

# **Kentucky Section PGA Board Meeting**

May 26, 2010

Golf House Kentucky - Louisville

## **I. Call to Order**

President Steve Shafer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. (EDT).

*Present were: Gary Bebelaar, Chris Brown, Russ Johnson, Chris Osborne, Mike Riley, Bryan Slone, and Kelly Williams. Also present were Dick Bradow, PGA Employment Consultant and staff members Mark Hill, Bill Coomer, Aaron Kincade, Barbara Peak, and Patsy Fitzpatrick. Absent were Carmello Benassi, Ralph Landrum, Bill Moore, Mike Thomas, and Amy Wilson.*

## **II. Minutes**

*Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the March 21, 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Bebelaar seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).*

## **III. Financial Report**

Mr. Osborne referred the Board to the financial statement and notes, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Bebelaar asked about the gift certificate expense variance. Mr. Coomer explained one-half of the Pro-Senior in 2009 had been cancelled, hence the variance. Mr. Hill noted the Vanguard statement which had been distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Hill reviewed details of the Special Projects account.

*Mr. Bebelaar made a motion to approve the financial report as presented. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).*

## **IV. President's Report**

Mr. Shafer welcomed Chris Brown to the Board of Directors. He reviewed issues discussed at the recent PGA of America Leadership Conference, including a waiting period for PGM University graduates before earning membership. He stated the PGA is considering adding additional PGA Employment Consultants. Mr. Bebelaar asked about the supply and demand of PGA Professionals for the future. Discussion regarding this topic followed. Mr. Shafer stated that Mr. Osborne, Mr. Hill and he had combined to attend six different committee meetings at the Leadership Conference. He reviewed the new PGA PGM 2.0 Program, which had been presented at the Leadership Conference. He reviewed reports from the Junior Golf Committee and Instruction Committee from the Leadership Conference. Mr. Osborne stated the Junior Golf Committee was discussing the possibility of a PGA branded program for junior golf at the facility level. Mr. Shafer stated that there were six candidates for Secretary of the PGA of America and each had made presentations at the Leadership Conference. Considerable discussion followed and Mr. Shafer stated that Mr. Osborne and he had not made commitments to a particular candidate at this time.

## **V. District 10 Director Report**

Mr. Shafer stated Mr. Thomas was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Shafer noted that Mr. Thomas' term would expire at the PGA Annual Meeting in November, and that Mike Ahrnsbrak from the Middle Atlantic Section would assume District 10 Director duties.

## **VI. PGA Employment Services**

Mr. Bradow noted that the Kentucky Section finished fifth among all sections in the compensation survey. He reviewed total compensation information for head professionals, directors of golf, and member assistant professional data from recent years. He stated eight Career Link jobs had been handled in the Kentucky Section during the current fiscal year. He noted that a PGA Employment Consultant staff meeting would take place next week at PGA of America headquarters. He reported that the current KPGA Member unemployment rate was 4.3%, and the national average was 4.2%. He reported the apprentice unemployment rate was 0%. Discussion followed regarding competition for jobs from golf career colleges, etc.

**VII. Executive Director Report**

Mr. Hill noted that 2010 marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the KGA-PGA, Inc. He reported that Growth of the Game efforts included Play Golf America Month in May and Get Golf Ready Day on June 5. He noted that sponsor relations remained positive and reviewed some of the changes and modifications made to the KPGA page at [kygolf.org](http://kygolf.org). He stated the Golf Economic Impact Study would commence in late summer. He reported that GHIN enrollment was down 4.5% compared to 2009, and a 3.5% decline had been budgeted. He reported that at a recent meeting with Pepsi officials, they affirmed their long term support for the KGA-PGA, Inc.'s junior program. He reported that Kentucky Golf Foundation Annual Campaign donations were on track for budget. He reported that five individuals had been hired as interns for the tournament season, and that detailed information regarding each of them was on the website.

**VIII. KPGA Foundation Report**

Mr. Shafer stated that no additional activity had taken place since the previous meeting.

**IX. Committee Reports**

**Assistants/Apprentices** – Mr. Riley stated that Mrs. Wilson had noted that work was ongoing with Callaway Golf in preparation for the Assistant Championship.

**BREAK**

**Communications/Employment** – Mr. Riley noted that Todd Trimble and Bruce Oldendick had been added to the committee, and that the District Directors would be added, and perhaps one other individual. Mr. Hill noted that per the previous Board meeting, the minutes from the previous Board meeting will be posted to the Members Only area.

**Education** – Mr. Williams noted that the KPGA Fall Meeting would take place October 25-26 in Louisville, and that he had several potential speakers in mind, but has not sought commitments to date. Mr. Hill noted that the Crowne Plaza may serve as host. Mr. Williams noted that Steve Jablonowski had been drafting the KPGA Education Committee message in the Friday E-Mail, and that the effort had been well received.

**Government Relations Committee** – Mr. Osborne reported that at the PGA Leadership Conference, details from the National Golf Day in Washington, D.C. were reviewed.

**Junior Golf Committee** – Mr. Kincade reported that the Pepsi Junior Golf Tour gets underway June 2 at Polo Fields Golf & Country Club, and that the six-hole division had been extended to nine events. He asked Board members to consider volunteering for the KPGA Junior Championship.

**Membership** – Mr. Williams reviewed the list of new apprentices and new members since the previous Board meeting.

**Growth of the Game** – Mr. Shafer read from a written report submitted by Ralph Landrum. The report stated that three Play Golf America Days had been conducted, with one remaining. Mr. Landrum is working to compile best practices from this year's Play Golf America Days. Promotion continues for Get Golf Ready Day on June 5. Mr. Landrum reported that efforts would focus on scheduling the Play Golf America Days earlier next year (by late fall). Mr. Shafer stated he had asked Chris Brown to serve on the committee. Mr. Osborne reported that the national Player Development Committee was focusing on trying to grow certain programs, such as the Get Golf Ready program.

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**Seniors** – No report.

**Special Awards/Scholarships** – Mr. Slone stated that nomination forms would be distributed tomorrow. He stated that the Patriot Award may be considered for the 2011 awards. He noted that the committee would meet sometime in August to determine award winners.

**Sponsorship** – Mr. Bebelaar noted that since the last meeting, Brad Morrow, Mark Hill and he had met to discuss possible sponsorship opportunities, as well as expansion of the committee. Mr. Hill noted that Powerbilt would serve as Kentucky Open sponsor for the second consecutive year, and their total sponsorship was \$20,000 for all events sponsored.

**Tournaments** – Mr. Johnson noted that no action had been taken yet regarding exemptions from the Assistant Professional Player of the Year list. He noted that discussion had been ongoing regarding possible format changes in the Pro-Pro Championship. He noted that the E-Z-GO Pro-Am was postponed due to inclement weather and would take place August 23. Mr. Hill noted that most tournaments to date have seen increases in entries over 2009.

**2011 Senior PGA Championship** – Mr. Shafer stated that the KPGA's role in 2011 would be similar to its role in 2004 – practice range and player transportation. He stated that volunteer recruitment would begin in the fall. He stated that organizing a special event, involving Kentucky's players in the event, may be one of the committee's objectives.

**X. Old Business**

Mr. Hill stated that the subject of special event eligibility, which was discussed at the previous meeting, should remain in Old Business until the end of the season, when policy adjustments could be made. He noted that he would continue to manage the Las Vegas Pro-Am using tournament rules and regulations as a guide.

**XI. New Business**

Mr. Hill distributed information regarding the Executive Women's Golf Association (EWGA), which was organizing chapters in Kentucky. He informed the Board that the EWGA offers free USGA Handicaps to its members, and this is something the Board should be aware of.

Mr. Hill stated that attendance at the Kentucky Golf Vendors Association reception at the spring and fall meetings had decreased to the point that it was no longer a viable benefit for the Kentucky Golf Vendors Association, and that the reception would be removed from the schedule, beginning with the fall meeting. Mr. Hill asked the Board members present if they supported this recommendation, and all agreed with the change. Mr. Shafer noted that the reception would be eliminated, and that the lunchtime schedule of two hours, at which time attendees could visit with Kentucky Golf Vendors Association members, would remain in place.

Mr. Shafer noted that Mr. Benassi had taken a new position at Barren River State Park, and was no longer a member in District One. He stated that he had spoken with Mr. Benassi, who had a desire to continue to serve on the Board. He stated that he had asked Mr. Landrum, who resides in District One and serves as an At-Large Director, if he would take the District One position, and Mr. Landrum had indicated he would be willing to do so. Mr. Shafer stated that as a result of this, he wished to appoint Mr. Benassi to the At-Large position which would be vacated by Mr. Landrum. Mr. Shafer noted that both gentlemen had been elected at the most recent fall meeting and their terms coincide, and given these factors, felt this was the most practical course of action. *Mr. Riley made a motion that Mr. Landrum assume the District One Director position and that Mr. Benassi assume the At-Large Director position. Mr. Slone seconded the motion.*

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Mr. Williams asked if this would set any precedent the Board may be concerned about. Discussion followed, and it was determined that it would not present a concern, and that this course of action was consistent with recent actions involving replacement of Board members. *Motion carried (unanimous).*

Mr. Shafer mentioned that several sections had announced financial support for the victims of recent flooding in the Tennessee Section at the PGA Leadership Conference, and asked if a donation from the Kentucky Section may be appropriate given the close relationship with the Tennessee Section. Discussion followed, and it was noted that the section had made a donation to the Red Cross for the Gulf States Section after Hurricane Katrina. After further discussion, it was decided that the most appropriate course of action would be to make section members aware of the PGA Disaster Relief Fund, and encourage members to support the fund, which benefits all PGA Members, regardless of location.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for August 18 at Golf House Kentucky at 5 p.m. (EDT).

**XII. Adjournment**

*At 8:04 p.m., Mr. Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Slone seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).*