



PHILADELPHIA

2024 Fall Membership Meeting Reports

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

President	Chip Richter, PGA
Vice President	Bob Hennefer, PGA
Secretary	Eric Kennedy, PGA
Director of Section Affairs	Anthony Malizia, PGA
Director of Tournaments	Dustin McCormick, PGA
Honorary President	Patrick Shine, PGA

Board of Directors

District 1	Curtis Kirkpatrick, PGA
District 2	Michael Caldwell, PGA
District 3	Jeffrey Breiner, PGA
District 4	Mike Molino, PGA
District 5	Tom Michaels, PGA
District 6	Scott Chisholm, PGA; Tom Gilbert, PGA
Independent Director	Ellie Good

Central Counties Chapter

President	Andy Signor, PGA
------------------	------------------

Philadelphia Assistants' Organization

Co-Chairs	Brad Sanders, PGA; Patrick Shine, PGA
------------------	---------------------------------------

Staff

Executive Director	Geoffrey Surrette, PGA
Assistant Executive Director	Barbara Creveling
Foundation Director	Courtney Curcio
Tournament Director	Brian Schulte, PGA
Communications Director	Matt Frey, PGA
Membership Director	Sue Unger
Senior Tournament Coordinator	Joe Sponheimer
Tournament Coordinators	Annie Borah, David Messina, Zach Zerbo
Foundation Coordinator	Erin Martin
PGA WORKS Fellow	Cassie Vogel

President's Report

Greetings Philadelphia PGA Friends,

As the first year of my Section presidency comes to a close, I cannot help but be grateful for the opportunity to be involved with this wonderful group. We have accomplished a great deal over the last year, and we are looking forward to another successful year in 2025.

We recently had our PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am at Laurel Creek, which was another successful event. As of the time of this writing, we are waiting on a few more partnership checks and invoices, but it looks like we will have raised over \$60,000 dollars to support our foundation. We now have 14 PGA HOPE chapters throughout the Section, and continue to grow the game amongst our youth, military and diverse populations impacting many lives via the game of golf.

Our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had another fantastic year. For those of you who hosted an event, allowed us some more starting times, or continued with a PGA Jr. League team, I would like to say thank you. We are constantly looking for more host facilities for these events. Most of the tournaments we have are sold out with waitlists, which is a good problem to have, however we would be happy to provide even more opportunities for youth golfers. I have two children who are now in their 20s, but both play golf and were introduced to the game by participating in PGA Jr. League. I have seen it with my own eyes: we are securing the future of this great game through our efforts.

Next week, the officers and I will be traveling to the PGA of America Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Don Rea will become the PGA's next president, and a new secretary will be elected. Every time I travel to these

meetings and meet with Section Officers from around the country, I continue to be fascinated by all that we get accomplished in our Section. This is almost entirely attributable to our Section staff, who do so much for us every year. Geoff and his crew continue to raise the bar, and I cannot thank them enough. One of my goals as president was to look at a long-term plan for our Section office. The reality is we have outgrown our current home in Lower Gwynned. When we moved in many years ago, we did not have nearly the programming or responsibilities we have now. There was no PGA REACH, PGA Jr. League, Drive, Chip & Putt, and so on. I suspect there will be more growth and programs in the future that we need to prepare for. All these programs have expanded our footprint, which has made us look at our home site needs for the future. We are far from finalized but we have a good idea what we want to be in the future and are looking at a lot of options. It is nice to be able to do this without being in a hurry. We want to get this right and secure a great future for our Section.

I hope you all can use the slower times of the season to recharge your batteries and spend some quality time with your family. The last two winters have been mild, and I know you are all ready for some rest. I hope you had a wonderful 2024 and look forward to having another successful year in 2025.

Best Wishes,

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

Vice President's Report

It is hard to believe we're here at the Fall Meeting; it seems like just yesterday we were kicking off the season! Time flew by this season! As your 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 Section office.

The vice president's role is to serve as the Section's finance and the Hall of Fame committee chairs. Your Section's financial position is strong and stable, and we are in a great position. This year, our team has done a great job with managing the budget, and as of August 31, 2024, our total budget is \$90,000 over budgeted income. This is in huge part to the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour; they were over budgeted income by \$45,750 so far. This goes a long way in healthy offseason conversations about future budgets and future dues conversations.

We get asked a lot about our finances, how we balance the budget, and bring in revenue. We can allocate our budget in a number of ways, but from a revenue standpoint, the junior tour contributes the most to the bottom line, and is one of the most important aspects of our business. Not counting PGA REACH Philadelphia, we have three departments where we manage our business: general and administration, junior tour, and professional tournaments.

G&A is where the bulk of the hard expenses come in, such as salaries, benefits, taxes, insurance, and supplies. This is offset mainly by ADP funding from the PGA of America and your PGA membership dues. Together, those revenue sources, along with some other contributions, total \$415,000 annually. The expenses associated with that department total \$572,000 annually. The junior tour balances this difference out by bringing in \$448,000 annually versus

spending \$277,000. And finally, our tournament department is budgeted, literally flat; money in equals money out.

There are a few ways we can offset our G&A expenses: increase revenue sources, run a healthy junior tour, or increase member dues. Each year, our board has serious conversations about revenue streams and possibly increasing member dues. I think it is important that every Section member understand how our financials are put together, where revenue streams derive, how we balance the budget, and how your PGA membership dues are utilized.

Thanks so much to any of you who hosted, volunteered or helped promote our junior tour in 2024. If you are able to host an event in 2025, we would love to hear from you. We understand tee sheets are still busy, and course access is incredibly demanding. We appreciate any and all availability you can give to the junior tour.

The other major financial piece is our Restricted Fund managed by Haverford. That account has added \$56,000 in value this year and currently sits at \$660,000. Your executive committee has invested a lot of time this season looking at our restricted fund and are having conversations about the total value compared to other Sections our size as well as our future business operations.

This is a Hall of Fame induction year, and I am excited to share that the Hall of Fame Committee has elected PGA of America Golf Professionals Jeff Kiddie and John Pillar to the Sections' Hall of Fame as the Class of 2024! They are the 47th and 48th members of the Hall of Fame.

Jeff Kiddie, PGA, the PGA head golf professional at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown

Vice President's Report

Square, Pennsylvania, was the recipient of the 2023 PGA of America Golf Professional of the Year award, which is the highest annual honor given to a PGA of America Golf Professional, awarded for leadership, strong moral character and a substantial record of service to the Association and the game of golf. He was the Section's first national Golf Professional of the Year.

John Pillar, PGA, the PGA director of golf at the Country Club at Woodloch Springs in Hawley, Pa., has consistently been one of the Philadelphia PGA Section's best players for years, and was named a Section Playing Legend in 2022. In addition to his playing accomplishments, Pillar has served the Association and Section in various capacities. He served on the PGA of America's Board of Directors as District Two director in 2020-2023, was Section president in 2014-2015. He has been in PGA governance either at the Section or National level since 2002.

Thank you to the Hall of Fame Committee for their hard work and dedication to serving!

I am sure the entire Executive Committee would agree we are fortunate to serve such a great group of PGA of America Golf 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!

Best Wishes,

Bob Hennefer, PGA
Philadelphia Section PGA 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 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. The following are the committees and their members.

Youth Golf: Chair Eric Kennedy, PGA; Sam Ambrose, PGA; Annie Borah; Matt Finger; Mike Meisenzahl PGA; David Messina; Kyle Miller, PGA; Joe Sponheimer; Geoff Surrette, PGA; and Zac Zerbo.

Education: Chair Eric Kennedy, PGA; Matt Frey, PGA; Nick Iacono, PGA; Dean Kandle, PGA; Thomas Link, PGA; Brian Soulé, PGA; Andrew Surette, PGA; Geoff Surrette, PGA; Tessa Teachman, PGA; Mark Walder, PGA; Matt Walbert, PGA; and Chris Wegner, PGA.

Membership / Communication: Chair Eric Kennedy, PGA; Jon Arthur, PGA; Matt Bonanno, PGA; Matt Frey, PGA; Jack Kelly, PGA; Cameron Small, PGA; Geoff Surrette, PGA; Brent Wallace, PGA; and Jameson Wallace, PGA.

The Philadelphia PGA Section would like to inform you of the following changes in membership since the 2024 Spring Meeting as of October 15, 2024:

Attained PGA of America Membership: Jacob B. Aaron, PGA; Ryan Broderick, PGA; Chris Colman, PGA; Cade Crossgrove, PGA; Brett M. Gulati, PGA; Nicolas McCook, PGA; Andrew Pierson, PGA; Gregory J. Rhoads, PGA; and

Brittany Weddell, PGA.

Achieved Quarter Century Status: David Coates, PGA; Brian Farrell, PGA; Jeff Kiddie, PGA; Darryl Lock, PGA; Chris Macdonald, PGA; John Spina, PGA; Kevin Wiest, PGA; and Joshua Zuder, PGA.

Achieved Senior Status: Mark Sheftic, PGA; and Steve Swartz, PGA.

Deceased PGA of America Golf Professionals: Stephen L. Barr, PGA; Anthony Cella, PGA; Larry Dornisch, PGA; John "Andy" Kistler, PGA; John Lubin, PGA; Dustin Wallis, PGA; Ronnie Ward, PGA; Jay Weitzel, PGA; and Audrey Ziff, PGA.

First Time PGA Head Golf Professionals: Bill Fromholzer Jr., PGA; Megan Leineweber, PGA; Bridget McLaughlin, PGA; Brad Sanders, PGA; and Robert Singer, PGA.

New PGA of America Members to the Section Since 2024 Spring Membership Meeting: Jacob Aaron, PGA; David Altemus, PGA; George Ancuta, PGA; Cade Crossgrove, PGA; Matthew Davis, PGA; Brett Gulati, PGA; Dan Hammell, PGA; Megan Leineweber, PGA; Bryan Mattingly, PGA; Parker McNitt, PGA; John Mlynarski, PGA; Victoria Newbury, PGA; Bruce Olson, PGA; Steve Peterson, PGA; Michael Rinker, PGA; Todd Roy, PGA; Richard Smith Jr. PGA; Carson Sparks, PGA; Eric Spiedel, PGA; Brett Walker, PGA; and Ronald Webb, PGA.

New PGA of America Associates to the Section Since 2024 Spring Membership Meeting: Mike Bair, Austin Barbin, John Colbert, Matthew Dolan, Joel Elder, Nathan Farnsworth, Cesar Tomas Fortson, Shawn Gensbauer, Leonard Gipson, Jackson Guipe, Tyler Henning, Roman Hnatiu, Andrew Howard, Bradley Kantner, Zak Karlton,

Secretary's Report

Nick Klee, Daniel Krauss, Lucas LaCava, Shane Long, David Maser, Ryan Matusiewicz, Liam McAnally, Michael McCrossin, Connor Moore, James Nabial, Tucker Noel, Sean O'Keefe, Christopher Piemonte, Curtis Reese, Andrew Schoenblum, Frederick Seabright, Jascob Shockley, Caleb Wilson, and James Wilson.

Earned PGA of America Master Professional Status: Matthew Keller, PGA.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Kennedy, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Section Secretary

Director of Section Affairs' Report

The Director of Section Affairs oversees various committees including the Awards, Instruction and PGA REACH Philadelphia Committees. The role helps to create programs and opportunities for the PGA of America Golf 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 of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia: PGA of America REACH Foundation 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.

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Committee: Matt Bonanno, PGA; Jeff Breiner, PGA; John Carpineta, PGA; Courtney Curcio, Steve Frederick, PGA; Matt Frey, PGA; Jason Lamp, PGA; Bob Lennon, PGA; Mike Little, PGA; Kyle Monahan, PGA; Dan Mrozinski, PGA; Sean Palmer, PGA; Scott Reilly, PGA; Jenna Soranno, PGA; Geoff Surrette, PGA; and Steve Wager, PGA.

Awards: The Special Awards Committee will meet virtually in mid-December to select the 2024 Special Awards winners, and list below are the winners for each category: Golf Professional of the Year, Teacher & Coach of the Year, Youth Player Development Award, Justin Riegel Assistant Golf Professional of the Year, Merchandiser of the Year - Private Category, Merchandiser of the Year- Public Category, Merchandiser of the Year - Resort Category, Professional Development Award,

Bill Strausbaugh Award, Player Development Award, Patriot Award, Deacon Palmer Award, and Salesperson of the Year.

Awards Committee: Matt Bonanno, PGA; Jeff Breiner, PGA; Mike Caldwell, PGA; Scott Chisholm, PGA; Chris Duckett, PGA; Tom Gilbert, PGA; Curtis Kirkpatrick, PGA; Anthony Malizia, PGA; Dustin McCormick, PGA; Tom Michaels, PGA; Mike Molino, PGA; and Sara Muldoon, PGA.

Coaching / Instruction Committee: Chair Eric Handley, PGA; Steve Chalmers, PGA; Dom DiJulia, PGA; Meg Donahue, PGA; Jim Parella, PGA; Kelly Sanderson, PGA; Steve Sieracki, PGA; and Dave Zimmaro, 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,

Anthony Malizia, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Director of Section Affairs

Director of Tournaments' Report

The Philadelphia PGA Section had another successful season with some of our largest participation in the Section's history and amazing support from all our sponsors. I would like to thank every PGA of America Golf Professional in our Section for their participation this year. Our success would be impossible without everyone's support.

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 widely considered the best and strongest 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. I would also like to thank the rest of the Section staff for the long hours and hard work put in to make our events the best in the nation. As players we are on the property for four-to-six hours, but our staff is there from sunrise until dusk at every event all season long!

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. Retaining our current partners as well as creating new opportunities are vital to our success.

A special thank you to two of our largest partners, Scott Hutchinson and Conrad Radcliff, who support our tournament program, REACH foundation and the Philadelphia Assistants' Organization. A special thank you to Alan Gray and the team at Silvercrest Asset Management

Group for the creation of the Silvercrest Cup. Their level of support for all these programs in amazing, and it gives our Section PGA Professionals the opportunity to compete in elevated purse events, and also gives massive levels of fundraising support for our Section.

A special thank you to our host facilities for our Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, Rolling Green Golf Club and Chester Valley Golf Club. These two courses proved to be a very difficult test for the 150 PGA Professionals over three days. Thanks to PGA Director of Golf Scott Chisolm and PGA Head Professional Sam Ambrose for their hospitality and for running such a quality event.

Some of our biggest highlights this year included Zak Oakley qualifying for the PGA Championship as he finished inside the top 20 at this year's PGA Professional Championship, and also Joanna Coe for qualifying, competing and winning on the United States' Women's PGA Cup team. It was amazing to watch one of our own, Braden Shattuck, competing in PGA Tour events after his victory at the PGA Professional Championship last season. Shattuck also earned Low Club Professional honors at this year's PGA Championship.

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 national championships. Congrats to Brett Walker on his victory in our Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship and for his outstanding play throughout the season.

Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion: Brett Walker. **Qualifiers:** Braden Shattuck, Brian Bergstol, Mike Meisenzahl, Trevor Bensel, Rusty

Director of Tournaments' Report

Harbold, Terry Hatch, Dave Quinn, Jeff Herb, Zack Oakley, Terry Hertzog, Adrew Turner and Dave Pagget.

Philadelphia Senior PGA Professional Champion: John Pillar. **Qualifiers:** Rich Steinmetz, Brian Kelly, Eric Kennedy, George Forster, and Chris Kruger.

Philadelphia Assistant PGA Professional Champion: Zach Barbin. **Qualifiers:** Brian Bergstol, Rob Fenton, Rusty Harbold and Trevor Bensel.

Women's Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion: Joanna Coe.

Season highlights: The 2024 season was filled with plenty of highlights including an amazing playoff for the first-place prize of \$100,000 in the Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic, which was won by John Pillar in dramatic fashion. Our season-long Match Play Championship format change has shown great success in participation. We also had multiple course records set during Section events just to show how great and deep the talent level of our section has become over the past few seasons. There is no doubt our top 10 players could outperform any section in the nation!

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

Tournament Committee: Braden Shattuck, Joanna Coe, Andrew Turner, Ben Debski, Jeff Fick, Chris Gardner, Eric Kennedy, Michael Caldwell and Jason Gebhart.

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

Lastly, it has been an honor to represent the section as director of tournaments this season and I look forward to making more improvements in the upcoming year!

Have a safe and happy offseason.

Dustin McCormick, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Director of Tournaments

Central Counties Chapter President's Report

First, I want to thank everyone in the Central Counties Chapter for trusting me to serve as your Chapter president over the last two years. I believe, with the changes that have been made by myself and this board, the Chapter is in a place where it will be able to survive for several years to come. These slight changes could not have been made without the board and of course, you, the Chapter members. I have had a lot of guidance over the years, and I'd like to thank those people who have helped me, as it has not gone unnoticed. It has truly been an honor to serve on the Chapter board over the last several years.

A huge thank you to all our 2024 Chapter partners, and to everyone that hosted a pro-am this season. A special thank you to Hershey Country Club for hosting our Spring Membership Meeting, Schuylkill Country Club for hosting our Fall Membership Meeting, the Country Club of Harrisburg for hosting our Chapter Championship, and Berkleigh Golf Club and Moselm Springs Golf Club for hosting our Points Championship. We are truly lucky to have these great venues in the Chapter and we are very fortunate for all the facilities to open their doors to us as it is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, for this year, we had to cancel a few events for unforeseen reasons but we plan on having those events on the schedule again next year. We appreciate the continued support of the Chapter and participation in these events, as that is how we stay afloat, and run the Chapter without having to "dip" into our Haverford Fund.

Financially, it looks like we had a very good year. Our membership numbers were up, our participation numbers were up, and our Haverford account was up as well. With the changes we made a couple of years ago, we have covered

our costs for the Chapter, for the second year in a row. I really hope this trend continues so we can be self-sustaining once again. For this to continue, we need Chapter members and participation in Chapter events. The mission of the Chapter is to provide playing opportunities to those PGA Professionals in the central portion of Pennsylvania. Please help keep the Chapter an asset to the Philadelphia PGA Section by continuing to support the Chapter.

As always, I'd like to send a big thank you to Geoff, Barb and Sue at the Section office for help guiding me through my term as president. Everyone knows, you guys do most of the work and I am just here as just a pretty face.

Lastly, again, thank you all for your support. From the very beginning, when I was a district director, until now, I have had great guidance from everyone. So once again, Thank You!

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Signor, PGA
Central Counties Chapter President

Philadelphia Assistants' Organization President's Report

The 2024 Philadelphia Assistants' Organization (PAO) season saw more growth as the organization continues to get more members and transition into the organization, we are hoping it becomes. It was great to see our membership number grow again this season from 80 in 2023 to 86 in 2024. The PAO held a couple tournaments, socials, and educational events which were well-attended by our membership of eighty 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 the Section staff, our generous partner Conrad Radcliffe, 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, Christian Hoecker, Kyle Jackson, Laura Schiavo and Jason Duckworth. Additionally, thank you to Rocco Sgrilo, Nathaniel Martin, Ryan Boitz, Tony Shields, and Tessa Teachman 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.

Communications: Chaired by Kyle Jackson. 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. We have been also having multiple skins matches and socials during the year.

Education / Mentorship: Chaired by Christian Hoecker, PGA. The PAO educational program will ramp up this Fall / winter when PGA Professionals have more time to give back and go to some of these events. We will try and get guest speakers at each of the events to mix it up some and not be like your typical education events from the past years. We kicked off the season at Gulp Mills during the Spring Meetings where some members of the PHL4 lead an open discussion on their personal careers, development as teaching professionals, and teaching approaches.

Charity: Chaired by Jason Duckworth, PGA.

Philadelphia Assistants' Organization President's Report

Jason Duckworth and others led the important volunteer efforts to support PGA REACH-affiliated programs with serve the three areas of Youth, Military, and Diversity in events all season long. Different PAO members got involved with multiple PGA REACH and PGA HOPE clinics throughout the season which is a great way to give back. Giving back and supporting these various programs needs to be a primary focus for the PAO and its members.

Junior Golf and Finance: Chaired by Laura Schiavo, PGA. Laura Schiavo and others lead the important volunteer efforts to support the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour. Giving back and supporting these various programs needs to be a primary focus for the PAO and its members. Laura also made sure that all financials were in order and we budgeted correctly in all areas of our operation.

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,

Brad Sanders, PGA
Philadelphia Assistants'
Organization Co-Chair

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Report

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Committee: Chair Anthony Malizia, PGA; Sean Palmer, PGA; Matt Bonanno, PGA; Steve Frederick, PGA; Jeffrey Breiner, PGA; Johnny Carpineta, PGA; Gerry Davis, PGA; Jason Lamp, PGA; Bob Lennon, PGA; Michael Little, PGA; Kyle Monahan, PGA; Dan Mrozinski, PGA; Scott Reilly, PGA; Jenna Soranno, PGA; and Steve Wager, PGA.

PGA Jr. League: 2024 Section qualifier host: Philmont Country Club (East Division) and Honeybrook Golf Club (West Division); 2024 Section championship host: Doylestown Country Club (13U) and Dupont Golf Club (17U). The winners from the Section Championship were Delaware Beach 13U team (led by Corey Phillips, PGA) and Dupont Team 17U (led by Matt Finger, PGA) teams both advanced to Regional Championship in early September.

PGA HOPE Philadelphia: In total, PGA HOPE has 15 programs, with 80% of them being 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., Andrew Pierson, 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; Saucon Valley C.C., Mike Wood, PGA; Regents Glen G.C., Kyle Hess, PGA; and Woodloch Springs G.C., John Pillar, Carlisle Barracks, Matthew Hoffman, PGA; Lehigh C.C., Joshua Trembley, PGA; Honeybrook G.C. & The Golf Zone, Harry Hammond, PGA; Makefield Highlands C.C., Ed Gibson, 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 continue to partner with the Golf Association of 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 65 different schools/districts in 2024 with 12 additional schools implementing the program in the Cherry Hill School District.

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 2024, PGA REACH Philadelphia awarded six additional scholarships, bringing our total to 49 scholarship recipients. We have started to give out a smaller version of the scholarship to the First Tee of Philadelphia & Delaware where program participants receive 2 tournaments and a membership each year.

Youth Mentorship: 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, 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 Fellowship: 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

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Report

or Veteran status—into the golf industry to gain experience in all facets of the golf industry. In 2024, we have hired two PGA WORKS Fellows. Lydia Victor will finish up her fellowship mid-September and Cassie Vogel will continue her fellowship through April 2025.

Putter Raffle: At the end of 2023 we started a PGA HOPE Putter raffle where clubs were able to raise funds to support PGA HOPE locally selling \$20 boxes and raffling off Scottie Cameron putters. In total we had 35 clubs participate and raised over \$40,000. We have now made this a season-long fundraiser for clubs to participate and will open it up starting at the Fall Meeting.

Golf Marathon: As of September 16, 2024, we have raised over \$25,000 through the golf marathon so far. A special thank you to the staff at Gulph Mills Golf Club, Gangemi Family, and Bellewood Country Club so far for conducting the marathon. Thank you to all the PGA Professionals who participated, we could not have done this without your help. We are also finalizing a partnership with The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to have a combined marketing plan in 2025 for golf marathons.

Pro-Am: This is the fifth year for our annual PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am Championship, with the event taking place on September 30th at Laurel Creek Country Club. Proceeds raised from this event will go toward supporting PGA REACH Philadelphia programs and services for youth, military, and diversity groups. Thank you to Bob Hennefer, PGA, and his staff at Laurel Creek for hosting and for all the PGA Professionals who have taken part in the event, your support is greatly appreciated.

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 \$20,000.

PGA HOPE Philadelphia Cup: Our second annual PGA HOPE Cup presented by MedEast took place at Riverton Country Club. Twelve teams from each chapter location brought 1 PGA Professional and four Veterans to compete to move on to the PGA HOPE Secretary's Cup that takes place during the PGA Championship each year. The winning team came from Country Club of Harrisburg with Chip Ritcher, PGA, leading the team. Thank you to our board member, John Blasovich for helping make the event a success.

Silvercrest Cup: The Philadelphia PGA Section and Silvercrest Asset Management Group partnered to create the Silvercrest Cup. 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. While the Silvercrest Cup rewards playing excellence of Philadelphia PGA Professionals and top amateurs, the series also provided significant donations of \$10,000 to the Philadelphia PGA Section's 501(c)(3) charitable foundation, PGA REACH Philadelphia, and the GAP's J.Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony Malizia, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Director of Section Affairs

Youth Golf Report

I would like to thank our entire youth golf team for their hard work this season. Last year the committee tasked this department with increasing the number of events and we're happy to share the success of this season. They are hardworking and deserve our gratitude for their dedication all season long. They put in long hours, are on the road constantly but are doing great things!

The youth golf team has a really cool responsibility of helping shape the future of golf. Our Section hosts over 4,300 junior tour rounds of golf. These junior players are future collegiate, elite amateur, professional players, or simply utilizing golf as a part of their future career. Either way, they will have lasting memories for a lifetime from their experiences on our Junior Tour. We could be hosting our last junior event of the season, but it could be someone's very first tournament or experience with golf. We have the ability to impact that young person's life!

The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour is pleased to have continued its success with the 2024 season. Eighty-five junior tour events were scheduled between the months of March and November. 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 2024 season:

- 911 total memberships (as of 10/4/24) vs. 849 in 2023
- Third year of the FUNdamental Tour: 60 memberships (56 in 2023); 163 total entries (122 in 2023); 14 events compared to eight in 2023
- Only 32 facilities took advantage of the free affiliate membership in 2024; only 49 facilities in 2023
- Seven new facilities hosted or had agreed

to host a junior tour event in 2024

- 4,372 tournament Applications as of 10/4/24 (507 additional entries waitlisted) (Lost 5 scheduled events due to weather)
- 3,391 Tournament Applications in 2023 by Oct. 1
- 19 events ranked nationally by AJGA and/or JGS compared to six last year
- 10 Drive, Chip & Putt local qualifiers held 951 total participants in 2024; 974 total participants in 2023
- One of the biggest highlights of the 2024 season was our participation, with 911 members we had a total of 4,372 registrations over the course of the season. We also had 507 registrations waitlisted for our events. We are averaging roughly 55 confirmed players per event during the 2024 season. We are planning on increasing tee time windows, or having more two tee/shotgun events for the upcoming season to get as many players off the waitlist as we can. New in 2024, the FUNdamental Tour will be hosting fall events for the first time in the tour's history.
- The junior tour also had a total of 15 participants who qualified for the regional qualifier we had on September 21st at Aronimink Golf Club

What it takes to host a Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour event: Two-to-four hours of tee times at the time of the facility's choosing, weekends during the spring and fall (\$25 a player we pay the facility), weekdays in the summer (donation of tee times). We bring everything we need to host an event, nothing needed from the course day of event. We do not need the course for the whole day, have member play before & after groups go off. Can run day to day golf course operations, we play around all grounds crew and maintenance Golf course's involvement

Youth Golf Report

on day involvement is very minimal.

With such an active program with an incredible number of tournaments on the schedule each season, it is critical to have the support of golf 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 financial success of the Junior Tour depends on PGA Professionals and your facilities, thank you!

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, Op36, Gatorade, Cobra Puma Golf, Precision Pro Golf, Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board, Nike Junior Golf Camps and Under Armour/Gear for Sports.

46th Junior Tour Championship at Chester Valley G.C.: Boys 16-18: Christopher Sung, 7;3
Boys 13-15: Frederick Hartmann, 75; Girls 16-18: Sophia DeSantis, 86; Girls 13-15: Hannah Webb, 82; 12 & Under: Taimoor Naseem, 39.

Junior PGA Championship at Bellewood C.C. (Boys) / Northampton C.C. (Girls) : Boys 13-18: Michael Henry, 139 (71, 68); Girls 13-18: Pinxi Chen, 150 (79, 71).

Harry Hammond Invitational at Penn Oaks G.C.: Boys 16-18: Nicolas Gaughan, 72; Girls 16-18: Sophia DeSantis, 78.

12 & Under Championship at McCall G.C.: Gavin Lane, 35.

Under Armour Jon M. Pritsch Cup at Somerset

Hills C.C.: New Jersey PGA 11 - Philadelphia PGA 7.

Congratulations to all of our junior tour winners! I would like to thank our entire Junior Tour Staff especially, Joe Sponheimer, Senior Tournament Coordinator; Zac Zerbo, David Messina, and Annie Borah for their dedication to the tour this past year. I look forward to their continued success!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Kennedy, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Section Secretary

Teaching & Coaching Report

This has been another remarkable year for the golf community, with significant growth in participation and interest. The Philadelphia PGA Teaching & Coaching Committee has been actively engaged in promoting the sport and enhancing coaching methodologies through various initiatives, including the highly successful Coaches Corner series.

Popularity of golf in 2024: Golf continues to experience a surge in popularity across the United States. Key statistics highlight this trend: **Rounds Played:** Over 531 million rounds of golf were played in 2023, marking the fourth consecutive year with more than 500 million rounds. **New Golfers:** In 2024, 3.4 million people played golf for the first time, continuing the trend of over 3 million new golfers each year. **Participation:** Approximately 45 million people, or 11% of the U.S. population, engaged in golf activities, whether on-course or off-course.

These figures underscore the growing appeal of golf, driven by its accessibility. They highlight the importance of our PGA Professionals having access to learn about best practices in teaching and coaching.

Coaches Corner series: The Coaches Corner series has been a cornerstone of our committee's efforts to provide ongoing education and inspiration to our members. This monthly series features renowned guest presenters from around the world, offering insights into various aspects of golf coaching and teaching. A few of this year's presenters included: Brandon Stooksbury, Eric Cogorno, Lou Guzzi, Michael Breed, and James Siekmann.

Each session has been well-received, with positive feedback from participants. The diverse range of topics and perspectives have helped

to enrich our coaching community. Upcoming presenters include Iain Highfield, Peter Arnott, and Stuart Morgan.

Section Teaching & Coaching Summit: We are thrilled to announce the upcoming Section Teaching & Coaching Summit, scheduled for February 12, 2025, at Llanerch Country Club. This summit will bring together top teaching professionals and coaches for a day of intensive learning and networking. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in presentations, panel discussions, and hands-on sessions led by some of the most respected figures in the golf industry. This event promises to be an invaluable experience for all who attend, offering fresh insights and practical strategies to elevate their coaching practices.

The Philadelphia PGA Teaching & Coaching Committee remains committed to supporting the growth and development of golf through innovative programs and initiatives. The popularity of golf continues to rise, and our efforts, particularly through the Coaches Corner series and the Teaching & Coaching Summit, play a crucial role in enhancing the skills and knowledge of our members. We look forward to building on this success in the coming year.

Teaching & Coaching Committee: Chair Eric Handley, Anthony Malizia, Dave Zimmaro, Meg Donahue, Steve Chalmers, Jim Parella, Dom DiJulia, Kelly Sanderson, Steve Sieracki, Daniel Merrell, and Andy Miller.

Sincerely,

Eric Handley
Philadelphia PGA Teaching
& Coaching Committee Chair

Fall Membership Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 28

Medford Village Country Club

Call to order

National Anthem

Invocation

Sergeant at Arms

Host Facility Recognition

Introductions

Motion to Dispense

Special Recognition:
Jim Smith Jr. and Dean Kandle

Secretary's Report

Partner Recognition: Cobra/Puma

Hall of Fame Recognition:
Jeff Kiddie and John Pillar

PGA Show Recognition

PGA of America Report

Partner Recognition: GolfForever

Tournament Awards

Break

Wilson Smith Golf League

Partner Recognition: Motocaddy

Education: Lauren Chisholm

Jennings PGA Golf Management Scholarship

President's Report

Director's Report

Partner Recognition: Signature Golf

Old Business

New Business

Election

Open Forum

Tournament Announcements

Adjourn