**

Unlimited Access to NEPGA
University Education
(Online & In-Person)

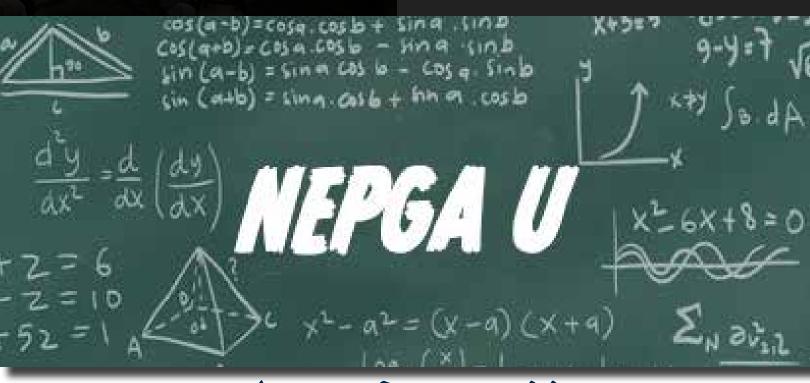
Free Access to NEPGA U General Education Seminars

Discounted Access to Summits & Symposiums

Required Education MSRs

Low-Cost Education in a timely fashion

Easy to Use



\$99 Annally!

**ENROLL TODAY!** 

What YOU need to know when the World Handicap System goes into effect on Jan. 1

## It's COMING

#### FROM USGA.ORG

The way golfers around the world will calculate their handicaps is set to be transformed by a new system developed by the USGA and The R&A, with key features designed to provide all golfers with a consistent measure of playing ability.

The new World Handicap System, to be implemented Jan. 1, 2020, follows an extensive review of systems administered by six existing handicapping authorities: Golf Australia, the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) in Great Britain and Ireland, the European Golf Association (EGA), the South African Golf Association (SAGA), the Argentine Golf Association (AAG) and the USGA.



#### THE NEW SYSTEM WILL FEATURE THE FOLLOWING:



Flexibility in formats of play, allowing both competitive and recreational rounds to count for handicap purposes and ensuring that a golfer's handicap is more reflective of potential ability

A minimal number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap; a recommendation that the number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap be 54 from any combination of 9 and 18-hole rounds, with discretion available for national or regional associations to set a different minimum within their own jurisdiction



A calculation that considers the impact that abnormal course and weather conditions might have on a player's performance each day





Daily handicap revisions, taking account of the course and weather conditions calculation



A consistent handicap that is portable from course to course and country to country through worldwide use of the USGA Course and Slope Rating System, already successfully used in more than 80 countries

An average-based calculation of a handicap, taken from the best eight out of the last 20 scores and factoring in memory of demonstrated ability for better responsiveness and control



A limit of Net Double Bogey on the maximum hole score (for handicapping purposes only). Example: A Course Handicap of 18 receives one stroke per hole for 18 holes; the player's max score is triple bogey on any hole, which equals a Net Double Bogey.





A maximum handicap of 54.0, regardless of gender, to encourage more golfers to measure and track their performance to increase their enjoyment of the game

Quantitative research was conducted in 15 countries around the world, through which 76 percent of the 52,000 respondents voiced their support for a World Handicap System, 22 percent were willing to consider its benefits, and only 2 percent were opposed. This was followed by a series of focus groups, in which more than 300 golf administrators and golfers from regions around the world offered extensive feedback on the features of the proposed new system.

This feedback has helped shape the WHS, which has been developed by the USGA and The R&A with support from each existing handicapping authority as well as the Japan Golf Association and Golf Canada.

Mike Davis, CEO of the USGA, commented, "For some time, we've heard golfers say, 'I'm not good enough to have a handicap,' or 'I don't play enough to have a handicap.' We want to make the right decisions now to encourage a more welcoming and social game. We're excited to be taking another important step – along with modernizing golf's Rules – to provide a pathway into the sport, making golf easier to understand and more approachable and enjoyable for everyone to play."

Martin Slumbers, Chief Executive of The R&A, said, "We are working with our partners and national associations to make golf more modern, more accessible and more enjoyable as a sport and the new World Handicap System represents a huge opportunity in this regard.

"We want to make it more attractive to golfers to obtain a handicap and strip away some of the complexity and variation which can be off-putting for newcomers. Having a handicap, which is easier to understand and is truly portable around the world, can make golf much more enjoyable and is one of the unique selling points of our sport."

The tenets of the new system focus on three main objectives: to encourage as many golfers as possible to obtain and maintain a handicap; to enable golfers of differing abilities, genders and nationalities to transport their handicap to any course globally and compete on a fair basis; and to indicate with sufficient accuracy the score a golfer is reasonably capable of achieving on any course around the world, playing under normal conditions.

Given worldwide alignment towards a single system, all parties will now embark on a two-year transition period targeting implementation in 2020. When adopted, the World Handicap System will be governed by the USGA and The R&A and administered by national and regional associations around the world, with safeguards included to ensure consistency as well as adaptability to differing golf cultures.

The existing six handicapping authorities represent approximately 15 million golfers in 80 countries who currently maintain a golf handicap.



#### **COMPLETE RESULTS**

Falmouth Country Club led by PGA Professional Shawn Warren cruised to an eight-stroke victory in the New England PGA Las Vegas Pro-Am after a 24-under par performance in the final round at Southern Highlands, finishing with a three-day total of 58-under par.

Falmouth distanced itself from Sky Meadow CC and Rich Ingraham, PGA, who finished second at 49-under par after shooting 20-under in the final round. Winchester Country Club and Eric Barlow, PGA, finished third at 48-under for the 54-hole tournament.

The five-player teams, consisting of a Pro and four amateurs, played two rounds of one-gross, one-net; and one round of two net in the 2-best ball competition over three rounds of golf at TPC Las Vegas, Shadow Creek and Southern Highlands.

Falmouth's 24-under par score was the best of the day, followed by James Durfee, PGA, and his team who went 22-under par. Portland CC, captained by Dan Venezio,



The Falmouth CC team, led by Shawn Warren, PGA, poses on he 18th hole at Shadow Creek GC

PGA, joined Winchester and Sky Meadow at 20-under par in the final round.

This great annual event is possible thanks to the support of NEPGA partners Avidia Bank, Five Star Golf Cars, E-Z GO, and Travis Mathew. A big thank you also goes to the host facilities, Shadow Creek, Southern Highlands and TPC Las Vegas for opening their doors to the NEPGA.

Sights of the 2019 NEPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am







NEPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am participants enjoyed accommodations at The Mirage on Las Vegas Blvd.



(ABOVE)Southern Highlands' 10th fairway backs up to a great view

(LEFT) One of the 230 NEPGA Las Vegas Pro-Am participants tees off on the 18th hole at Shadow Creek



## Chojnowski's juggling act yields Assistant Golf Professional of the Year honor

Assistant golf professionals wear many hats, and James Chojnowski, PGA (Framingham Country Club) pulls it off as well as anyone. Jim, as he goes by, has successfully juggled junior and lady golf programming, merchandising, tournament operations, and volunteer work, and as a result he will be recognized as the New England PGA's Assistant Golf Professional of the Year.

Chojnowski's ladies programming at Framingham CC has not only engaged a new population of golfers, but has even resulted in an uptick in memberships. Lessons and Libations, as it's called at Framingham, offers a welcoming and relaxed environment for ladies to learn some of the basics with friends. It's not only a fun way to spend an afternoon, but gives new golfers the tools needed to hit the course.

"At Framingham we have golf, we have a pool, we have young families, so we're trying to find ways to make them happy and stay longer at the club," Chojnowski said. "We have a very good junior program at our place. With the women, we were trying to get them to tee it up with their kids and with their father."

So far it has been a successful endeavor. Since the inception of Lessons and Libations, at least 15 new spouse golf memberships have come from families of participants. The successful junior program helps get the whole family out on the course together.

Framingham CC runs an Operation 36 program for juniors, which reached 78 junior golfers last year and accounted for more than 400 additional rounds of golf. Operation 36, a national program instituted at Framingham by Head PGA Professional Graham Cunningham and run by Cunningham, Chojnowski, and fellow assistant P.J. Breton, PGA, gives juniors a three-pronged approach to learning the game. With group classes of 20-30 kids during the week and smaller, more focused supervised practice sessions on weekends. When it's time to hit the course, the kids start with a 225-yard

"I know our
Section is so large
and there's a lot
of great clubs and
THERE ARE SO
MANY GREAT
ASSISTANTS in
the Section. To be
recognized among
them, IT'S
TREMENDOUS."

9-hole course with a target score of 36, playing from 25 yards out on each hole. Once that benchmark is reached, they move back to 50 yards, then 100 yards, until they're eventually playing from the tee boxes.

"There's always the gap with any person, you give them a lesson but how do you get them to transfer it onto the golf course?" Chojnowski said. "What really bridged the gap for us is you've got mom and dad and the kids out on the course playing golf together. It shows them how to score, it teaches them a lot about golf, and I think it helps the parent's bond with them a little more in a different way because they're caddying for them. It's been great because it's a young club. There's not a lot of older members. Every-



one basically has some kind of young family and their kids are getting into golf."

Jim has also implemented a new philosophy to Framingham's merchandising operations, specifically their process of getting the right clubs into members' bags.

"We didn't want to tie a lot of cash flow into demos and stock clubs because a lot of people are just custom fit," he said. Instead, Jim has orchestrated a parade of club-fitters to frequent the club every Friday throughout the season. This allows members to get their custom-fit clubs while reducing the amount of cash the club has tied up in inventory of stock clubs.

"If you have all those clubs, you're not guaranteed to move all of them, so then you have to figure out ways to move the clubs, and you don't want to liquidate them," he said. "You're not making a large margin on the club so to think that you're going to move all the clubs and force them into people's hands, you don't want to do that either. We want to be customer-service oriented. If we put all this money into clubs, we're not going to be able to put it into clothing or accessories and things they really want."

Representatives from companies like TaylorMade, Titleist, PXG or True Spec Golf have come to Framingham CC for club-fittings. "The days of carrying a fully-stocked golf shop with a ton of stock clubs and stock shafts, we're thinking that in the future everything is custom fit."

While Jim's duties at the course are enough to keep him busy all season, he still carves out time to volunteer outside of the club. As part of the New England PGA's Growth of the Game Committee, he has participated in clinics at Boston Children's Hospital. He has volunteered with Bob Beach, PGA, at Brockton Veteran Affairs Hospital to help give access to golf to military veterans. He has also given time to Operation Santa in his hometown of West Springfield, Mass., to ensure families have food and gifts at the holidays and given lessons at the Boston Golf Expo.

"To see the happiness that we can give to people and have a positive impact on them and make their day just a little better is very rewarding," he said. "I think what we've done at Boston Children's Hospital is great. Making an impact on those kids' lives, because they're going through some serious stuff. You don't ask what they're going through, you just try to make their day just a little bit better and get their mind off what they're dealing with."

Chojnowski accepted his award on Nov. 2 at the New England PGA Awards Banquet at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club.

"Being a golf professional, you wear many hats. I'm heavily involved in outside services, teaching, merchandising, tournament operations. I've learned a tremendous amount from Graham," he said. "I'm humbled by it because I know our Section is so large and there's a lot of great clubs and there are so many great assistants in the Section. To be recognized among them, it's tremendous."

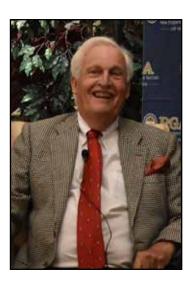
#### **NEPGA AWARDS BANQUET**



The 2019 NEPGA Special Award recipients show off their plaques after the NEPGA Awards Banquet on Nov. 2



NEPGA Hall of Fame inductee Bob Lendzion and his family pose with his plague.



NEPGA Hall of Fame inductee Bruce Dobie shares a story with Jim Remy, PGA, during a fireside chat



Youth Player Development Award winner Darren Falk, PGA, had a large group of guests with him at the NEPGA Awards Banquet

## 2019 NEPGA Fall Meeting



The incoming New England PGA officers are sworn in to their new positions



Mike Bradshaw, PGA (Kirkbrae CC) is elected as NEPGA Vice President, replacing Allan Belden, PGA, (Worcester CC) who was sworn in as NEPGA President.



#### TOURNAMENT SOLUTIONS GIVES TO NEPGA FOUNDATION!

New England PGA partner Tournament Solutions made a season-long committment to donate a percentage of purchases made by NEPGA Professionals back to the New England PGA Foundation. Owner John Lawrence made good on that pledge at the conclusion of the NEPGA Scholarship Pro-Am at Eastward Ho! CC in Octo-

ber, presenting NEPGA Executie Director Michael Higgins and the NEPGA Foundation with a check for \$9,456.05. Lawrence also recognized Kirkbrae Country Club (Lincoln, RI) as the Section's most valuable costumer. Thank you John for your loyal partnership!

## 2020 NEPGA Schedule

Date	Tournament	Site
January 25 March 22-25 March 31 TBD April 16	NEPGA Winter Pro-Pro NEPGA Pinehurst Pro-Am NEPGA Spring Meeting NEPGA Pro-Am Pro-Pro Scramble	Disney's Magnolia Pinehurst Nos. 1, 2, 4, 8 Andover CC TBD Hatherly CC
April 21 April 26-29 May 4 May 11-13 May 14-17	Stroke Play Series #1 PGA Professional National Championship Portsmouth Pro-Am NEPGA Pro-Pro Match Play Championship PGA Championship	Newport National Omni Barton Creek Portsmouth CC Kirkbrae CC Harding Park
May 14 May 18 May 26 May 27-28 June 1	Hudson Cup Acushnet Pro-Assistant NEPGA Pro-Am Championship Cape Cod Open Stroke Play Series #2	Marshfield CC The Bay Club Pinehills Golf Club TBD Nashawtuc CC
June 8 TBD June 8 June 8-14 June 15-17	Sam Sylvia Boys & Glrls Club Pro-Am Invitational New England Open Live & Work in Maine Open Monday Qualifier (Korn Ferry Tour) Live & Work in Maine Open (Korn Ferry Tour) Massachusetts Open	Sankaty Head GC TBD The Ledges Falmouth CC Taconic
TBD June 25-27 June 29 July 6 July 9	Vermont Open Naw Hampshire Open Thorny Lea Pro-Am Stroke Play Series #3 NEPGA Pro-Officer	TBD Breakfast Hill Thorny Lea GC Ledgemont CC Wollaston GC
July 15 TBD July 20 July 23 July 28-29	NEPGA Pro-Senior NEPGA Pro+1AM Pro-Pro Stroke Play Championship NEPGA Pro-Lady Invitational NEPGA Senior Championship	Bass Rocks TBD The Haven CC Kernwood CC Woodstock CC
TBD Aug. 11-12 August 17-19 TBD TBD	Maine Open Rhode Island Open NEPGA Championship Stroke Play Series #4 NEPGA Senior-Junior Championship	TBD Valley CC Myopia Hunt Club/Tedesco CC TBD TBD
September 8 September 21-11 TBD September 28 October 4	Stroke Play Series #5 NEPGA Assistants Championship NEPGA Head Pro/Teaching Pro Championship Avidia Cup Finals/Stroke Play Series Finals IGOE Pro-Member	Haverhill CC Renaissance TBD Portland CC Wellesley CC
TBD TBD October 13 October 14	NEPGA SW Ireland Pro-AM NEPGA Pro-Superintendent NEPGA Cape Cod Fall Festival #1 NEPGA Cape Cod Fall Festival #2	TBD TBD TBD Eastward Ho! CC
October 14 October 15 October 16 TBD TBD October 27	NEPGA Cape Cod Fall Festival Extras NEPGA Cape Cod Fall Festival #3 NEPGA Cape Cod Fall Festival #4 George S. Wemyss Scholarship Pro-Am Mohegan Sun Sox vs. Stripes Championship NEPGA Fall Meeting	TBD Cape Cod National TBD TBD Mohegan Sun CC TBD
TBD	Las Vegas Pro-Am	TBD



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Max Doctoroff, PGA Tournament Director, New England PGA

## The 2019 Rules of Golf blooper reel!

It's hard to believe that the 2019 NEPGA golf season has come to a close - it's been filled with exciting moments, and an adjustment period for us all, as we have been tasked with learning an entirely new set of Rules, and putting them into practice. Now that we've had a full season to get used to the new Rulebook, dropping from knee-height has stopped feeling so goofy, and we don't feel so guilty when we take our practice swings in penalty areas. I'm happy to report that our NEPGA Professionals have done an admirable job learning and following the new Rules of Golf, and that we have made it through the first season without any Rules controversies or difficulty in our Section tournaments.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said on the PGA and LPGA Tours, which have both seen their share of controversies surrounding players who are having some difficulty adjusting to the new Rules. These controversies started right off the bat in the spring when players began to take penalties for their caddies standing on an extension of their lines of play while the play-

## #Rules To The Max

ers began to take their stance (this was commonplace enough that it prompted the USGA to soften up the Rule a little), and the LPGA Tour became engulfed in an uproar about backstopping on the putting green. These difficulties didn't end in the spring though, and the learning curve has proven to be relatively steep even throughout the last couple of months.

Probably
the strangest example
involves Jesper
Parnevik, who
was recently
penalized
two strokes
because he
didn't take a
mulligan. Yes,
you read that

right. During the SAS Championship on the Champions Tour, Parnevik lipped out a short bogey putt, which then struck his foot before coming to rest. Then he tapped his ball in, assuming he'd made a double bogey. Unfortunately for him, that's not the case. According to Rule 11.1, "When Ball Played from Putting Green

Accidentally Hits Any Person... on Putting Green: the stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be replaced on its original spot." In other words, when your ball accidentally hits any person (including yourself) in this scenario, it's a mandatory mulligan. Since Jesper didn't know this, he unwittingly played his mulligan from the wrong place (since he didn't replace the ball). So his first

In other words, when your ball accidentally hits any person (including yourself) in this scenario, it's a mandatory mulligan.

putt for bogey didn't count, but his second one did (plus two penalty strokes for playing from the wrong place). Parnevik made a triple bogey on the hole.

The most extreme lapse of Rules knowledge of the year has to be Lee Ann Walker's disastrous appearance at the Senior LPGA



Championship. While the 'caddie alignment rule' had been the subject of some controversy earlier in the season, apparently Walker hadn't been watching the news, which turned out to be very costly. Rule 10.3b(3) informs us that "A caddie is not allowed to... deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player's ball when the player begins taking a stance for the stroke and until the stroke is made." The USGA did soften the rule a bit, allowing the player to back out of their stance and require their caddie to move before making the stroke, but this was all news to Lee Ann Walker. Walker never took advantage of this loophole, and did not become aware that she was in breach of the Rule at all until part way through the second round. When all was said and done, Walker was required to count the number of times that the Rule was breached, and apply a two stroke penalty for each occasion. At the end of the day, this added up to a whopping 58 penalty strokes! If there's a bright side to this story, it's this: 58 penalty strokes is a LOT of penalty strokes, but Walker would have taken even more penalties under the old Rules, for failing to include those penalty strokes on her round one scorecard. Under the new Rules, there is no additional penalty for failing to include penalty strokes on her scorecard, as long as she's unaware that a Rule was breached. So she has that going for her, which is nice.



## Junior Golf Corner

On November 10, the NEPGA Junior Tour conducted its Fall Awards & College Seminar at Winchester Country Club. This was an educational event for all NEPGA Junior Tour Members (and their families) and provided an opportunity to celebrate our Players of the Year. Congratulations to the following NEPGA Juniors on their accomplishments:

### GIRLS 13 & UNDER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Camille DeStafano

### BOYS 11 & UNDER PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Cameron Poirier

#### BOYS 12-13 PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Owen Hamilton

#### BOYS 14-15 PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Ben Madden

#### GIRLS 14-18 PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Isabel Brozena

## BOYS 16-18 PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Ethan Doyle

#### BOYS ELITE TOUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Jacob Berkio

## BILL FLYNN, PGA OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AWARD WINNER

Nate Ingram

We are grateful of Jim Salinetti, PGA and Winchester CC for hosting the event. Also, thank you to the college coaches and guest speakers for their continued support of this event:

#### **ALEX KIRK, PGA**

Head Coach, Women's Golf Dartmouth College (Ivy League, Division I)

#### **MATT ARVANITIS, PGA**

Head Coach, Men's & Women's Golf Southern New Hampshire University (Division II)

#### FRANK DRISCOLL

Head Coach, Men's Golf St. Anselm College (Division II)

#### TOM SMITH. PGA

Head Coach, Men's Golf Endicott College (Division III)

#### **RICK DOWLING**

Customer Success Leader
Junior Golf Hub

#### **KENNY TUTTLE**

Collegiate Player Endicott College

## Your View From The Fairway

## 2019 NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP NOTES





#### Joan Stuart

NEPGA Director of Accounting & Finance

## HEADED SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?



If you are headed outside of the section for the winter months, please update your preferred address through www.pga.org. You can insert this as a temporary address with the start and end date noted as you fill out the online Member Change Form. Updating your address will guarantee that you will receive your 2020 Lesson Book and other mailings from PGA of America at vour winter address. You can also call the section office 508.869.0000 with this information and we will be happy to take care of it for you.

#### LOOKING FOR AN ASSISTANT FOR 2020?

All NEPGA Professionals who would like to list an Assistant Professional or Teaching Professional opening for 2020 on www. nepga.com can email the information on those openings to Joan Stuart at jstuart@pgahq.com and it will be posted under our website's Employment Tab until that position is filled.

Please include a brief description of the position, 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. Also, if you need help for outside operations or are looking for a position for yourself, we can also list those for you. If you are interested or have any questions, please call the NEPGA office 508.869.0000.

## DON'T DELAY DIRECT DEPOSITI

#### **ENROLL NOW**

Now is the time to sign up for ACH (Direct Deposits) payments for the purse prize money. The PGA of America and the New England Section Board of Directors are implementing a

**MANDATORY** use of ACH deposits for all purse payouts by January 2, 2020.

In 2020, if you have not signed up for ACH payments, your purse money will be held until you have completed the process. Please be proactive and sign up before the holidays.

Below is the PGA of America's 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!

## THANK YOU Frank!

After an incredible 19-year run as the NEPGA's New Hampshire Chapter Operations Manager, Frank Swierz retired following the 2019 season. Thank you Frank for all your hard work and dedication to the New Hampshire Chapter!



Click the image above to watch the video!



#### KEN HAMEL, PGA, STEPS IN AS NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER OPERATIONS MANAGER

With more than 20 years of experience as a golf professional in New Hampshire, Ken Hamel, PGA, will serve the New Hampshire Chapter of the New England PGA as Chapter Operations Manager. Hamel replaces Frank Swierz, who retired after the 2019 season after an incredible 19-year run in the position.

"I look forward to working for the NEPGA as the New Hampshire Chapter Operations Manager," Hamel said. "I look forward to continuing the great work that Frank has done and I can't wait to bring new ideas and publicity to the chapter."

Hamel most recently spent six years as the head golf professional at Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, New Hampshire. Prior to that he worked at Crotched Mountain CC for seven years, and Duston CC for nine years.

Throughout his career, Hamel has prided himself on his junior golf programs. He ran successful junior programs at each stop, and also coached two different high school teams. Hamel also referees basketball during the winter, which he has done for more than 35, and currently serves as the President of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) Board 117 in New Hampshire.

The New Boston, N.H., native is married with four children and seven grandchildren.

#### **CHAPTER ROUND UP**

#### NEWS AND NOTES FROM AROUND THE SECTION

#### **CAPE COD**



The Ridge Club's PGA Head Pro Matt Baran (pictured above hitting off Hole #1) fired a stellar, wind-blown 70 to win Low Pro at Eastward Ho! – amazingly, his 3rd consecutive sub-par competitive 70 this Fall. In addition, Matt won a Section major in late September, capturing the NEPGA HEAD PRO championship at Weston GC (70) – followed by a -2 under par 70 at his former club, Oyster Harbors finishing runner-up that day in the NEPGA Cape week affair! With added duties at the very active Ridge Club, Baran is playing

less but still winning tournaments - adding in a third

win earlier in the season at White Cliffs CC.



The Cape Cod PGA Chapter conducted two extremely popular early November Pro-3Ams — The Bay Club Fall Finale & Eastward Ho! two days prior. Pictured above, the stunning front nine of the latter, a true Chatham treasure - who hosted with a twist this year — as longtime, award-winning Head Pro Emeritus Brian Hamilton hung up his spikes (plastic or otherwise!) retiring after a successful 20+ years at the helm — welcoming his assistant — the talented Jason Winslow, PGA - this year's official Head Pro at East-



Brian Hamilton, PGA



ward Ho!

Tom Tobey, Sandwich Hollows PGA HP earned his third DUTCH WESSNER PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD by blitzing his fellow pros this season en route to an additional \$500 for his efforts. The top five were awarded EOY prizes – all sponsored by colleague, businessman, entrepreneur Bradford Sherman, PGA – proprietor of 15thgolfclub.com. This years' top five had a distinct 'senior' flavor - only one of whom was under 50 yrs. old – (and, GY is 47! SEE BELOW ages and number of times each has won THE WESSNER!

TOBEY 51 (2019-08-06) GREG YEOMANS, 47 (2014-13-12-11-10-09) JOHN PAESANI, 60 BOB GIUSTI. 69

BOB MILLER, 65 (2015-05)

Tobey won the Chapter Championship at Wianno last month, while Yeomans notched his amazing 8th Chapter Match Play title a week later. Giusti, a 3-time winner of the NEPGA Senior Championship continues

to out-play colleagues one-third his age, while Miller consistently plays a determined brand of great golf all over the region. This collection of senior golf stars not in the top-5 this year boasts players like Rusty Gunnarson, 66, a former Match Play Champion, Scott Trethewey, 50, 2-time Wessner Champ, Sean Edmonds, 51, who nearly won this years' Chapter Championship, finishing just 2 shots back of Tobey, Mark Heartfield, Jay Wick, Dave Donnellan, Tom Rooney, David Moore and Rick Baptist. Congrats to the CCPGA's newly elected Chapter



President - BEN EGAN (THE BAY CLUB) Good luck and best wishes to John Paesani – battling hard again vs. medical issues.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

The Massachusetts Chapter had a wonderful season as rounds were up and fun times were shared. Thank you to all host professionals and facilities for their hospitality.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 MASS CHAPTER AWARD WINNERS:

Professional of the Year James Antonelli, PGA, Marshfield CC
Player of the Year Chris Carter, PGA, Hillview GC
Teach of the Year Adam Kolloff, PGA, Pure Drive Golf
Asst. of the Year Colin Beaupre, PGA of Winchester CC
Youth Player Development Michael Griffin, PGA, Weston GC

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES CHANGES REPORTED BETWEEN OCT. 14-NOV. 14

#### **NEWLY REGISTERED ASSOCIATES**

<u>Name</u>	Class	<u>Facility</u>
Don Barringotn	B-6	Beaver River GC

#### NEW QUARTER CENTURY MEMBERS Name Facility

Joanne L. Flynn, PGA
Craig G. Gardner, PGA
Michael C. Giles, PGA
Steven A. Hausmann, PGA
Leon W. Oliver, PGA
Stephen P. Poremba, PGA
Joseph N. Potty, PGA
James E. Swarthout, PGA
Tom A. Waters, PGA

Windham CC
Lake Sunapee Country Club
Country Club Enterprises
Hausmann Golf
Bath Golf Club
Derryfield Country Club
Cohasset Golf Club
Pheasant Ridge Country Club
Life Member



#### Congratulations to the 17 new Class A NEPGA Memers of 2019!

Benjamin Johnson, Ryan Train, Andrew Schroeder, Luke Claflin, Nicholas Jagoe, Jonathan David Spitz, James Brackett, Alexander Buckley, Matthew Buechner, Eric Karpinski, Ian Marr, Sean Patrick Morahan, Benjamin Raff, Jonathan High, Denis Moleres, Todd Prescott, Kyle Schroeder.

#### **MAINE**

#### PRO-AMS, CHAMPIONSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

The Chapter managed 19 tournaments for its membership in 2019, with 10 Pro-Ams, and nine championships. Two of the Pro-Ams were designated as fundraisers for the Maine Scholarship Fund. Between the two events, a total of \$2,420 was raised for the fund. We are very proud of our scholarship fund, which is now well over \$50,000.

#### **MAINE CHAPTER 2019 CHAMPIONS**

Chapter Championship John Hickson State of Maine Championship Jerry Roman Pro-Am Champ Samoset Resort / Jeff Seavey **Pro-Assistant Champ** Scott Mayer / Ian Marr Pro-Pro Stroke Play John Hickson / Jeff Seavey Pro-Pro Match Play Don Roberts / John Hickson Pro-Senior Champ Falmouth CC / Shawn Warren Pro-Junior Champ J.W. Parks / Mike Dugas Pro-Lady Champ Woodlands Club / Casey Cox

The EZGO Player of the Year race was close for a while but John Hickson, with his stellar play, pulled away and won the 2019 POY race by a substantial margin. Sponsor dollars remained strong with \$11,450 in cash and \$6,000 in product for a total of over \$17,000. Thank you to all Maine Chapter Partners.

The Maine Chapter Annual Meeting was held on October 16th, at the Purpoodock Club. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 Maine Chapter professionals and guests. Thank you to our special guests, Mike Higgins, Allan Belden, PGA, Brian Bickford - MSGA, PGA. This was an election year for the Chapter and the following were elected to the Maine Chapter board:

Chris Twombly, PGA – President Peiter DeVos, PGA – Vice President Casey Cox, PGA – Board Member

They join the following existing board members:
Dan Limauro, PGA – Board Member
Dan Venezio, PGA – Board Member
Don Roberts, PGA – Board Member
Doug VanWickler, PGA – District Director

Tony Decker, PGA – Honorary Past President

Don Doyon - Operations Manager

Many thanks to outgoing President Tony Decker, PGA & GM at The Purpoodock Club for his many years of service and leadership.

#### **CHAPTER AWARDS**

There was a record number of nominations this time around for the 2020 Chapter awards. Applications are being reviewed and the selection process for the various awards is currently underway.

#### **HALL OF FAMERS**

Congratulations to Keenan Flanagan, PGA, and Gary Soule, PGA, for their induction into the Maine Golf Hall of Fame Class of 2019.

#### **MAINE JUNIOR TOUR**

The Maine Junior Tour held 13 tournaments during the summer of 2019. The average number of players was 52. The top five venues were: Natanis GC (79); Brunswick GC (73); Belgrade Lakes GC (70); Val Halla GC (68) & Woodlands Club (63).

We saw increased participation in just about every event. We want to thank all of the Professionals and their respective clubs who hosted this year and all the sponsors who made each event extra special with donated product and prize money. Sponsor dollars totaled \$3,500 in cash and \$5,000 in product for a total of over \$8,500.

A Maine Junior Tour Invitational event was held at Prouts Neck CC on Saturday, October 19th. Around 50 participants played 9 holes followed by food and beverages. The 2019 Junior POY awards capped off the festivities.

The Wendy's Player of the Year recipients were:
Michael Madden – Boys 11 & Under
Lucas Flaherty – Boys 12-13
Parker Hilchey – Boys 14-15
Nick McGonagle – Boys 16-18
Payton Simmons – Girls 13 & Under
Ruby Haylock – Girls 14-18



#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**



The New Hampshire Chapter conducted its Fall Meeting of members at Intervale CC on October 17, 2019 with over 50 professionals in attendance. Presentations were made by NEPGA President Ron Bibeau, NEPGA Executive Director Mike Higgins as well as Jim Remy, Brian Bain and Michael Packard. Phil Davis, Beaver Meadow GC head professional was re-elected for another one-year term as At-Large Director. The Chapter as well as the Section recognized Frank Swierz, NHC Tournament Manager, who is retiring after serving 19 years in that capacity. Ken Hamel, PGA, currently head professional at Stonebridge CC, was appointed as the new chapter's Operation Manager.

The NHC Player of the Year based on tournament points was C.J. Konkowski, Keene CC assistant professional who edged out Jay Pollini, head professional at Ridgewood CC. Konkowski also won the chapter championship held at North Conway CC in August.

The chapter would like to recognize and thank our 2019 sponsors: Yamaha, Club Car, Cleveland/Srixon, Five Star Golf Cars, Callaway, PGA Tour, Avidia Bank, Lincoln, and TaylorMade. Their generous contributions went directly into the chapter's professional purse at their respective partnered tournaments.

#### THE 2020 NHC BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

President: Scott Devito, Pease GC
Vice President: Cory Mansfield, Derryfield CC
District Director: Joanne Flynn, Windham CC
Secretary: Tim Riese, Pease GC
At-Large Director: Alex Kirk, Hanover CC
At-Large Director: Phil Davis, Beaver Meadow GC
Past President: Tim Loch, Cochecho CC

#### **NHC YEAR END AWARDS**

Professional of the Year: Joel St. Laurent, Passaconaway CC
Bill Strausbaugh: Cory Mansfield, Derryfield CC
Teacher of the Year: Kevin Walker, North Conway CC
Junior Leader: Kelli Kostick, Windham CC

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Every fall numerous RIPGA Professionals gather together for a great cause – and 2019 was no different. On Tuesday, October 8, eleven RIPGA Members (and Associates) along with 18 Amateurs gathered at Pawtucket Country Club to participate in the annual John P. Burke Memorial Fund 100 Hole Marathon. Through their hard work and tiresome fundraising, these individuals were able to raise over \$75,000 for the Burke Fund. These funds are awarded to students to assist them in reaching their academic goals and in order to qualify for a scholarship they must have worked at least two years at a RIGA golf club.

#### VERMONT

#### **2019 SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS:**

Professional of the Year Tom Mackey, PGA, Ekwanok CC Asst. of the Year Kevin Bennison, PGA, Burlington CC Junior Golf Leader Dan Lehman, PGA, Catamount CC Merchandiser of the Year (Pr) TJ Anthoine, PGA, Quechee Club Patriot Award Josh Olney, PGA, Orleans CC Teacher of the Year David Jankowski, PGA, Burlington CC

The Vermont Chapter would like to congratulate both David Bennett and David Jankowski for their superb play at the NEPGA section championship and qualifying for the 2020 PGA of America National Championship. The chapter would also once again like to thank Todd Trono (Williston GC) for his continued support of both the Vermont Chapter of the PGA and the Vermont Golf Association. His generous donations year after year help to continue to grow the game at all levels!

#### **SENIORS & ASSISTANTS**

The New England PGA Seniors and Assistants Associations held a conjoined fall meeting and golf tournament at Blue Hill Country Club. The two groups joined together with the golf tournament and the seniors and the assistant's enjoyed a great day of golf. Dan Gillis from the seniors took 1st place among the Seniors. Meanwhile, Brendon Ray, PGA, of Point Judith CC, and Matt Alwin, PGA, of Dedham Country and Polo, tied for first among the assistants. Thank you to lan Kelley, Blue Hill CC's Director of Golf, for hosting the Seniors and Assistants Tournament and Fall Meeting.

## PGA LEAD | A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR PGA MEMBERS





Are you ready to step up to leadership? If so, you may be a candidate for PGA LEAD Cohort V, Class of 2020 - 2021. PGA LEAD was created to identify, mentor and progress PGA Members from diverse backgrounds along a guided path to volunteer leadership roles in the Association at the Chapter, Section and National levels. Integrating a multitude of dimensions of difference into our leadership ranks helps position the Association for success for decades to come. The ultimate goal of PGA LEAD is to establish a deep bench of diverse PGA Members who are prepared to ascend to and through the volunteer leadership ranks of the Association. PGA LEAD also assists in developing PGA Members who desire to serve and make an impact on nonprofit boards within the communities where they work and live.

#### **CURRICULUM TOPICS**

Board Governance	Inclusion & Diversity	
Conducting Board & Membership Meetings	Personal Branding and Promotion	
Pillars of Leadership	Public Speaking and Presentation Skills	
Developing Your Leadership Presence	Social Media & Developing Your Digital Brand	





Through PGA LEAD, participants have a unique opportunity to engage in professional development and networking activities and to develop their leadership acumen by meeting monthly via video conference with subject matter experts including PGA of America executives and staff, as well as business leaders inside and outside of the golf industry.

Annually, PGA LEAD participants gather in person at Association functions such as the PGA Merchandise Show and the PGA Annual Meeting to witness leadership and governance in action and to personally connect with each other, industry colleagues, and further develop their professional networks. (Pre-approved travel-related expenses to at least one function annually are reimbursed by the Association.)

#### **ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION**

While PGA LEAD is designed to drive a diverse demographic of participants (with consideration to the following protected classes - gender, age, race/color, national origin/ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, and veteran status), the program is open to all Class A PGA Members.

PGA Members who meet the following criteria are encouraged to apply for PGA LEAD, Cohort V, Class of 2020-2021. Please note that PGA of America National Staff members are not eligible to apply for PGA LEAD.

- Class A PGA Member for at least one year and in good standing
- Aspires to serve in a national volunteer leadership role within the Association
- Is committed to actively participating in monthly video conferences and related assignments
- Is committed to participating in PGA LEAD for two years (2020-2021) including PGA LEAD activities at the PGA Merchandise Shows and/or PGA Annual Meetings during the program term.
- Is committed to making a PGA LEAD presentation at a PGA Section Meeting at the conclusion of the program as an inspiration to others.

The application deadline for PGA LEAD 2020-2021 is November 15, 2019. All submissions are confidential and will be reviewed only by the PGA LEAD Selection Committee.

For more information, contact