



**PGA**

Philadelphia Section

2022

**Fall Membership Meeting**

## Philadelphia PGA Section

The Philadelphia PGA Section, covering eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and Delaware, is one of 41 geographical managing entities of the PGA of America. This Section manages nearly 900 PGA Members and Associates who are employed at over 590 golf facilities in our region.

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Patrick Shine, PGA
<b>Vice President</b>	Chip Richter, PGA
<b>Secretary</b>	Bob Hennefer, PGA
<b>Director of Section Affairs</b>	Dustin McCormick, PGA
<b>Director of Tournaments</b>	Eric Kennedy, PGA
<b>Honorary President</b>	Jeff Kiddie, PGA

### Board of Directors

<b>District 1</b>	Kevin Duffy, PGA
<b>District 2</b>	Anthony Malizia, PGA
<b>District 3</b>	Brett Nelson, PGA
<b>District 4</b>	Mike Molino, PGA
<b>District 5</b>	Gerald Davis, PGA; Dean Kandle, PGA
<b>District 6</b>	Eleanor Good
<b>Independent Director</b>	

### Central Counties Chapter

<b>President</b>	Judd Caruso, PGA
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### Philadelphia Assistants' Organization

<b>Chair</b>	Keith Clawson, PGA
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### Staff

<b>Executive Director</b>	Geoffrey Surette, PGA
<b>Assistant Executive Director</b>	Barbara Creveling
<b>Foundation Director</b>	Courtney Curcio
<b>Tournament Director</b>	Brian Schulte, PGA
<b>Communications Director</b>	Matt Frey, PGA
<b>Junior Tour Director</b>	Leilyn Nowacysnski
<b>Member Services Administrator</b>	Sue Unger
<b>Tournament Coordinators</b>	Joshua Monkres, Joe Sponheimer, Cassie Vogel
<b>PGA WORKS Fellows</b>	Erin Martin, Rachel Goetz

## President's Report

Never could we have imagined that a worldwide pandemic would create a historic spike (pun-intended) in golfers coming into the game. We have seen record numbers of women, juniors and non-caucasians making their way to golf courses and golf facilities all over the world. I am proud to stand next to all of you on the frontlines as the gatekeepers with the goal of making this game more accessible and more enjoyable for all.

On October 11, the PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am at Philadelphia Cricket Club raised over \$75,000. The money raised will positively impact the lives of youth, military, and diverse populations by enabling access to PGA Professionals in our Section. Special thanks to Foundation Director Courtney Curcio and the entire Section staff, and the PGA Professionals that fielded teams to make this year's event a success.

In May, our Section and the Union League of Philadelphia hosted the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship. This was an incredible spotlight on Delaware Valley golf and the Section. All involved created a benchmark for this event that will be the standard to which future events will be judged. PGA REACH Philadelphia was gifted \$200,000 from the PGA of America.

Another vital way you can help our Section is by hosting a Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour event at your facility. As many of you know the tour's success is crucial to helping us fulfill our obligations to our membership. If you are unable to host, please make sure to promote the Affiliate link on your club website. Each facility may give away a free tour membership each year, which is a nice savings; sadly very few of these are redeemed by the PGA Professional.

The other lifeblood our or operational budget is partnerships. We know that each of you have only so much room for so many vendors. All I ask is that you would return phone calls for all our partners and be sure to send thank you

following any event with a partner. Collectively showing appreciation to our partners will help assist our executive director when he is renewing partnerships each year.

Congratulations to Jonathan Gold, PGA, who was promoted to become our Regional Director. Jonathan has been replaced by Caleb Blodgett, PGA. We welcome Caleb and wish him success as he will be the career consultant for the New Jersey and Philadelphia PGA Sections.

We all have experienced labor shortages over the past 18 months or so, but now may be the best time to grow assistant compensation. As an industry, we collectively need to move the compensation needle to attract more young talent into our profession. As you put your budgets together for 2023, it is time to bolster compensation that would allow a livable wage for PGA assistant professionals in our Section.

November has become Men's Health Awareness Month or "Movember," where you can grow a mustache to start the conversation around men's health. Whatever gender you are, it is certainly a great time of the year, especially for PGA Professionals to take some time to make sure your health is in order. Use the down time to schedule an annual physical, get at least 60 minutes of exercise per day, do a mental health screening or anything else you can do to look after your health.

In closing, it has been an honor to serve as your President over the last year, and I hope all of you are able to enjoy the offseason with your friends and family.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick Shine, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section President

## Vice President's Report

Hello to all of you as we wrap up another busy year in golf and a great year for the Philadelphia PGA Section. As Section vice president, I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for all they do and especially thank our wonderful staff in the office who do so much for us, and this wonderful game we are fortunate to work in everyday. Also, thank you to all of you who serve on various committees throughout the section who make things work so well.

The vice president serves as the chair of Finances and the Hall of Fame committees. I am sure you are all aware the year 2022 has been a bit of a "bumpy road" financially in the marketplace and we are not immune from these bumps. Our Haverford portfolio started the year with a balance of \$678,519. I have not received the September financials as of the time of this writing, but as of the end of August we had \$602,608 in our restricted fund. The bottom line is we are down about 11 percent. It seemed like one month we were getting better, then we would take another drop on the next monthly report. The folks at Haverford and Section agree we are still positioned very well, but markets go up and they go down and we can only hope some better market performance is coming soon.

Our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had a great year in memberships, but unfortunately had a little rougher time scheduling events in 2022 than we had hoped. The staff has started much earlier this year and is already working diligently to get more events scheduled in 2023. If you are able to host an event in 2023, we would love to hear from you. Please give our team in the office a call and let's see what we can work out.

This year was a Hall of Fame year and I am pleased to announce Charles Genter, PGA, has been inducted into the Philadelphia PGA Hall of Fame in its 2022 class. Charles was elected to PGA membership in 1966 and spent nearly 30 years at Tavistock before he retired. Thanks so much to the Hall of Fame Committee including Mike Cole, Jack Connelly, Leo DiGisi, Harry Hammond, Pete

Micklewright, John Pillar, John Poole, Dick Smith Sr., Pete Trenham and Geoff Surette for all the work they did in reading the submissions and discussing them at length in our meeting.

I am sure the entire Executive Committee would agree we are fortunate to serve such a great group of PGA Professionals and we could not do it without our wonderful staff. They do such a great job for us every day and if you see them please thank them for all they do for us!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter "Chip" Richter, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Vice President

## Secretary's Report

The role of Secretary is an executive officer position within the Section and primarily oversees three main committees in addition to sitting on the Board of Directors – Junior Golf, Education, Membership / Communications. I would like to take a moment to thank each of those PGA Section Members who have taken the time and put forth the effort to further the cause in each of these areas. I can tell you that each of these individuals has put their best foot forward to try to make our Section better. Here are the Committees and their members:

### Junior Golf Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA Joe Sponheimer  
Michael Caldwell, PGA Don Strassner, PGA  
Harry Hammond, PGA Cassie Vogel  
Joshua Monkres Steve Wager, PGA  
Leilyn Nowaczynski Chris Young, PGA  
Brian Schulte, PGA

### Education Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA Eric Handley, PGA  
Darren Bolton, PGA Dean Kandle, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA Anthony Malizia, PGA  
John Carpineta, PGA

### Membership / Communications Committee

Chair: Bob Hennefer, PGA Matt Frey, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Leo DeGisi, PGA Sean Palmer, PGA  
Kevin Edwards, PGA Meghan Spero, PGA

The Philadelphia Section PGA would like to inform you of the following changes in membership since the 2022 Spring Meeting, as of September 1, 2022:

### Attained PGA Membership

Brian Bergstol, PGA Lucas Neubauer, PGA  
Garret Cwalina, PGA Justin Parisi, PGA  
Andrew Geesey, PGA Braden Shattuck, PGA  
Andrew Hewitt, PGA Robert Schimony, PGA  
Ryan Kim, PGA Cameron Smith, PGA  
Ian Lee, PGA Scott Yurgalevicz, PGA  
Kevin McCarthy, PGA Matthew Zehner, PGA

### Achieved Half Century Status

Peter Dachisen Jr.

# Secretary's Report

## Achieved Quarter Century Status

Michael Carson, PGA   Michael Reilly, PGA  
Graham Dendler, PGA   John Romano, PGA  
Lou Guzzi, PGA   David Smith, PGA  
Mark Parson, PGA   Bill Walker, PGA

## Achieved Senior Status

Graham Dendler, PGA   Todd Love, PGA  
Eric Kennedy, PGA   Dan Mrozinski, PGA  
Bill Kindoll, PGA   Brendan Reedy, PGA  
Walter Kurman, PGA

## Deceased Members

Stephen Chromiak, PGA   George McNamara, PGA  
Craig Dear, PGA   John Rogers, PGA  
Jerry Haberle, PGA   Willard Scholl, PGA  
Jason Martonick, PGA

## First-Time PGA Head Professionals

Jesse Hackett, PGA   Chad Halvonik, PGA  
Robert Hackett, PGA   Corey Phillips, PGA

## Transfers into the Section

Peter Anastos  
Zach Barbin  
Thomas Barksdale, PGA  
Timothy Beegle  
Gage Bender  
Fred Blumenstock, PGA  
Ryan Boitz, PGA  
Brian Buskirk  
Logan Buell  
Jeff Carswell, PGA  
Halle Clark  
Joanna Coe, PGA  
Allison Confer  
Del DeAngelis

Ryan Dick  
Hugh Ellison  
Kyle Faris, PGA  
Michael Farrell, PGA  
Jack Fenwick  
Chad Ferguson, PGA  
Arthur Foister, PGA  
J. David Ford, PGA  
Olivia Gardenhour  
Robert Hackett, PGA  
Sean Hogan, PGA  
Frank Jones IV, PGA  
Owen Kuchinos, PGA  
Kyle Lane

Brett Marshall, PGA  
Kevin McNece, PGA  
Brenden Mitchell, PGA  
Ryan Rucinski  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Michael Smith, PGA  
Keith Weachter  
Leonard Welch  
Brecken Whitfield, PGA  
Ryan Wilson  
Timothy Yavello, PGA  
Michael Young Jr.

## Teaching & Coaching Certification

Matt Occhiato, PGA

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hennefer, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Secretary



## Director of Section Affairs' Report

The Director of Section Affairs oversees various committees including the Special Awards, Teaching & Coaching, and the PGA REACH Philadelphia committees. The role helps to create programs and opportunities for the PGA Professionals in our Section, as well as to extend our reach into the community. The PGA Professionals listed in this report have all helped greatly and volunteered a significant amount of time and I am very thankful for their service.

**PGA REACH Philadelphia:** PGA REACH Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2018 as the charitable arm of the Philadelphia PGA Section, one of the 41 Sections within the PGA of America. PGA REACH Philadelphia is committed to serving our communities and growing the game of golf through our three pillars: Youth, Military, and Diversity.

**Awards Committee:** We have accepted nominations for the 2022 awards and the Awards Committee will meeting virtually in mid-December to select the 2022 winners in the following categories: PGA Golf Professional of the Year, PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year, Bill Strausbaugh Award, Professional Development Award, Player Development Award, Youth Player Development Award, Patriot Award, Merchandiser of the Year in Private, Public, and Resort Categories, Justin Riegel PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year. Deacon Palmer Award, and Salesperson of the Year.

Chair: Dustin McCormick, PGA    Bob Hennefer, PGA  
Matt Bonanno, PGA    Jason Gebhart, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA    Dean Kandle, PGA  
Gerry Davis, PGA    Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Chris Duckett, PGA    Mike Molino, PGA  
Kevin Duffy, PGA    Brett Nelson, PGA

### PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee

Sam Ambrose, PGA    Mike Little, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA    Dan Mrozinski, PGA  
John Carpineta, PGA    Scott Reilly, PGA  
Gerry Davis, PGA    Jenna Soranno, PGA  
Kyle Monahan, PGA    Geoff Surrette, PGA  
Jason Lamp, PGA    Steve Wager, PGA  
Bob Lennon, PGA

### Instruction Committee

Chair: Andy Miller, PGA    Eric Handley, PGA  
John Bierkan, PGA    Frank Hesson, PGA  
Bob Crowther, PGA    Dan Merrell, PGA  
Becky Dengler, PGA    Steve Wager, PGA  
John Dunigan, PGA

I would also like to thank Geoff Surrette, PGA, and the entire Section staff for all they do for us on a daily basis. We have the best Section staff in the country, and this was far and away the best year they have ever had! The amount of dedication and hard work this team put in this year should be commended!

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin McCormick, PGA  
Glen Brook Golf Club  
Director of Section Affairs

## Executive Director's Report

It is amazing how fast the seasons seem to zip past us. It feels like we were just trying to figure out how a bad spring might impact all the gains we have seen the past two seasons, but here we are in October with seven months behind us. Talking to our peers, it seems it was a mixed bag this year with comments ranging from facilities seeing a slight decrease in rounds from last year to others seeing a slight increase. Either way, golf is still in a really good place across the landscape. We are seeing an increasing number of facilities invest back into their properties to enhance the experience. Hopefully those same facilities will also invest back into their professional staff to give them the support they need to deliver that experience.

As far as the Section is concerned, we also had a bit of a mixed bag. As Chip points out in his report, our restricted fund was not immune to the volatile market. Even with the negative turn, our folks at Haverford Trust have always managed to protect us during the down times and we are reminded that life of our investment fund is a marathon and there will be highs and lows along the way. As we move into the final quarter of the year, we are on the positive side of the budget as a whole. Our G&A department is well ahead of budget while the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour department is trailing behind. The tournament department is right where it should be as we close up the season. A big thanks to Barb Creveling, who, along with managing the office, also handles the day-to-day finances for all of the departments in our operation. We are still getting settled into our new financial system, and have recently started using a new budget tool, so there has been a lot of excitement in the accounting world!

As Eric mentions in his report, we had a great tournament season even though we lost a couple of key events to weather. We saw record numbers in our stroke play events thanks to the addition of the Silvercrest Cup and the Philadelphia Players Championship. Congratulations to all of our champions this year! Brian Bergstol broke through on his first attempt in the Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, while Section newcomer Joanna Coe showed why she is one

of the best players in the country with a couple of wins including our Women's Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship. Trevor Bensel returned to the winner's circle at the National Car Rental Philadelphia Assistant PGA Professional Championship, and Rich Steinmetz won in his inaugural start at the Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Championship Presented by Cadillac. Our tournament program would not be possible without the support of our host facilities and our partners. I believe we make it as easy as possible for folks to reach out and thank them and believe me, it is noticed. So we will continue to do our part to make our program as strong as it can be and I would ask all of you to just take a moment to help us by letting them know their support is appreciated. The tournament program wouldn't be as good as it is without the commitment and effort of Brian Schulte, PGA, and the folks he manages. Thanks to Brian and the entire staff!

It was a banner year for PGA REACH Philadelphia! Thanks to the leadership of Courtney Curcio and her team, including Erin Martin and Rachel Goetz. While hosting the PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship, we set the bar for all Sections to follow. Thanks to the Union League of Philadelphia, and all of the PGA Professionals and partners who helped make it such a success! We also saw increased numbers in Golf in Schools, PGA Jr. League, the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships, and PGA HOPE Philadelphia. We would like to thank all of our host facilities and PGA Professionals for making those programs so successful. As we look to grow all of our programs we would ask that you take a look and see where you may be able to lean in and support them. It's a great way to feel like you are making a difference and using the game of golf to do it. Please reach out to anyone on the team for more information. As far as fundraising, we would love to see more folks participate in the Golf Marathon. You can host your marathon at any time during the season, and other than actually playing 100 holes, the program is very easy to implement at your facility. If we got just 10 percent of the membership involved, the



## Executive Director's Report

marathon would be our largest fundraiser by far, and have a tremendous impact on the services we could deliver. So please give it a try! Along with our programs we also support other local programs; the First Tee of Greater Philadelphia, Women Golfers Give Back, Mid-Atlantic Blind Junior Golfers, Sigma Pi Phi, and Delta Epsilon. So PGA REACH Philadelphia is making a difference in the community and truly impacting lives through golf!

As it was reported, the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour saw growth in membership, but a drop in the number of rounds played. A big part of that is access to facilities for events. Part of that is on our team to exhaust every effort to fill our event calendar and the other part is the byproduct of the growth we have seen in golf. Facilities are just busier, so access has become more limited. We certainly understand that and would just ask if you have the ability to host please reach out to the junior team in the office. We did expand the tour's offerings this season with the addition of the FUNdamental Tour. This series of events was added to give kids that are new to competitive golf an opportunity to play at shorter yardages and a more relaxed environment with caddies. We will continue to expand the tour as it will ultimately be a great on-ramp experience for our future members and our own farm system. All of you continue to be our greatest marketing opportunity. Your engagement at the facility level with young golfers is still a bit of an untapped market for us. We will continue to provide marketing materials and affiliate membership opportunities but we would respectfully ask you to become ambassadors for the junior tour within your operation. Please reach out to anyone on the junior team if there are any additional ideas and/or opportunities to engage with you to help drive marketing at the facility level. I would like to thank Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Director Leilyn Nowacynski and her team of Josh Monkres, Cassie Vogel, and Joe Sponheimer, for all of their hard work during the season. As you all can imagine the junior season gets fast and furious and they have done a great job keeping our junior tour as the marquee junior golf tour in the region!

A big thanks to Matt Frey, PGA, for handling all of our communications. Matt oversees all of the communications from all of our different programs. He has certainly raised the bar since coming on to the team. Along with being a TV star on "Inside Golf," he has grown the reach and content on all of our social media channels. He did an amazing job with the PWCC, and was also able to add some sizzle to our Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, and PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am, with cool sizzle videos. You can also help our outreach by sharing any noteworthy ideas or stories that he can add to our publications.

Sue Unger continues to do a great job managing all of your membership needs and keeping our committees on track. She is also the main contact for everything that happens in the Central Counties Chapter. She probably talks to more individual members in the Section than anyone else on the team.

Congratulations to Jonathan Gold, PGA, and welcome to Caleb Blodgett, PGA, our new career consultant. I have already been working with both in their new roles and we are in good hands moving forward. With that in mind, please look to participate in our Philadelphia Golf Industry Job Fair on December 17 at Green Valley C.C. We are hoping that this brings a little more attention to our industry and serves as an opportunity for our facility to find the help they need.

Looking forward to the 2023 season, we will continue to grow our outreach and services to the membership as a whole. We welcome any feedback on how we can improve our operation to better serve you and the game of golf.

In closing, I would like to again thank our entire team for all of their dedication and effort. It is a pleasure to work with such a great group of people. I would also like to thank our officers, board, and all of our committee members for your service and your support of the team and our Section membership.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Surette, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Executive Director

## Junior Golf Report

The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour is pleased to have continued its success with the 2022 season. Seventy-five junior tour events were scheduled between the months of March and November. The junior tour is always adding new and exciting components to our program. The continuation of AJGA-PBE recognized events, nationally ranked JGS events and Junior PGA Championships are an example of the junior tour's success. Below is a summary of the 2022 season:

- 772 Full memberships (as of 10/4/22)
- Ended 2021 with 792 members
- Started the FUNdamental Tour, 41 memberships 79 total entries
- 34 facilities took advantage of the free Affiliate membership in 2022; only 26 facilities in 2021
- Six new facilities hosted or had agreed to host a junior tour event in 2021
- 2,983 tournament applications as of 10/4/22 (lost six scheduled events due to weather)
- 3,381 tournament applications in 2021
- Eight events ranked nationally by AJGA and/or JGS
- 10 Drive, Chip & Putt local qualifiers held 945 total participants in 2022; 928 total participants in 2021

One of the biggest highlights of the 2022 season was Nicholas Ciocca earning a three-peat at the Boys Junior PGA Championship at Bellewood Country Club in July. After shooting a 75, +4, in round one, Ciocca bounced back in round two with a score of 65, -6. Ciocca then overcame a four-hole playoff with Joshua Ryan to claim his third straight title.

With such an active program with an incredible number of tournaments on the schedule each season, it is critical to have the support of PGA Professionals and their facilities. If you have hosted a Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour event in the past, thank you! If you have not hosted and would like to help and showcase your facility, please contact the PJT Task Force at (267) 622-6170 or info@phillyjuniortour.com.

The junior tour continues to thrive due to the generosity of our vital junior tour partners, all of which deserve sincere thanks, including: adidas, Hurricane Junior Golf Tour, Notah Begay III Junior Golf National Championship, Jack Jolly & Son Inc., Junior Golf Hub, Earth Networks, Precision Pro Golf, Penn State PGM Golf Management, Nike Junior Golf Camps and Under Armour / Gear for Sports.

**2022 Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Tournament and Award Winners: 44th Junior Tour Championship at Chester Valley G.C.:** Boys 16-18: Justin Forman, 74; Boys 13-15: Ethan Martin, 71; Girls 16-18: Nicole Yun, 77; Girls 13-15: Kayley Roberts, 75; 12 & Under: Quinten Joiner, 37; **Junior PGA Championship at Bellewood C.C. (Boys) / Laurel Creek C.C. (Girls):** Boys 13-18: Nicholas Ciocca, 140 (75, 65); Girls 13-18: Mary Grace Dunigan, 142 (69, 73); **Harry Hammond Invitational at Penn Oaks G.C.:** Boys 16-18: Timothy Peters, 74; Girls 16-18: Gwendolyn Powell, 80; **12 & Under Championship at Pennsauken C.C. (Centennial Course):** Quinten Joiner, 37; **Under Armour Jon M. Pritsch Cup at Spring Brook C.C.:** New Jersey PGA 12.0 - Philadelphia PGA 6.0.

Congratulations to all of our junior tour winners! I would like to thank our entire junior tour staff, especially Leilyn Nowaczynski, Josh Monkres, Joe Sponheimer, and Cassie Vogel for their dedication to the tour this past year. I look forward to their continued success!

Submitted,  
Bob Hennefer, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Junior Golf Chair

## Director of Tournaments' Report

The Philadelphia PGA Section had a tremendously successful 2022 season with plenty of highlights. Although we did lose a few key events to weather late in the season, the addition of the exciting and lucrative Silvercrest Cup to go along with our Philadelphia Players Championship have made our Section tournament schedule the envy of our peers. Thanks to all of our fellow PGA Members for participating in and helping to create such a successful tournament program.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Section staff. Under the leadership of Executive Director Geoff Surette, PGA, and with the guidance of Tournament Director Brian Schulte, PGA, we were able to create what is arguably the best tournament schedule in the country. A special thank you to Communications Director Matt Frey, PGA, for his excellent communication and for keeping our members informed throughout the season.

Obviously, an effective tournament program would not be possible without the generosity of our host facilities and our amazing partners. Please take time to thank each of our partners directly for their support of our entire tournament program. Now more than ever, our sponsors need to know that we appreciate their contribution to our events. Retaining our current sponsors as well creating new opportunities is vital to our success.

A special thank you to our host facilities for our Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, Dupont Country Club and Concord Country Club. A big thank you to the superintendents and PGA Professional staffs at each facility. Thanks to PGA Head Professionals Michael Caldwell and Mike Moses for their hospitality and for running such a quality event.

Congratulations to our Philadelphia PGA Section champions and national championship qualifiers! Good luck to all of you as you move forward to compete for your championships. Congrats to Brian Bergstol, PGA, on his victory in our Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, and for his outstanding play throughout the season. Other playing highlights

included Zac Oakley's sixth place finish at the 2022 PGA Professional Championship, which qualified him for the 2022 PGA Championship at Southern Hills C.C. Congrats to Joanna Coe, PGA, on qualifying for her second consecutive Women's PGA Cup and finally, congratulations to Braden Shattuck, PGA, on his consistent, outstanding play throughout the season, including three victories and scoring average a shade over 69.

**Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion:** Brian Bergstol; qualifiers: Braden Shattuck, Zac Oakley, Trevor Bensel, Dave McNabb, Mike Little, Terry Hatch, Matthew Zehner, Billy Stewart, Joanna Coe, Rich Steinmetz, John Pillar and Terry Hertzog; **Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Champion:** Rich Steinmetz; qualifiers: Dave McNabb, Brian Kelly, Terry Hertzog, Brendan Post, Eddie Perrino and Eric Kennedy; **Philadelphia Assistant PGA Professional Champion:** Trevor Bensel; qualifiers: Brian Bergstol, Zac Oakley, Alex Knoll, Andrew Turner and Jeff Fick; **Women's Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion:** Joanne Coe.

One of the major highlights to our tournament schedule this year was the addition of the Silvercrest Cup at Gulph Mills Golf Club. The Philadelphia PGA Section, one of the PGA of America's 41 geographical managing entities, and Silvercrest Asset Management Group, an investment advisor providing asset management and family office services to high net worth individuals and select institutional investors, partnered to create the Silvercrest Cup, a new tournament series for Philadelphia PGA Professionals in 2022. Fifty-four PGA Professionals earned their place in the \$30,000 Silvercrest Cup final via a points system drawn from their performance in four qualifying events; the top eight amateurs on the Golf Association of Philadelphia's (GAP) William Hyndman III Player of the Year list were also invited to compete. Amateur Andrew Keeling defeated Brian Bergstol on the first playoff to hole to win the inaugural event.

Thanks to all of the new members of the Philadelphia PGA's Tournament Committee for

# Director of Tournaments' Report

their hard work and dedication this season. Thank you for taking the time to help create one of the best tournament programs in the nation.

## 2022 Tournament Committee

Chair: Eric Kennedy, PGA    Jason Gebhart, PGA  
Pat Butkus, PGA    Dustin McCormick, PGA  
Joanna Coe, PGA    Dave Pagett, PGA  
John Cooper, PGA    Andrew Turner, PGA  
Ben Debski, PGA

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our tournament program or suggestions on how we can improve, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or a member of the tournament committee.

Lastly, it has been a true pleasure serving as your Director of Tournaments the past few seasons. I sincerely appreciate all of the helpful and encouraging feedback I'm sure will come soon. Although I am not a gambling man, the odds are that I will begin to make good decisions starting next season. If not, then definitely the year after.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy offseason.

Eric Kennedy, PGA  
Director of Tournaments  
Philadelphia PGA Section



## PGA REACH Philadelphia Report

First and foremost, I want to thank Courtney Curcio for her dedication and hard work in making PGA REACH Philadelphia as successful as it is! Courtney is the true leader of PGA REACH Philadelphia, and makes our lives on the committee very easy. Courtney, keep up the great work in making our section proud!

I would also like to take a moment to invite all of you to take advantage of the programs and fundraising efforts PGA REACH Philadelphia offers by reaching out to Courtney, myself, or any of the committee members. We are here to be ambassadors for the foundation and to help you at your facilities grow the game and make a difference in people's lives.

This year marked the sixth year (est. 2018) for PGA REACH Philadelphia, once again Courtney and her staff hit new milestones for our programming and fundraising efforts. It is their hard work that makes the foundation so successful. I would like to thank our entire committee of PGA Professionals for their time and voluntary support. PGA REACH Philadelphia objectives is to provide developmental programs that support our three pillars; Youth, Military, and Diversity. To provide these programs, we need funds to do so. I implore all our Professionals in the Philadelphia section to get involved. Not only are these programs rewarding they are crucial to our community. Below is an overview of the programming and fundraising efforts we have been able to accomplish thus far this year. Program Overview: PGA Jr. League, Golf in Schools, Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships, PGA HOPE, and the Youth Mentor Program.

### PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee

Sam Ambrose, PGA	Mike Little, PGA
Jeff Breiner, PGA	Dan Mrozinski, PGA
John Carpineta, PGA	Scott Reilly, PGA
Gerry Davis, PGA	Jenna Soranno, PGA
Kyle Monahan, PGA	Geoff Surette, PGA
Jason Lamp, PGA	Steve Wager, PGA
Bob Lennon, PGA	

**PGA Jr. League:** 2022 Section qualifier host

(east & west division): Carlisle Country Club & McCall Golf Club; 2022 Section Championship host: Hartefeld National Country Club, Delaware 13U team (lead by Dave Seeman, PGA) and Rolling Green 17U (lead by John King, PGA) teams both advanced to the Regional Championship in early September.

**PGA HOPE:** In 2022, we opened two new locations to have a total of seven chapter locations. In total this year we reached over 2000 veterans, 40 percent them were new to the program. I would like to thank all of the PGA Professionals who help make this program so successful. **Chapter locations lead PGA Professionals:** Bensalem Township C.C., John Carpineta, PGA; C.C. of Harrisburg, Jeffrey Breiner, PGA; Indian Springs C.C., Curtis Kirkpatrick, PGA; Union League National G.C., Don Strassner, PGA; Frog Hollow G.C.; Patrick Keefe, PGA; Five Ponds G.C., Rick Flager, PGA; Union League Liberty Hill, Tony Shields, PGA.

**Golf in Schools:** Our Golf in Schools program has seen a great amount of support and interest from local area schools and administrators. We have partnered with the Golf Association of Philadelphia and The First Tee of Greater Philadelphia; together we use SNAG golf to introduce physical education teachers to the curriculum, so they can incorporate it into their class schedules. The program was in 45 different schools/districts in 2022.

Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships: The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship includes: annual tour membership dues and tournament event fees (up to seven tournaments per year until recipient turns 18 years old). In 2022, PGA REACH Philadelphia awarded six scholarships, bringing our total to 30 scholarship recipients.

Youth Mentor Program: The mentorship program was implemented in 2020, with the goal to provide a PGA Professional as a role model, coach, and mentor to each Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship recipient. Each mentor provides a minimum of two instructional lessons, evaluates the child's clubs to ensure they are using proper equipment,

# PGA REACH Philadelphia Report

assist in club fitting for them, they can also engage, support the mentee to serve as a caddie for them in a junior tour event, and can help in any other areas of the child's life.

**PGA WORKS:** The PGA WORKS Fellowship is a program that offers access to individuals from diverse backgrounds—whether by gender, age, race or color, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, religion or Veteran status—into the golf industry to gain experience in all facets of the golf industry. In 2022, we have hired two PGA WORKS Fellows.

## Fundraising Efforts

**Golf Marathon:** As of 10/14/2021, we have raised \$38,882 through the golf marathon so far. A special thank you to the staff at Gulph Mills Golf Club, Carlisle Country Club and Laurel Creek Country Club for hosting this year. Thank you to all the PGA Professionals who participated, we could not have done this without your help.

**Pro-Am:** This is was the third year for our annual PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am Championship, the event took place on October 11 on Philadelphia Cricket Club's Wissahickon Course. Proceeds raised from this event will go toward supporting PGA REACH Philadelphia programs and services for youth, military, and diversity groups. Thank you to Jim Smith, PGA, at Philadelphia Cricket Club's Wissahickon Course for hosting and for all the PGA Professionals who are took part in the event, your support is greatly appreciated. We were able to raise over \$75,000 this year from the event, online auction, and Celtic Golf raffle.

**REACH for Birdies:** PGA REACH Philadelphia offers its "REACH for Birdies" program for the Philadelphia PGA Section tournament seasons to help support the foundation. When joining the program, PGA Professionals make pledges to donate a certain dollar amount for each birdie and or eagle that they make during all official Section and PAO events, tracked by Section staff. Since the program's inception we have raised over \$10,000.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dustin McCormick, PGA  
PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee Chair



## Central Counties Chapter President's Report

First, please allow me to thank everyone in the Central Counties Chapter for trusting me to serve as president for the last two years. It's been quite an interesting time in the golf industry, and I think we managed to navigate everything the world has thrown at us quite well. All the best to the incoming Chapter board members and I know Andy Signor will do the Chapter proud as incoming President.

Thank you to all our pro-am hosts this season as well as Bent Creek C.C. for our Spring meeting, Williamsport C.C. for the Chapter Championship and Colonial G. & T.C. for hosting our Fall Meeting. We are very fortunate to have such great facilities within the Chapter and even luckier to have these courses open their doors to us. It is greatly appreciated.

Sadly, the Chapter and PGA took a huge loss this year with the passing of John Rogers. John was truly a "pro's pro." He was a Chapter and Section past president as well as a national award recipient. Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing John was certainly better off for knowing him, and he was the type of guy that would drop anything to assist a fellow PGA Professional in any way he could. He will be sorely missed, and may he rest in peace.

The mission of the Chapter is to provide playing opportunities to those PGA professionals in the "central" portion of Pennsylvania. Hence, our existence relies on participation from those eligible pros. Please help keep the Chapter an asset to the Section and participate in as many programs and meetings as possible. Every entry helps us keep offering these opportunities to everyone. Also, thank you to all our Chapter members that played in events this season, and to Jason Gebhart for provided us with a great schedule to play!

As always, we couldn't do what we do without the help of Sue, Barb, and Geoff in the Section office. We truly appreciate all your hard work over the years! Don't forget, the Section also puts on a great educational series every winter. They are always very

informative, but you also can grab some early MSR points towards the next continuing education period. Please, take advantage of these great programs.

Thank you all again for the opportunity to serve as president of the Chapter. I wish everyone a happy and healthy offseason!

Respectfully submitted,

Judd Caruso, PGA  
Central Counties Chapter President

## Instruction Committee Report

Hard to believe this 2022 golf season is coming to a close. We kicked it off back in February with our Winter Teaching & Coaching Summit at Whitemarsh Valley C.C. We hosted a number of presenters including Jason Meisch, Dr. Mike Duffey, Eric Handley, Dan Merrell, Kevin Sprecher, James Hong, John Dunigan, and Dr. Will Wu. Lots of great information was shared that hopefully helped you with your teaching & coaching programs during the 2022 golf season and beyond. We are currently finalizing details for our November 15 “Faults & Fixes” event. I encourage all of you to attend as it will feature some of the Sections’ best teachers giving live lessons to those who have struggled historically with some common swing faults. It’s something I’m really looking forward to as it will give a great look into what a golf lesson actually looks like in real time.

Food for thought. We all work in a very demanding industry. It’s a profession that requires us to give 100 percent attention to our students each and every day. It can be mentally, physically and emotionally exhausting. Lets all remember to take some time to “recharge our batteries” this offseason. Personal care is important. Our health is important. Our families and friends are important. Let’s make sure we don’t neglect these things. I encourage all of you to be a bit selfish with your time and do some things for yourself. We are all in the service industry and it’s hard to say no. But sometimes it’s required for our own health and wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Miller, PG  
Philadelphia PGA  
Instruction Committee Chair

### Instruction Committee

Chair: Andy Miller, PGA	Eric Handley, PGA
John Bierkan, PGA	Frank Hesson, PGA
Bob Crowther, PGA	Dan Merrell, PGA
Becky Dengler, PGA	Steve Wager, PGA
John Dunigan, PGA	

# Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

The The 2022 PAO season was a year where the program saw growth as the organization continues to trend upward. The PAO held several tournaments and educational events which were well-attended by our membership of 90-plus. As we conclude the year, a sincere thank you is necessary to those that make what we do as an organization possible: first and foremost, Geoff Surette and his talented Section staff, Conrad Radcliffe our generous partner, and our committed PAO board and committee contributors.

This year the PAO welcomed some new faces to the board and committee positions. Because of these individuals, the PAO is in tremendous hands moving forward. I would like to recognize the PAO board members who worked hard to make this year great: Andrew Turner, Brad Sanders, Cameron Small, and Tony Shields. Additionally, thank you to Jacob Woodman and Nate Eicher as they served as committee contributors. I appreciate your effort to help advance the PAO and make it great.

## **Tournaments: Chaired by Andrew Turner, PGA**

We can't thank Conrad Radcliffe enough for his generosity and support of the PAO through the years. Congratulations to all of our tournament winners this season, and best of luck to all the assistants traveling to Florida to compete in the National Car Rental Assistant PGA Professional Championship in November. We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all our host PGA Professionals for opening their doors and hosting a PAO event this year. Each year we are in search of host facilities, and we hope you will consider being a supporter in future. In addition to providing opportunities for assistants to gain valuable tournament experience, each PAO event is an invaluable opportunity for PAO members to meet new people, network, and enjoy camaraderie on the golf course. This year we also welcomed back the PAO season long match play tournament

which got the highest participation of any PAO event.

## **Communications / Mentoring: Chaired by Brad Sanders, PGA**

The PAO Patron Program which gives established PGA members the ability to sponsor their assistant professionals for PAO membership once again saw good results. Thank you to those that continue to support this program each year. Regarding communications, our largest goal was to improve how we communicate and engage with our membership. I am happy to report that with the use of regular email updates, and our overhauled social media platforms our message is now easily projected. Be sure to follow, like, share, and engage with us on social media to stay up to date on latest PAO happenings. The mentoring program continues to move forward as usual. We have a devoted group of PGA Members who are eager to assist anyone who needs a helping hand.

## **Education: Chaired by Cameron Small, PGA**

The PAO educational program was an area of tremendous growth and improvement in 2022. We kicked off the season at DuPont Country Club during the Spring Meeting where Mark Sheftic led a teaching and coaching seminar. Another featured educational opportunity which was very well attended was our Career Development Workshop. Industry leaders Jeff Kiddie, Scott Nye, Jim Smith, and Jonathan Gold shared their expertise and experience to help up and coming assistant golf professionals as they advance their careers. Finally, Dean Kandle of Golf Business Network and Golf Professional Growth hosted a seminar focused on "Leading and Succeeding in Your Job" by sharing tactics to become a successful leader, working more efficiently, and owning responsibility. As we once again enter the off-season, it is time to focus on bringing a new set of quality educational offerings to

# Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

our members. Stay on the lookout for what's coming next from our education committee!

## **Finance / Charity / Youth Golf: Chaired by Tony Shields**

Tony Shields and others led the important volunteer efforts to support PGA Reach affiliated programs which serve the three areas of youth, military, and diversity. Most notably, the PAO recruited fifteen members to participate in the PGA Works Youth Day held at Union League Liberty Hill. This was a terrific event organized by the Section to help expose underprivileged youth to the game of golf in a fun and engaging environment. Due to the efforts of the many volunteers, Section staff, and Liberty Hill staff the event was a huge success and subsequently set the bar for all future PGA Works events. This day was filled with smiles, laughs, and long-lasting positive memories for the kids and professionals alike. Additionally, members of the PAO have participated in the PGA Hope clinics held in both the Spring and Fall season. Giving back and supporting these various programs needs to be a primary focus for the PAO and its members.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support of the PAO and its mission. Reflecting on this season, there is so much to be proud of. Looking forward to next season, there is so much to be accomplished. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith J. Clawson, PGA  
PAO Co-Chair