

CAREER NOTES

By Dick Bradow, PGA Career Consultant

I hope that you had a successful 2005 season and enjoyed the Holidays with your family. As we begin the new year, here are three items I would encourage you to add to your early 2006 "to do" list:

1. Complete the 2006 PGA Compensation Survey on PGALinks.com (begins January 9).

The biennial PGA Compensation Study has become the most credible source of compensation information in the industry, primarily due to the overwhelming support from you, the PGA Professional. To keep you armed with the most accurate data, we need all PGA Professionals, from Apprentices to our most highly compensated professionals, to support the survey. The better the participation, the better the information the Compensation Study will provide.

Your participation will help provide you and your fellow PGA Professionals with accurate compensation information when you need it for negotiations, job searches, and budgeting. It will also assist the Tennessee PGA and those of us who meet with employers in our efforts to upgrade compensation for all PGA positions.

All individual responses are completely confidential, so please take a few minutes and complete the survey on PGALinks.com beginning January 9, 2006. You will earn 1 MSR hour if you complete the survey by March 31. The PGA of America and your fellow PGA Professionals appreciate your participation.

2. Review and update your CareerLinks Profile

To maximize your chances of being notified by CareerLinks about positions where your qualifications and experience match an employer's search criteria, you should review and update your CareerLinks Profile on the PGALinks.com Employment Center. This is especially important if you have changed jobs within the past year, gained additional experience, or would like to revise your future employment preferences. You should also review the work experience area of your profile to make sure your job history and facility information are correct.

If you are not currently participating in CareerLinks and want to receive job information, you can become active by completing the Membership Survey/CareerLinks Profile on the PGA Employment Center. If you have any questions about CareerLinks or would like me to review your CareerLinks Profile, please contact me.

3. Complete the Self-Assessment for the PGA Certified Professional Program.

The PGA Certified Professional Program has been developed to offer PGA Members the opportunity to enhance their professional growth, meet the needs of their employers, and advance their careers. If you have not already done so, take some time during the off-season to complete the 3 part self-assessment, which is the first step in the CPP. Here's why...

- There is no cost for the self-assessment
- You can take it in the privacy of your home or office and at your own pace
- You will earn 5 MSR hours for completing the self-assessment
- The results are confidential and for your own personal use
- You will receive immediate feedback on your strengths and areas for improvement
- Online education courses will be recommended based on your results
- Completion of the self-assessment will be added to your CareerLinks profile – if you apply for a CareerLinks position, you will be identified to the employer as having "Initiated the Certified Professional Program."

In addition to your assessment results, you can also view a valuable "Personal Development Plan" report that will provide recommendations on how you can improve both personally and professionally. Another report allows you to compare your results against the results of successful PGA Professionals in various job titles.

Hopefully, after you have completed the self-assessment, you will utilize the recommended online courses and ultimately take the proficiency test for certification. However, even if you don't, the self-assessment will help you identify the areas where you can improve and will be a valuable resource for your professional and career development. All information on the Certified Professional Program is on the PGALinks.com Education Center.

Best wishes for a successful 2006 season, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about CareerLinks, the Certified Professional Program, or any PGA employment services.

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