

# **Kentucky Section PGA Board of Directors Meeting**

December 9, 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, Ralph Landrum, Brad Morrow, Garry Nelson, Chris Osborne, Mike Riley, Mike Thomas and Kelly Williams. Also present were Dick Bradow, PGA Employment Consultant; Chris Redle, Assistants/Apprentices Representative; and staff members Mark Hill, Bill Coomer, Barbara Peak, Ryan Tahara and Patsy Fitzpatrick.*

*Absent were Board members Chris Brown and Carmello Benassi.*

## **II. Minutes**

*Mr. Riley made a motion to approve the October 24, 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Bebelaar seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).*

## **III. Financial Report**

Mr. Osborne reviewed the financial report which had been distributed prior to the meeting, along with the notes included with the report. Mr. Hill noted that reimbursement for the PGA Annual Meeting would be approximately \$2,200 and expense would be approximately \$10,400. Mr. Hill explained the education seminar income and expense line items and the fall and spring seminar income and expense items. Mr. Landrum suggested Board members room together at the spring and fall meetings when possible in order to save money.

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

Mr. Hill reviewed the proposed 2011 budget and notes regarding the budget, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. He noted that the economic impact study expense of \$3,125 should be added as it was not included in the draft. He also noted that reimbursement from the PGA of America for growth of the game efforts would be less than projected. He noted that a PGA Annual Meeting would not take place in 2011, and thus was not included in the budget. He noted that the budget did not include the tournament program, and that the Tournament Committee would finalize that budget before the next Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Shafer stated that the budget would be finalized and approved at the next Board of Directors meeting, and that Mr. Hill had permission to use the draft until that meeting.

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

Mr. Shafer reported that the PGA Annual Meeting was a very positive experience, and congratulated Derek Sprague on his election as Secretary. He expressed the sentiment conveyed by Junior Bridgeman at the Annual Meeting of working to promote the game to as many individuals as possible. He noted that he had eliminated the Senior Committee and that as long as the section kept a senior representative on the Tournament Committee, senior issues should be addressed sufficiently. He noted the addition of a Communications/Marketing Committee. Mr. Bebelaar asked about the Investment Committee. Mr. Shafer noted that it is an advisory committee led by the Vice President. Mr. Osborne noted that he would address the issue in the near future and would assemble a group to review investments. Mr. Thomas recommended that a new Investment Committee should also discuss the desired level of reserves. Mr. Landrum recommended evaluating diversifying investments if the section does not need the earnings on investments for operations or liabilities. Discussion followed regarding utilization of surplus section funds and surplus operating revenue, including utilizing funds for a staff position dedicated to marketing, communications, and member service. President Shafer asked the Board to give the issue thought and to communicate ideas among one another for further discussion.

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

Mr. Thomas stated that he was very appreciative of the support he received during his time as District 10 Director. He complimented the PGA of America staff for their professionalism and dedication.

**VI. PGA Employment Services**

Mr. Bradow stated that Brant Williams has been hired as the Head PGA Professional at Henderson Country Club, Andover Golf & Country Club was in the final stages of interviews for their general manager position, that he recently met with the owner of Olde Stone and his committee regarding their vacant head professional position, and that Mayfield/Graves Country Club had hired apprentice Shane Jones as the head professional/club manager. He reported that PGA presence in the Kentucky Section at 18 hole facilities is at 64.8%, private facilities at 69.9%, and at public facilities at 61.3%. He reported that unemployment rate for the Kentucky Section is 4.3%.

**VII. Executive Director Report**

Mr. Hill introduced Ryan Tahara, the new Director of Junior & Senior Golf. Mr. Tahara made a few remarks. Mr. Hill thanked the staff. Mr. Hill reviewed the 2010 business plan, and noted that Kentucky was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> among all sections in terms of participation in PGA of America programs, the Instruction Area had been enhanced with 23 members and apprentices participating, the relationship with the Kentucky Golf Association remained positive, the golf economic impact study is underway and should be completed by the end of the year, and that four Play Golf America Days were conducted. Mr. Hill then reviewed the 2011 business plan draft and noted that a membership survey would be conducted, recommended a Board of Directors meeting at Eastern Kentucky University, expanded utilization of the KPGA's Facebook page, promotion of the unveiling of the golf economic impact study, expansion of promotion of PGA of America player development programs through the Growth of the Game Committee, and successful involvement in the Senior PGA Championship. He noted that development of a golf academy would be a priority in 2011, with the goal of launch in 2012.

**VIII. KPGA Foundation Report**

Mr. Shafer noted that applications for grant requests were available online. He reviewed the history of the KPGA Foundation.

**BREAK**

**IX. Committee Reports**

**Assistants/Apprentices** – Mr. Redle introduced himself and stated that Erin Bell is the Vice President and Bobby Santerre is the Secretary of the Assistants/Apprentices Division. He reviewed plans for raffle prizes for the Assistant Championship in 2011. Mr. Redle presented a draft of a proposed new version of bylaws for the Assistants/Apprentices Division, which had been distributed prior to the meeting. He also presented the current version of the bylaws, and stated he was not seeking approval at this meeting, only input. Considerable discussion followed. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Shafer thanked Mr. Redle for his work and asked that he work with the Tournament Committee to resolve any eligibility issues and to have a final document for presentation at the spring meeting.

**Communications/Marketing** – Mr. Shafer noted this was a new committee, and he had asked Carmello Benassi and Brad Morrow to serve on the committee with Mr. Nelson as chairman.

**Education** – Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Brown would serve as co-chairman of the Committee. Mr. Williams asked the Board to think about whether or not two days were necessary at the fall meeting and the issue would be discussed at the next meeting. He noted that March 14 had been set as the date for the spring meeting, with a location and speakers for the meeting to be announced later. Discussion followed regarding possible topics for future meetings. Mr. Williams stated he was developing a one-day seminar focused on marketing and social media, which would take place in the winter at Golf House Kentucky.

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**Employment** – Mr. Riley read the list of members currently classified as unemployed, and noted that Mr. Bradow had contacted each individual personally.

**Government Relations Committee** – Mr. Osborne asked the Board to stay informed regarding proposed changes in ADA laws regarding the use of golf cars.

**Junior Golf** – Mr. Shafer noted that he had asked Mike Thomas to serve as chairman.

**Membership** – Mr. Williams noted 260 members and 62 apprentices currently, which reflected 14 more members and 11 less apprentices than the 2009 fall meeting. He reported that KPGA Member Jeff Shelton was showing slow improvement following the stroke he had approximately two weeks ago. Mr. Shafer read a note from KPGA Member Craig Heibert thanking the Board for flowers following his father's death.

**Growth of the Game** – Mr. Landrum noted that individuals were in place to focus on specific programs for the PGA Player Development Program. He asked for assistance in obtaining locations for special events. He stressed the importance of stressing PGA Player Development programs at the spring and fall meetings.

**Special Awards/Scholarships** – Mr. Nelson announced that tomorrow (December 10) was the nomination deadline, and that 20 nominations had been submitted thus far.

**Sponsorship** – Mr. Morrow noted that Powerbilt had committed to return as title sponsor of the Kentucky Open and adidas had committed to provide shirts for contestants in the Kentucky Open. Mr. Hill reported that Polo had committed to donate shirts for KPGA volunteers at the Senior PGA Championship, and provided an update on other sponsorship commitments to date.

**Tournament** – Mr. Bebelaar stated that the one pressing issue revolved around eligibility for KPGA tournaments. Mr. Hill stated he had discussed the issue at length with Mr. Coomer, and that proposed changes for eligibility had been drafted. Mr. Coomer read the proposed new eligibility requirements for the KPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations: *For the purpose of pro-amateur tournaments, an amateur must be in good standing at a Kentucky Golf Association member club and have a current KGA-PGA, Inc. Handicap Index which meets the requirements set by the Tournament Committee for that particular tournament. Exception – an amateur competing in the Kentucky Open Championship or other events where a separate amateur division is being conducted must be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or be a full-time student at a college or university within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Eligibility also includes good standing at a Kentucky Golf Association member club and possession of a KGA-PGA, Inc. Handicap Index.*

*Mr. Osborne made a motion that the proposed change for amateur eligibility, as presented, be approved. Mr. Riley seconded the motion. Motion carried (unanimous).*

**2011 Senior PGA Championship** – Mr. Hill stated that volunteer commitment forms would be distributed in February.

**X. Old Business**

Mr. Hill asked that the special event eligibility request be removed from future consideration, and noted that he had originally asked for consideration to deal with potential issues in the Las-Vegas Pro-Am.

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**XI. New Business**

None.

**XII. Adjournment**

*At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bebelaar seconded the motion. Motion approved (unanimous).*