



# PHILADELPHIA

**2024 Spring Membership Meeting**

RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve

## 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 of America Members and Associates who are employed at over 590 golf facilities in our region.

### Officers

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

### Board of Directors

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>District 1</b>           | Curtis Kirkpatrick, PGA               |
| <b>District 2</b>           | Michael Caldwell, PGA                 |
| <b>District 3</b>           | Jeffrey Breiner, PGA                  |
| <b>District 4</b>           | Mike Molino, PGA                      |
| <b>District 5</b>           | Thomas Michaels, PGA                  |
| <b>District 6</b>           | Scott Chisholm, PGA; Tom Gilbert, PGA |
| <b>Independent Director</b> | Eleanor Good                          |

### Central Counties Chapter

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| <b>President</b> | Andy Signor, PGA |
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### Philadelphia Assistants' Organization

|                  |                                       |
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| <b>Co-Chairs</b> | Brad Sanders, PGA; Patrick Shine, PGA |
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### Staff

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Executive Director</b>            | Geoffrey Surrette, 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>Member Services Administrator</b> | Sue Unger                                   |
| <b>Tournament Coordinators</b>       | Joe Sponheimer, Cassie Vogel, Zachary Zerbo |
| <b>Foundation Coordinators</b>       | Erin Martin                                 |
| <b>PGA WORKS Fellow</b>              | Lydia Victor                                |

## President's Report

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president since we last were all together at our 2023 Fall Membership Meeting. We had another mild winter and lots of golf was played. Even though the winter was not so bad, I hope you all got to take some time off to recharge the batteries and be ready for a busy 2024; there is so much to be excited about as we look into the future of the game.

At the PGA of America Annual Meeting in November last year, the Association was very close to eclipsing the 30,000 member mark, and since that time we have reached that number. However, an alarming number of our membership will be entering the retirement age window in the next 10-15 years. There has never been a better time to be a young person entering the golf business. We need to take this message to the next generation. The biggest issue I hear and we continually work on is recruitment of young talent into the golf business. However, compensation numbers continue to rise, the game is growing and our work-life balance is slowly improving. We need to make this clear to the future PGA of America Members we will need to secure and protect the game into the future.

It was great to see Jeff Kiddie and Johnny Carpineta presented with national awards at the Annual Meeting last year. I am so pleased to see both Jim Smith, Philadelphia Cricket Club (Bill Strausbaugh Award), and Dean Kandle, St. Davids G.C. (Professional Development Award) selected as national award winners for 2024. To have four national award winners in two years is quite an accomplishment. Well done, folks!

Our PGA HOPE footprint continues to grow as we now have 14 total locations in 2024. This is four more than we had in 2023. Within a week of registration opening 12 of the 14 were sold out. We are growing the game giving back and sometimes saving lives with this program. I know we are all busy but if you can volunteer to

help at a PGA HOPE clinic once or twice this year we would really appreciate it. These veterans served our country and having the chance to help them out is a true privilege. We run a spring and a fall program at the C.C. of Harrisburg, and I can tell you I have gotten way more out of volunteering for it than I have put into it. Funny how volunteering for great causes seems to always go that way.

Our educational programs continue to be well attended. The Rules webinars, Teaching & Coaching Summit, monthly Coaches Corner, and more are thriving. I am also pleased to say we had a great year with our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour in 2023 and things look to be even better for 2024.

This only touches on the great progress the Philadelphia PGA Section continues to see and none of it would be possible without you, our membership. Thanks to all of you who serve on a committee, host a junior tour event, help or host a PGA HOPE chapter, host a tournament, or serve in countless other ways. None of what we do works without the almost 900 of you who help. I also want to thank our Section staff for all they do for us every day. When we travel around to national meetings, we realize not many of the 41 Sections do what we do on the scale we do it.

It has been a great start to my two years as president, and I look forward to seeing more success stories and great things from this group. I appreciate the opportunity to serve, and thank you for all you continue to do to grow this great game.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G. "Chip" Richter, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section President

## Vice President's Report

Welcome to the 2024 season to my fellow PGA of America Golf Professionals. Since being elected in autumn, I've been busy serving you and your fellow members, and I'm excited for your continued trust in me as a Section officer.

The section continues to move forward and grow and it has been a pleasure to be a small part of this. Our section staff continues to do a wonderful job keeping our finances in order. There is a lot of hard work behind the scenes and my sincere appreciation for Geoff, Barb, and Sue for all they do for us every day on these matters.

Our forecasted budget for 2024 includes a net profit of \$42,457. This is obviously forecasted and things can change. Last year's net income (mainly from the junior department) allowed us to pay off an auto loan and as we continue to look into wise, short-term investment opportunities. The board voted unanimously to not increase dues, however the increase you'll see of \$25 is coming from the PGA of America. This was passed at the 2023 Annual Meeting, and it is their first dues increase in over 40 years. Of the over \$600 in annual dues you pay, only \$125 of that goes to national; the rest goes back to your Section.

I think it's important to share how the Section operates based on our revenue streams. There are three different buckets in our operations, not including PGA REACH Philadelphia, which are G&A, professional tournaments and junior golf. With our forecasted net profit, junior golf brings in \$147,000 in net revenue. This means without our junior tour operations being as successful as they are, your dues would only increase, and our Section Operations would fundamentally change.

The next big component is PGA REACH Philadelphia. We have a lot of opportunities to take advantage of to help fundraise and contribute to the foundation. Please take an opportunity to get involved, fundraise, play in the REACH pro-am, or simply volunteer for a PGA HOPE event.

Our restricted fund ended 2023 at a position of \$596,000. Our market value increased over \$45,000 last year, and we were able to replace the roof of our Section home and improve HVAC efficiency. Our board works closely with our team at Haverford to ensure we're in the best positions, and are currently evaluating our home office, high rate, short-term CDs and other financial investment vehicles to protect our assets. We also recently paid off an outstanding loan at a high interest rate to save interest.

Since the Fall Meeting, we attended the PGA

of America Annual Meeting in Frisco, Texas, as well as the PGA Show, and most recently the Super Regionals. At the Annual Meeting, finances were a big talking point, as the PGA of America laid off 22 employees, have had to insert themselves in the golf ball rollback talk, as well as the PGA Tour's global fight, and the PGA of America also unveiled a new logo. This is part of a larger marketing campaign and brand awareness campaign.

At the PGA Show, it was announced that Dean Kandle and Jim Smith Jr. are national award winners; congratulations! Lastly, at our Super Regional, Chip Richter and I attended and met all four candidates for PGA Secretary. Regardless of the outcome, we are confident the Association will gain a great future officer from one of the four candidates.

Don Rea is still doing his monthly conference calls, which I participate in monthly. He has started with a guest speaker for each call, and touches on the most pressing points each month. These calls have really opened up the lines of communication from national on down and enable us to keep you informed. A lot of discussions have revolved around PGA financials recently, and the changes in their department.

This year is a Hall of Fame year, and we will be accepting nominations through August 1. Our Women's Committee had a productive year in 2023. Thanks to Committee Chair Megan Spero, Bridget McLaughlin, Jenna Soranno, Becky Dengler, Sara Muldoon, and Courtney Curcio for serving on this committee.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as our vice president of this great Section. I continue to learn more every year and have enjoyed serving our members. Our Section staff is so well organized and they make our jobs so much easier. I really appreciate them and hope you do as well. Lastly, I hope you all have a wonderful season in 2024 and if I can help in any way please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Hennefer. 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: Eric Kennedy, PGA    Mike Meisenzahl, PGA  
Sam Ambrose, PGA    Kyle Miller, PGA  
Matt Finger, PGA    Joe Sponheimer  
Jamie Komancheck, PGA    Geoff Surrette, PGA

### Education Committee

Chair: Eric Kennedy, PGA  
Nick Iacono, PGA  
Dean Kandle, PGA  
Thomas Link, PGA

Brian Soule, PGA  
Andrew Surrette, PGA  
Tessa Teachman, PGA  
Mark Walder, PGA

Matt Walbert, PGA  
Chris Wegner, PGA  
Geoff Surrette, PGA  
Matt Frey, PGA

### Membership / Communications Committee

Chair: Eric Kennedy, PGA  
Jon Arthur, PGA  
Matt Bonanno, PGA

Jack Kelly, PGA  
Cameron Small, PGA  
Brent Wallace, PGA

Jameson Wallace, PGA  
Geoff Surrette, PGA  
Matt Frey, PGA

### Attained PGA Membership (as of 3/14/24)

Jake Armstrong, PGA    Evan Mitchell, PGA  
Jacob Chambers, PGA    J. Dani Steyn, PGA  
Grant Griffiths, PGA

### Achieved Half Century Status

Ed Dougherty, PGA

William Papa, PGA

Coleman Plecker, PGA

### Achieved Quarter Century Status

Keith Bless, PGA    Pete Korba, PGA  
Lee Gardenhour, PGA    John Lynch, PGA  
Joseph Gross, PGA    Patrick Shine, PGA  
Majorie Jones, PGA

### Achieved Senior Status

Brian Hecker, PGA

Ryan Kempfski, PGA

Andy Watters, PGA

### Deceased Members

Seth Abrahamson, PGA    Duane Lent, PGA

### First Time PGA Head Professional

Nate Eichner, PGA  
Brett Fernandes, PGA  
Jacob Gerney, PGA

Fred Heller, PGA  
Daniel Lewis, PGA  
Evan Mitchell, PGA

Parks Price, PGA

### New PGA Members to the Section

Carol Gossett, PGA    Lance Ohrberg, PGA  
Keven Horton, PGA    Michael Strain, PGA  
Nicholas Lemieux    Rich Smith Jr., PGA  
Daniel Lewis, PGA

### New PGA Associates to the Section

Marc Baffone  
Tommy Breslin  
Luke Farquhar  
Foster Haynes  
Alex Heydt

Jeff Kublin  
Riley Mostecky  
Alex Pillar  
Mark Roth  
Brendan Shay

Edward Smith  
Steven Stumpo  
Jason Teefy  
Kevin Wagner  
Ryan Woelfling

### Certified in Teaching & Coaching

Kyle Quagliero, PGA

## Director of Section Affairs' Report

The Director of Section Affairs oversees various committees including the Special Awards, Teaching & Coaching, and the PGA of America REACH Foundation 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.

### 2023 Award Recipients

Dustin McCormick, Golf Professional of the Year; Nick Iacono, Teacher & Coach of the Year; Eric Kennedy, Bill Strausbaugh Award; Brian Soulé, Professional Development Award; Mike Wood, Patriot

Award; Robert Munkittrick, Player Development Award; Becky Dengler, Youth Player Development Award; Sam Ambrose, Merchandiser of the Year – Private; Brian Short, Merchandiser of the Year – Public;

Fred Heller, Deacon Palmer Award; Bridget McLaughlin, Justin Riegel Assistant Golf Professional of the Year; and Kevin McClellan, Salesperson of the Year.

### Awards Committee

Chair: Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Matt Bonanno, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA  
Mike Caldwell, PGA  
Scott Chisholm, PGA

Chris Duckett, PGA  
Tom Gilbert, PGA  
Dean Kandle, PGA  
Curtis Kirkpatrick, PGA  
Dustin McCormick, PGA

Tom Michaels, PGA  
Mike Molino, PGA  
Sara Muldoon, PGA  
Brett Nelson, PGA

### PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee

Matt Bonanno, PGA  
Jeff Breiner, PGA  
John Carpineta, PGA  
Steve Frederick, PGA  
Jason Lamp, PGA

Bob Lennon, PGA  
Kyle Monahan, PGA  
Dan Mrozinski, PGA  
Sean Palmer, PGA  
Scott Reilly, PGA

Jenna Soranno, PGA  
Geoff Surette, PGA  
Steve Wager, PGA

### Teaching & Coaching Committee

Chair: Eric Handley, PGA  
Steve Chalmers, PGA  
Dom DiJulia, PGA

Meg Donohue, PGA  
Jim Parella, PGA  
Kelly Sanderson, PGA

Steve Sieracki, PGA  
Dave Zimmaro, PGA

I would also like to thank Geoff Surette, 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,

Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Director of Section Affairs

## Director of Tournaments' Report

As your new director of tournaments for the upcoming term, I first want to thank the Philadelphia PGA Section for their faith in me to handle the program over these next two seasons. Our committee has a unified goal of not only improving our Section's tournament season, but also focusing on the section's membership as a whole. Playing competitive golf at the level of competition our section has is one of the most exciting things a PGA

of America Golf Professional can experience. Our job is to make sure these events continue to remain at the highest level expected by our membership while also making sure that every professional regardless of skill level has a voice and an opportunity to compete as a PGA of America Golf Professional. I implore each one of you to reach out and get involved and I truly look forward to serving the Section tournament program for this upcoming term.

## Director of Tournaments' Report

We are blessed to be part of the finest section in the country and our tournament program is second to none. This is due, in large part, to our Section Tournament Director Brian Schulte, PGA, Executive Director Geoff Surette, PGA, and our amazing tournament and Section staff. These jobs are thankless positions, and we forget the hard work and hours that go into running our events week in and week out. The more involved I get the more I see their dedication and the time it takes to make our Section such a success. I beg every tournament player to take 60 seconds after your round to show your appreciation to our tournament staff. I promise it will not go unnoticed. Thanks to all the members of the Section for participating in our events and continually showing the rest of the country how strong a playing Section we have in Philadelphia. Our committee is dedicated to creating the best possible events on the best golf courses and identifying our top players. Thank you to all our amazing committee members for all of their hard work throughout the year. **2023-2024 Committee Members:** Joanna Coe, Braden Shattuck, Andrew Turner, Jeff Fick, Chris Gardner, Ben Debski, Jason Gebhart, Mike Caldwell, and Eric Kennedy.

**Thanks to our partners:** The amount of time that Geoffrey and our staff put into securing our sponsors for the season is a job that goes completely unnoticed and in truth without our partners our tournament program would not have the status it does within the nation. With major sponsors like Scott Hutchinson and Conrad Radcliff, it allows our Section's tournament program to expand and allows all of us to play for a large sum of money. The truth is that these sponsors are just looking for some exposure and appreciation. I understand we are competing, but it takes no time at all to give your attention to these event sponsors and show your appreciation. Please pay attention to your email following any event you compete in and shoot the host club and sponsors a quick thank you. It will take you five minutes and that appreciation goes a long way in securing future sponsorships in the future which will allow our tournament program to flourish.

**2023 recap:** A special thank you to all the facilities, their memberships and staff for hosting events this season. Our events would not be possible without great venues and accommodating memberships. Our tournament program is the best in the country, with some of the strongest fields and highest purses.

One of the most exciting highlights was our very own Braden Shattuck of Rolling Green G.C. winning the PGA Professional Championship. After competing in the 2023 PGA Championship, Braden has access to six PGA Tour events this season and we wish him the best of luck. If you look close in the Netflix documentary "Full Swing," Braden makes a star-studded cameo sitting next to Phil Mickelson and the PGA Champions Dinner. Braden, we wish you the very best of luck and hope all your dreams come true!

Among our other 2023 highlights we had an amazing two-person playoff for the Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic in May at Sunnybrook G.C., where Brian Bergstol held off Jeff Herb for the victory. Our second annual Silvercrest Cup was an absolute success and a heartfelt congratulations to Dave Pagett on his amazing 1-under par victory at Applebrook G.C. Lastly our Players Championship at Lookaway G.C. after being rescheduled due to the weather, Clubhouse 54's Mike Little took home the title at an impressive 7-under-par 65.

The Philadelphia PGA Section and its PGA Professionals thank our hosts, the C.C. of Scranton, and Elmhurst C.C. for our 2023 Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship. It's the first time we held our championship up in the north, and despite heavy rains, I know both clubs turned a lot of heads! The Section would like to thank their members, management, host PGA Professionals, and staff, as well as our partners, as the event would not have been possible without their support.

Congratulations to all our 2023 Section Champions: Zak Oakley, Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship and National Car Rental Philadelphia PGA Assistant Professional Championship; Rich Steinmetz, Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Championship, and Tessa Teachman, Women's Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship; on their consistently fine play. Special congratulations to our 2023 Player of the Year Braden Shattuck. **2024 forecast and changes...**

**Season Long Match Play Championship:** This format started last year and with the success in size of field we wanted to build on that, but felt it important to experience the true nature of a match play bracket so for 2024, the sweet 16 and elite eight matches are set for Trump National G.C. on Wednesday, September 18 and our semi and final matches will be played at Merion G.C. on October 2.

**New POY points structure for qualified**

## Director of Tournaments' Report

**events:** Starting this season we have three events that require consistent play throughout the season to qualify for. These events are the Silvercrest Cup, Players Championship and Pro-Am for Wishes. The committee has approved a set points structure for these three events that mimic the points earned for finishing position instead of our standard structure in one-day stroke play events. Our committee feels the importance of these events and hopes that these adjustments will reward players for solid consistent play over the season.

**Pace of Play Policy:** Based on trends that have been a consistent pattern over the past few seasons and our current participation levels. The committee is adjusting our pace of play policy on our hard card. In the upcoming weeks this will be finalized. Our goal is not to penalize, but to make players aware of their pace when behind and create

a more enjoyable day for the tournament field at whole.

Lastly, as a thank you, the members of the Philadelphia PGA Section for making this the best Section in the country to both play and work. As stated before, as a competitor within our Section, please show your appreciation to our sponsors and staff. It is so simple and so important. My door is always open, please reach out with any suggestions or concerns for improvement. I want nothing more than to leave the tournament program in a better place than when I started. Thank you for your support and here's to a successful 2024 golf season.

All the best,

Dustin McCormick, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Director of Tournaments

## Central Counties Chapter President's Report

I hope everyone has been healthy over our offtime this winter. We did get a little bit of a break this year versus last year but, it's not like it used to be!

A huge thank you to Sara Muldoon and everyone at Hershey C.C. for hosting our Spring Meeting. Hershey is such a wonderful and Iconic place, and we are excited to be here today!

It is a great honor to congratulate Brian Short, PGA, Penn State University G.C., for being awarded the 2023 Philadelphia PGA Section Merchandiser of the Year in the Public Category! It is also a huge honor to congratulate Dustin McCormick, PGA, Glen Brook C.C., for being the 2023 Philadelphia PGA Section Golf Professional of the Year! It is special for Chapter members to receive Section awards, let alone the highest award the Section has to offer! Congratulations Brian and Dustin!

Over the winter, the Chapter board has been busy again. We didn't make as many changes as last year but, we made a few smaller changes to ensure that the Chapter remains self-sustainable over the next few years. We discussed making an adjustment to the Senior portion of the pro-ams, however, after lengthy discussions with some Senior players, we did not make those changes. This year, our major change has to do with the Active Life Members. Due to the difficult times we are in right now, we have decided, with great discussions, to charge Active Life Members a dues fee of \$50 for the year. This will be imposed on any Life Member who plans on playing in any events. Unfortunately, this had to be done to keep us on budget.

Our change from the Raymond James Account to a Haverford Account was very big for us last year. When most people still didn't get out of the red, we were able to be in the black with our account. Thank you to Geoff and Barb for helping us this situated properly.

On the tournament side of things, as of this point in time, the schedule is a little bit light. We do have a few more facilities out there that are trying to find a date to host an event, which I am optimistic we will be able to accommodate. We are excited again to welcome the U.S. Women's Open back to the Philadelphia PGA Section and to the Chapter once again. I hope Rick and his Lancaster C.C. staff have a great time with this prestigious event!

Lastly, I'd like to send a big thank you to Geoff, Barb, and Sue at the Section office for helping me with the Chapter and all of the questions I have had over the last year or so. As always, you do most of the work and we are here as just a pretty face. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with you all to improve the Chapter, as a whole!

As this will be my last Chapter Spring Report, I am truly proud of the Board and all the hard work everyone has put into the last Chapter over the last two years. I am looking forward to a great 2024 season and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Signor, PGA  
Central Counties Chapter President



## Philadelphia Assistants' Organization Report

We eagerly await the 2024 golf season, and look forward to once again being together, playing golf, and doing what we love as PGA of America Golf Professionals. The Philadelphia Assistants' Organization (PAO) had a progressive year once again in 2023 and building on that success is our number one goal. Last year, PAO membership was up five percent from the previous year. Thank you all for your continued support of this organization, the more involvement we generate the stronger we become!

We would like to recognize our outgoing board member Tony Shields who has made significant contributions to the organization and moved to a support role this year. We also would like to recognize our PAO board member Nate Eichner in accepting a promotion to the PGA of America head golf professional position at the Philadelphia Cricket Club and Rob Singer in accepting a promotion to the PGA of America head golf professional at Union League Liberty Hill. These changes created an opportunity for other members to be involved in leading the PAO. We have had many assistants expressing interest in joining the PAO board and trying to get involved to make the coming years better and better. The 2024 PAO Board is as follows: Brad Sanders, co-chair; Patrick Shine, co-chair; Andrew Turner, tournaments; Kyle Jackson, communication; Jason Duckworth, charity; Christian Hoecker, education / mentorship; and Laura Schiavo, youth golf and finance.

The PAO Spring Meeting will be held in person on April 8 at Gulph Mills G.C. This event will feature a short meeting, an educational offering by the Philly Foursome, and will conclude with golf. Highlights of the upcoming season will be shared, we will have an open forum with Philly Foursome, and then partners will take to the golf course for some fun competition. We encourage all PAO members to register and attend as it is a terrific way to kick off the season.

**Tournaments:** We are looking forward to a fun year of tournaments centered around competition and camaraderie. As always, we will have our combined PAO events in conjunction with regular section events. Those combined events are the Delaware Valley Open, TaylorMade Classic, Conestoga Classic, William Hyndman III Memorial Classic, the Doylestown Open, and Jack Jolly Championship. There will also be some standalone PAO events, the season-long Match Play, Tour Championship, and National Car Rental Philadelphia PGA Assistant Professional Championship on the schedule. All in all, the schedule will have 16 events. Some new things this year will be an event at Doylestown C.C., this will be a PAO women's

pro-am. We are also introducing proximity contests which will, at minimum, have a pair of FootJoy Flex up for grabs at each event. Lastly, one of the most fun events of the year is the Independence Cup, in which the PAO plays against the aforementioned APA in a Ryder Cup style event. The PAO is looking to retain the cup back in Philadelphia this year after losing it to the APA in 2023. The Indy Cup will be played at TBD. Prior to the start of another year of PAO events, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to those that make what we do possible. Thank you to all of our host professionals/facilities, the Philadelphia PGA Section tournament staff, and our generous sponsors including Conrad Radcliffe. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity and support of those involved. Thank you!

**Education / Mentorship:** Christian Hoecker

PAO educational opportunities are crucial in preparing our assistants for current and future success in the industry. We will begin 2024's education at the PAO Spring Meeting by having some guest speakers (most likely the PHL4 instructors). These guys will go over in detail how they got to where they are today and have an open forum on teaching. Our goal for 2024 will be to bring in educational opportunities which attract our assistants to participate. Looking toward the summer and fall months, continued education on teaching & coaching will absolutely be a focus moving forward. Educating our assistants on the center of the business, teaching & coaching, is always going to help advance their careers. Another focal point of our educational opportunities will be to bring professionals from outside the industry that can talk about promotion into leadership roles and can help us develop skills to remain and thrive in leadership positions for years to come. The PAO is very proud of the quality education offerings in 2023, and we plan to continue to provide to our membership with these opportunities in 2024. Mentorship is something we feel we would like to upgrade and offer to the PAO membership in the 2024 season. Please look out for more details on this. If you have any suggestions for topics or know of someone who would like to be involved in bringing quality education offerings to our organization, please reach out to Christian Hoecker or any of the PAO board members.

**Communication:** The PAO is eager to continue to grow membership and increase overall involvement in 2024. In an effort to offer an engaging and rewarding membership experience, the more members who join and participate in our community the stronger it can become! Despite your background or your desired career path, the PAO is eager to welcome you to our organization to help you pursue

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your industry goals.

**Networking:** Throughout the years, the PAO has created a platform for introductions, helped strengthen networks, and fostered many friendships on and off the golf course. The PAO has developed a far-reaching network of past and present members. Assistant professionals who join and engage with our organization will surely be able to expand their personal network. Join and get involved today!

**PAO Patron Program:** Spring is the perfect opportunity for head golf professionals who put a premium on the self-improvement of their staff to take advantage of the PAO Patron Program. It allows head golf professionals to sponsor eligible staff members for PAO membership. By proxy, they can simply pay the annual PAO membership fee of \$100 for their assistant golf professionals. By sponsoring your assistants, they will be able to actively participate in tournaments, networking, education, and volunteer opportunities. In the spirit of professional growth, and a pay it forward mentality, we hope you will consider supporting the PAO Patron Program. For more information on this program, please visit the PAO tab or Section website or reach out to any of the PAO board members. Be sure to stay up to date on the current happenings of the PAO by visiting the Section website or by following along on social media. Regular updates related to our various events and programs will be highlighted on our official Instagram. Please check out our page @philadelphiaPAO1921 and like/share to help our following grow.

**Finance & Junior Golf:** This year, the PAO is committed to supporting the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour and other youth volunteer opportunities that are aligned with the Philadelphia PGA Section. There are so many great opportunities to give back including Drive, Chip, & Putt and the many programs underneath its umbrella. Giving back to the youth golf community is an important aspect of being a PGA of America Golf Professional. Please consider getting involved in our junior volunteer efforts this season. Help us mold the next generation of juniors!

**Charity & Mentorship:** This year, the PAO is committed to supporting charity and volunteer opportunities that are aligned with the Philadelphia PGA Section. There are so many great opportunities to give back including PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia and the many programs underneath its umbrella. Engaging and giving back to the golf community is an important aspect of being a PGA of America Golf Professional. Please consider getting involved in our volunteer efforts this season. Remember, the give is so much greater than the get!

We are continuing to offer instruction to our PGA HOPE veterans. The Section has 14 different

PGA HOPE chapters, each with four to five clinic dates in both the spring and autumn. If you haven't already, please register to be a PGA HOPE instructor via [PGAREACHPhiladelphia.com](http://PGAREACHPhiladelphia.com), or contact Foundation Director Courtney Curcio. Parlaying this, Tony Shields and I are looking to start a one on one program with PGA HOPE veterans. This program will offer a series of individual lessons with a veteran to make sure they get on course instruction as well as learning more about each veteran. We encourage all PAO members to become involved in the various programs that the Section has to offer. These programs include, PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia, PGA HOPE clinics, Drive, Chip & Putt events, golf marathons, and Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour events. You can find more information on these opportunities by visiting the Section website. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**PAO Mission Statement:** The purpose of the Philadelphia Assistants' Organization is to prepare the PGA of America assistant golf professionals of the Philadelphia PGA Section for future professional success as a PGA of America Member. We will give assistant golf professionals the opportunities to prepare themselves for the playing ability test, the PGA Golf Management program, the golf business, and future PGA of America Membership. This is accomplished with leadership, mentoring, support through education, networking, and tournament competition.

Thank you and we look forward to a great season in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Sanders, PGA  
PAO Co-Chair

## Executive Director's Report

I hope this note finds everyone doing well as we roll into another season. We finally had a little bit of winter so hopefully you had the opportunity to take a breath and enjoy time with friends and family. As you have hopefully read in the other officer and committee reports your Section officers, board, staff, and committees have been hard at work preparing for a successful 2024 season.

As you read in Bob Hennefer's report, we had a very successful 2023 season financially with a nice windfall at the end of the season. This gave us the opportunity to pay off our one outstanding vehicle loan so at this point we only have what's left on the mortgage for the office which sits at \$225,000. We had a decent year in our restricted fund and were able to pay for some capital expenses including a new roof and HVAC unit for the building. That account currently sits at \$612,000.

As we look at long-term planning, there have been conversations around what our homesite options could be. As we look at the value of the building is that equity better served by leaving it in the building or selling the building and putting the gains back into our restricted fund and go back to leasing space. As PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia and our internal team grows, we will most likely need some more space in the future, so we are currently looking at a few different options. We will keep everyone updated as those plans solidify. I would like to thank Barb Creveling for all of her work managing our day-to-day finances for both the Section and PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia!

We saw nice growth in the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour last season. Thanks again to Leilyn, Joe, Cassie and the entire tournament team for all of their hard work. One of the biggest highlights was our FUNdamental Tour and our partnership with Operation 36. We look to capitalize on that growth to solidify it as a continuous feeder system into the main tour. If you are hosting a junior tour event this season or have hosted in the past, we thank you for your support. Our junior tour is a major part of the growth of the game in our region as well as a major part of our operation as a Section. Please do whatever you can to support the program. Be a host, a marketer, a mentor or just an ambassador as you are the main connection to the kids that are the future of golf.

We have had a couple of staff changes going into the new season. Leilyn has moved on to take a position outside of golf administration. We wish her the best and thank her for all of her hard work. Cassie is going to be moving over to become our next PGA WORKS Fellow and working with the foundation and communications teams. This will

give more support to Matt and the communications department as well as support for our growing foundation programs.

With those changes it has given us the opportunity to look at our tournament team with some new perspective. Up until now I have kept a similar structure that fits into past operations and budget models. We have seen some turnover in the past five years, especially in our junior team and the demands on our tournament director on the professional side have continued to grow. Moving forward, Brian will oversee the Tournament Department with four team members that will have responsibilities on both the professional and youth side of our operation. I believe this will give support where it's needed, make the team more efficient and add valuable experience to the team members while making our bench deeper. Joe Sponheimer will move to senior tournament coordinator, and we will be welcoming Annie Borah, David Messina and Zac Zerbo to the team.

We are looking forward to another good year with our tournament program. That would not be possible without the work of Brian Schulte and the entire tournament team. It also wouldn't work without the support of our partners. Please take every opportunity to thank them for their support of our membership and programs.

A big thank you to all of our host facilities, and especially Scott Chisholm of Rolling Green G.C., Sam Ambrose of Chester Valley G.C. and their respective memberships for playing host to the 103rd Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship!

The PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia had our best season ever in 2023 and we are set for even more growth in 2024. The foundation team led by Courtney Curcio continues to grow our brand and the impact on our communities. As we expand to 14 PGA HOPE Chapters, please take the time to get HOPE certified and help out when you can. You will have a greater appreciation for the program and the veterans we serve when you do! As HOPE tends to be a bit of a flagship program for us we also continue to see incremental growth in all of our other impact programs including Golf in Schools, PGA Jr. League, Drive, Chip & Putt and our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships. Along with the programs we directly manage, we also support almost a dozen other programs and foundations that fit our mission. So, if you want to help make a difference please get involved. Hold a fundraiser, assist or host a program, or just be an ambassador of PGA REACH Philadelphia so that we can continue to impact lives

through golf.

Please take a few minutes to update your compensation profile. Joe Doughty is doing a great job heading up Career Services here in the Section, but data is power. The more information he has when we sit with a club or help a fellow professional with their contract negotiations the better it will be for everyone. Along those same lines if you haven't signed up for Deferred Compensation please do so. You are leaving money on the table that was never available to us before.

Thanks goes out to Sue Unger as she continues to work with all of you daily on membership issues along with managing the Chapter and herding all of the cats on all of the committees she is responsible for. Don't forget to stay up to date on your PDR points and send in any changes to your member profile as soon as possible.

Our communications department has never been better. Matt Frey has done a great

job at elevating what we do in communications and adding Cassie to his team will give him more bandwidth to continue that growth. Please be sure to send him any newsworthy items as we are always trying to tell our story to the masses, but we need your help to do it. We are working on a couple of new projects for the 2024 season to help elevate our brand and educate the public on just how amazing our professionals are.

In closing, I would like to thank our entire team again for all of their hard work and dedication. We sincerely appreciate the support we get from the officers, board, committees and all of you as we work to serve you the best we know how.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Surette, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Executive Director

## Teaching & Coaching Committee Report

Our Teaching & Coaching Committee is excited to serve the Philadelphia PGA Section membership with various learning and educational opportunities. Even though we are just entering the third month of the calendar year, the committee has been busy planning and supporting numerous events. I would like to thank all of them for their support thus far.

The first event was the North Coast Golf Show. This annual event is held in the greater Philadelphia area and promotes the game of golf and various golf vendors to golfers in the region. As part of this event, numerous PGA of America Golf Professionals stepped up to offer golf lessons to attendees of the event. The turnout to support this event was great, and also included a stage presentation by Dom DiJulia.

The second event that our committee helped support was presented by Dr. Alison Curdt and hosted by Joanna Coe at Merion G.C. Dr. Curdt is a PGA of America Master Professional and an LPGA Master Professional. While she teaches and coaches full-time, she also continues to play competitively and has her doctorate degree in clinical psychology. Her presentation to our membership included a discussion and resources devoted to overcoming golf performance trauma.

Our most recent event was the Spring 2024 Teaching & Coaching Summit. This event was to originally be held at Dupont C.C. However, due to the high number of sign-ups (70+), the host facility location changed to Penn Oaks G.C.. The morning portion of the summit began with a mix of panel discussions and sponsor presentations based upon using technologies within teaching and learning

environments. Afternoon presentations focused on integrating fitness programming to improve and support golfer performance. The event wrapped up with our keynote presentation from data analyst Lou Stagner. He was able to provide many useful insights from Shotlink and Arccos on-course data sets to help inform coaches and golfers on various golf play performance topics.

Our committee is excited to support all PGA of America Professionals via valuable educational opportunities. We are always open to suggestions as we look to providing more offerings as the season continues and into the fall.

Sincerely,

Eric Handley, PGA  
Teaching & Coaching Committee Co-Chair

Anthony Malizia, PGA  
Teaching & Coaching Committee Co-Chair

Dave Zimmaro, PGA  
Meg Donahue, PGA  
Steve Chalmers, PGA  
Jim Parella, PGA  
Dom DiJulia, PGA  
Kelly Sanderson, PGA  
Steve Sieracki, PGA  
Daniel Merrell, PGA  
Andy Miller, PGA

## Youth Golf Report

Thank you to everyone who continues to support junior golf within our section. Below are some highlights for the upcoming junior golf season. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with these offerings and consider introducing them to your facility.

**Drive, Chip & Putt:** The 2023 Drive, Chip and Putt season was a success for the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour. The tour saw 974 participants at the local qualifiers (up from 945 in 2022) and 227 participants at the sub-regionals. In 2024, our section will once again host 10 local qualifiers, two sub-regional qualifiers and one regional qualifier and will hopefully surpass the 2023 qualifier numbers. The qualifiers are open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Boys and girls compete in separate divisions over four age categories. For more information, please visit [drivechipandputt.com](http://drivechipandputt.com).

**Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour:** The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had 920 members in 2023 (an increase of 100 from 2022). There were 3,930 tournament rounds played (an increase of 475 rounds from 2022). We aim to exceed the 2023 numbers this season as we have once again partnered with Op36 to grow the FUNDamental Tour, in addition to our regular junior tour. The FUNDamental Tour is designed for boys and girls ages 7-18 who are beginning their journey into tournament golf. The FUNDamental Tour provides opportunities for those whose ability is in the growth stages. For more information about the FUNDamental Tour, please visit [phillyjuniortour.com/player-info/developmental-tour](http://phillyjuniortour.com/player-info/developmental-tour).

The junior tour would not be possible without the support of our host PGA of America Golf Professionals and facilities, and the Section would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who hosted events in 2023. The 2024 Junior Tour Tournament Schedule is currently on [phillyjuniortour.com](http://phillyjuniortour.com) and all events are open for registration. Our staff is finalizing FUNDamental Tour and fall events to complete the calendar.

**Youth Golf Partners:** Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board and Op36 Once Again Partner with the junior tour. Additional returning tournament partners for the 2024 season include adidas, Cobra/Puma, Golf Genius, Hurricane Junior Golf Tour, Mizuno, Notah Begay III, Penn State University Professional Golf Management, Precision Pro, Short Par 4, Under Armour, and US Sport Camps.

New partners for 2024 include Clippd, College Golf Experience, Laurel Springs School, Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour and Trophy Smack.

**Junior Tour Affiliate Program:** Motivate and inspire a new junior golfer at your facility by participating in the Junior Tour Affiliate Program.

Each year, you can give away a FREE Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour membership (valued at \$175) to a promising junior at your facility. The only restriction is that the free membership must be given to a new junior tour member, but golf professionals may award the membership however they wish. The junior tour recognizes Affiliate Member facilities on [phillyjuniortour.com](http://phillyjuniortour.com). Forty-nine facilities used their affiliate membership in 2023 (up from forty-one in 2022). PGA of America Golf Professionals are the best ambassadors for growing the Philly junior tour. Please consider adding a link to [phillyjuniortour.com](http://phillyjuniortour.com) to your facility's website.

**Additional updates for 2024:** The junior tour is committed to growing the game of golf. In 2024, the staff are taking steps to highlight our female members. There will be a two-day Girls Summer Championship, and in select events, staff will be placing girls divisions ahead of the boys divisions. In addition, the tour hopes to assist members with preparation for college golf. College prep resources have been sent to membership and local college coaches have been contacted to follow our junior golfers. If you have any junior golfers who are interested in playing college golf, please refer to the college resources page on our website at [phillyjuniortour.com/college-series/college-prep-resources](http://phillyjuniortour.com/college-series/college-prep-resources).

**Junior Golf Committee and staff:** I want to thank all Junior Golf Committee members: Jamie Komancheck, Kyle Miller, Matt Finger, Mike Meisenzahl and Sam Ambrose. I would like to thank our junior tour staff, interns and field staff for their time and effort toward the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour.

If you are not already hosting a junior tour event and would like to, please reach out to our staff. We are always in need of facilities. I know it is increasingly difficult to offer your facility, but a lot of the membership offerings from the Section are not possible without the Philadelphia Junior Tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Kennedy, PGA  
Philadelphia PGA Section Secretary

# 2024 Philadelphia PGA Spring Membership Meeting Agenda

## Monday, March 25 RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve Phoenixville, Pa. *(agenda subject to change)*

### Call to Order

*Patrick Shine, PGA*

### National Anthem

*Clark Luis, PGA*

### Sargent at Arms

### Invocation

*John Carpineta, PGA*

### Host Facilities Recognition

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Introductions

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Motion to Dispense

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Secretary's Report

*Eric Kennedy, PGA*

### Partner Recognition

*StickX*

### Special Recognition

*Jim Smith Jr., PGA, and Dean Kandle, PGA*

**2023 Awards:** *Player Development, Patriot, Youth Player Development*

### Partner Recognition

*Signature Golf*

**2023 Awards:** *APOY, MOYs, Deacon Palmer, Professional Development, SPOY*

### Break

### Breakout Discussions

### Partner Recognition

*Stitch*

**2023 Awards:** *Bill Strausbaugh, TOY, POY*

### Partner Recognition

*Precision Pro Golf*

### President's Report

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Executive Director's Report

*Geoffrey Surrette, PGA*

### Old Business

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### New Business

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Open Forum

*Chip Richter, PGA*

### Tournament Announcements

### Adjourn