



PHILADELPHIA

2025 Spring 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, Meron Yemane

Central Counties Chapter

President	Jeff Breiner, PGA
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Philadelphia Assistants' Organization

Co-Chairs	Andrew Turner, PGA; Patrick Shine, PGA
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Staff

Executive Director	Geoffrey Surrette, PGA
Assistant Executive Director	Barbara Creveling
Foundation Director	Courtney Curcio
Communications Director	Matt Frey, PGA
Tournament Director	Luke Montalbano
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 Members and Associates,

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president since we last were all together at our 2024 Fall Membership Meeting. The good news about the winter of 2024-2025 is it did not have a lot of snow, but it sure was cold in January and February. The 2025 PGA Show saw record attendance, and all the metrics point to continued growth in the game this year. There is so much to be excited about as we look into the future of the game.

At the PGA Annual Meeting in November last year, we were again thrilled to see two Philadelphia PGA Members win national awards. Congratulations to Jim Smith Jr. and Dean Kandle for your well deserved recognitions, the Bill Strausbaugh and Professional Development Awards, respectively. We also elected a new secretary in Eric Eshleman; Nathan Charnes is now our vice president, and Don Rea became our president. We are in very good hands at the national office and should be very optimistic about the future.

The biggest, or at least most often asked question I get as your president, is about employment. I look on the job boards often and there are a lot of openings. This is not unique to our section, but it is still a problem. We are seeing more young people getting into the business than 5-10 years ago, but not enough. Interestingly enough, 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 Members we will need to secure and protect the game into the future.

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful Section Staff led by Geoff Surette. Luke Montalbano has just joined us as our tournament diirector coming to us from the Sun Country Section and I think he is going to do a great job. Welcome Luke!

I am pleased to report we have completed the purchase of our home office, so we are now homeowners. This was a major accomplishment and made all the financial sense in the world to make this change. In other news, we have extended Geoff Surrettes contract to keep him around for a good while. Geoff has done an amazing job for us and I am thrilled he will continue leading our staff and membership.

Our PGA HOPE footprint continues to grow as we now have 14 total locations in 2025. Within a few weeks of registration opening many 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 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. As John Pillar said at our awards celebration, if you see a veteran, thank them.

Our educational programs continue to be well attended. The Rules Seminars, Teaching and Coaching Summit, monthly Coaches Corner

President's Report

and more are thriving. I am also pleased to say we had a great year with our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour in 2024 and things look to be even better for 2025.

This only touches on the great progress the Philadelphia PGA 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 on 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 everyday. When you travel around to national meetings you 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 President

Vice President's Report

Welcome to the 2025 season! I hope everyone has gotten some rest this offseason with the snow and colder temps. We are just as excited as you are to get on the course!

This offseason certainly has been busy behind the scenes. A special thanks to Barb, Geoff and Sue, as well as the entire staff for all they do for us! Please help me in welcoming Luke to our Section as our new tournament director! We're excited for him to join the team.

This offseason, we've had a few updates that I would like to share. First, we officially own our Section headquarters! With a refinance on the horizon, and an increase in interest rates coming, our board made the decision to pay off the balance of the mortgage of our building. This is an exciting time for us, and I want to especially thank Barb for collecting all of the information for us to make that decision, and for her working with the bank to take care of business.

Second, our PGA Championship Committee has met a few times, and we have met with Championship Director Ryan Ogle on the upcoming PGA Championship at Aronimink in 2026. Mark your calendars for the week of May 11-17, 2026; WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP! Our Section is responsible for a lot of volunteer hours, including some unique opportunities to be inside the ropes and on the range. We will have more information this year, but save the date and help make our Section shine for this championship.

Third, we need your help with the PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia. After our budget passed, we were informed by PGA of America that we will not be receiving all of the funding we were anticipating for the foundation. This is part of a national process of trying to

balance their budget, and our District is affected by approximately \$150,000. We will need your assistance in fundraising! Please consider hosting a marathon, a putter raffle, or donating your time to a HOPE program. Reach out to Courtney, and she will help you find a program to volunteer.

Our forecasted budget for 2025 includes a net profit of \$10,000. This is obviously forecasted and things can change. The Board of Directors voted to increase dues by five percent for the first time in three years. This increase will equate to \$25.20 for a Class A PGA member. Of the over \$600 in annual dues you pay, only \$125 of that goes to national, the rest goes back to your Section. The board also voted to increase Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Membership dues \$20. There are no increases to tournament entry fees for professional or youth golfers. I think it is 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. Our forecasted net profit is \$10,100, and our junior golf tournament 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 HOPE event. You won't regret it!

Our restricted fund ended 2024 at a position of \$669,000, an increase in market value of over

Vice President's Report

\$71,000. We often discuss how we want to utilize these funds, how we want to invest, and we sometimes get asked, why do we own our own headquarters. Average Sections total revenue for a Section our size is \$3.6 million, and similar sized sections have over \$1 million in their investment funds. Our restricted fund balance and our newly 100-percent-owned headquarters provides financial stability to our Section. This is especially important in the current economic conditions and the uncertainty of future PGA REACH funding from the PGA of America.

This Fall, the Hall of Fame Committee inducted two members to the Philadelphia PGA Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Jeff Kiddie and John Pillar! These two outstanding PGA Professionals were celebrated alongside our award winners this month at our annual awards banquet. It was a memorable night, and extremely well-deserved!

The Section Women's Committee had a productive year in 2024, and I would like to thank Megan Spero for her guidance as she steps away from the chair role. Congrats to Bridget McLaughlin and Beatrice Smith for being named co-chairs of the Women's Committee! We are excited for their leadership and the group for 2025!

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 2025 and if I can help in any way please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Hennefer, PGA

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; and Matt Walbert, 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 Fall Meeting as of March 15, 2025:

Attained PGA of America Membership: Tomas Fortson, PGA; Richard W. Kline, PGA; Nicholas A. Parga, PGA; John Scholz Jr., PGA; David Hurle, PGA; Zakary R. Smith, PGA; Matthew Storeman, PGA; Joshus Strausbaugh, PGA; and Chad

Yogan, PGA.

Achieved Half Century Status: Craig Hall, PGA.

Achieved Quarter Century Status: Ian Dalzell, PGA; and Chip Richter, PGA.

Achieved Senior Status: Tom Gilbert, PGA; Eric McNamee, PGA; and David Clark, PGA.

Deceased PGA of America Golf Professionals: Ed Bolha, PGA; Frank Carman, PGA; Dennis J. Gallagher, PGA; and David Schueck, PGA.

First Time PGA Head Golf Professionals: Christian Hoecker, PGA; Richard Kline, PGA; Kyle Leeper, PGA; Justin Parisi, PGA; Brad Sanders, PGA; Brecken Whitfield, PGA; Joshua Strausbaugh, PGA; and Chad Yogan, PGA.

New PGA of America Members to the Section Since 2024 Fall Membership Meeting: Jesse Campbell, PGA; Mark Chlebek, PGA; Amanda Davis, PGA; Jack Davis, PGA; Shane Fiala, PGA; Adam Fishman, PGA; David Hurle, PGA; Don Kramer, PGA; Kyle Leeper, PGA; Corey McAlarney, PGA; Matthew Mortell, PGA; John Murray, PGA; Tony Perla, PGA; Joshua Strausbaugh, PGA; Bryan Truszkowski, PGA; Marquis Usher, PGA; Evan Waldron, PGA; and Brian Westemeier, PGA.

New PGA of America Associates to the Section Since 2024 Fall Membership Meeting: Bryce Atkinson, Ian Dunmyer, Michael LaGrace, Luke Montalbano, Marcus Opheim, and Jason Wilson

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 Awards Committee met virtually on December 4, 2024, to select the 2024 awards winners: Golf Professional of the Year Scott Chisholm, Rolling Green G.C.; Teacher & Coach of the Year: John Rudolph, Fieldstone G.C.; Bill Strausbaugh Award: Scott Nye, G.C.; Professional Development Award: Sean Palmer, Union League of Philadelphia; Patriot Award: John Pillar, C.C. at Woodloch Springs; Player Development Award: Tessa Teachman, Aronimink G.C.; Youth Player Development Award: Dan Mrozinski,

Commonwealth National G.C.; Merchandiser of the Year – Private: Michael Shank, Wilmington C.C.; Merchandiser of the Year – Public: Matthew Hoffman, Carlisle Barracks G.C.; Deacon Palmer Award: Fred Heller, Rolling Green G.C.; Justin Riegel Assistant Golf Professional of the Year: Beatrice Smith, Gulph Mills G.C.; and Salesperson of the Year: Lori DesRuisseaux; Belyn Key, Criquet, Corkcicle, 2Undr, VimHue, Skoni, Melly M, Cappai Designs, and OTG247.

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; 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

As your director of tournaments for the current term, I first want to thank the Philadelphia PGA Section for their faith in myself to handle the program over this next season. 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 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 Professional. I implore each one of you to reach out and get involved and I truly look forward to serving the Philadelphia Section tournament program for this upcoming season.

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 Executive Director Geoff Surette 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.

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

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 sponsors our tournament program would not have the status it does within the nation. With major sponsors like George Connell, Scott Hutchinson and Conrad Radcliff, it allows our Section's tournament program to expand and allows all of our professionals to play for large sums 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 sponsorships in the future which will allow our tournament program to flourish.

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 their accommodating memberships. Our tournament program is the best in the country, with some of the strongest fields and highest purses.

Among our 2024 highlights, we had an amazing three-person playoff for the Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic in May at Sunnybrook,

Director of Tournaments' Report

where John Pillar outlasted Kyle Early and Braden Shattuck for the victory.

The Philadelphia PGA Section and its PGA Professionals thank our hosts, Rolling Green Golf Club and Chester Valley Country Club for our 2024 Section Championship. 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 2024 Section Champions: Brett Walker, Zach Barbin, John Pillar, and Joanna Coe. Special congratulations to 2024 Player of the Year Braden Shattuck.

Welcome Luke Montalbano, our new tournament director. After an extensive search we were fortunate to find Luke and steal him from the Sun Country Section. Originally from Rhode Island, Luke joined our team to start a new chapter in his life. We look forward to working with Luke and wish him the very best on his new adventure!

Pace of play policy: Last year's Pace of Play Policy changes showed some promise. As an annual topic in every tournament committee meeting this year, we have some data to show the improvement. We improved our average pace by 11 minutes a round and as the season progressed, we had less and less need to approach groups out of position. If we all stay focused and stay committed to our pace hopefully, we will see some more improvement this season.

Field staff signals: This year we are instituting some new policies for our field staff. All staff members will have a required set of signals for

players on the course to signal ball in play, out of play, in a penalty area, or a need for a provisional. Our hope is that this cleans up some confusion that can exist and be able to expedite the need to play a provisional ball instead of heading back to the tee from the fairway.

I would like to congratulate all the Eagles fans on their championship and completely blowing out my beloved Chiefs! Enjoy the victory!!!

Lastly to the members of the Philadelphia PGA 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 2025 golf season.

Dustin McCormick, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Director of Tournaments

Executive Director's Report

I hope this finds everyone doing well and hopefully rested from a nice extended winter break for most. As we look forward to another season, I wanted to highlight a few key items and other plans your Section team is preparing for this year.

Finances: As you hopefully read in Bob Hennefer's vice president's report, we finished 2024 in a really nice place. Apart from our Las Vegas pro-am, our financial performance against budget was one of the best we have had in a long time. We look at our finances in three categories: General and Administration, Tournaments and Junior Golf. By design, the G&A department has the heaviest lift on certain expenses, mortgage, utilities, insurance, etc. Our tournament department shows the most revenue but also the most expense as the majority of those dollars go back out in the form of professional purse and amateur prizes. Our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour department shows the most net revenue against its expenses thanks to a number of our facilities donating their time to the tour. We cannot thank them enough for investing in our kids and the future of golf in the area as their kindness helps us control costs.

On another financial note, our mortgage maturity date came due and we had to decide to refinance or pay off the loan. With our current loan being at about four percent and a new mortgage being around seven percent, we made the decision to pay off the loan. We also did not have to pull any money from the restricted fund, so it made the decision much easier. So, I'm happy to report that we currently don't have any outstanding loans on the books.

Thanks again to Barb Creveling for all her work managing our day-to-day finances and keeping us ahead of the game.

Tournaments: I would like to welcome Luke Montalbano as our new Tournament Director. Luke comes to us from the Sun Country PGA Section where he served as their tournament director for the past two years. He brings great tournament operations experience and an advanced certification in the USGA Rules of Golf. We look forward to many great years with Luke at the helm. Luke and Joe will handle the majority of professional event responsibilities including Chapter, PAO and PAT events with some support from the rest of the team. They have been tasked with maintaining and continuing to improve the standards for our program.

Dustin covered a good deal of information in his report, so I will touch on a couple of other topics. On the sponsorship side, it bears reminding that we need your support to help acknowledge and let our partners know how much we appreciate their support. So please take a couple of minutes after each event to reach out and thank them and give them the opportunity at your business when that moment presents itself. We have picked up a few new partners for this season as you will see in press releases to come. We also did unfortunately lose Silvercrest Asset Management as the title partner of the Silvercrest Cup. We certainly appreciate the support of Mr. Gray and the folks on his team for their partnership over the past three seasons. We are working to create a replacement event on the calendar. More to come on that front. We sincerely appreciate all of our host facilities for making their clubs available to us and look forward to seeing everyone during the season.

Youth golf: As Eric reported, the Philadelphia PGA Junior tour is off to a tremendous start. A big thanks to Annie, David and Zac as they will head up junior tour operations this season as

Executive Director's Report

they continue our road to 90 events! We have picked up a couple of additional patron partners to help us with keeping the costs down for our players in addition to the over 80 facilities that are gracious enough to host our events. Our FUNDamental Tour with the help of Operation 36, has been a great addition to the Tour offerings and will continue to serve as our minor league development program for the big tour. If you could use our affiliate membership offering, please do so as it is a great way to give the gift of membership to a deserving junior at your facility or in your life. As always, we ask that you hang up our Junior Tour Poster where folks can see it and continue to be ambassadors for support of the Tour. You are our best marketing tool!

Membership / Chapter: During the offseason, the Membership Committee was hard at work on putting together our mentoring program which will not only benefit our Associates, but also give our mentors the opportunity to activate on deferred compensation and qualify for those benefits offered by the association. They have also put together a series of associate events that will hit our calendar soon and give our associates the opportunity at some education along with some great networking opportunities. Thanks to Jack, Eric and the entire committee for their work.

Jeff and the Chapter board have done great work preparing for the season and you will all see that as the calendar continues to take shape along with continuing to be fiscally responsible to the Chapter membership and programs. Of course, none of this works without the ongoing work from Sue Unger as she juggles her support between the chapter and several of our other committees to serve our membership the best way possible.

Education and Employment: Brian Soule, Eric and the entire Education Committee did fantastic work this year to put together a great collection of educational opportunities for the membership. As the end of the cycle draws closer, I believe they have done everything they can to provide for the membership. Working in conjunction with Eric Handley and the Teaching & Coaching Committee they developed new programs like Coaches Corner, Golf Ops Corner and Golf Fitness Corner to provide a great cadence of opportunities for our members to learn from topic experts and share ideas. We will continue to work with them to grow those offerings over time to provide even more ways for our professionals to develop their skills.

Kevin Weist and the Employment Committee have done a great job at putting together a couple different ways to reach out and engage with the membership to build resources and be proactive in helping our professionals with their employment needs. We are also very lucky to have our Career Consultant, Joe Doughty, working on our behalf to help make our jobs better. We have been able to work a number of ExecuSearch jobs and be more involved in the process with facilities to build good jobs. You will hear in Joe's report how compensation has increased over the past few years but that can only continue if all of you can support the process by updating your compensation profile and the operations surveys so that we have the data to present during our conversations.

Communications: Matt Frey and Cassie Vogel have done a great job increasing the output of our communications program. We have also engaged with a PR / marketing firm Bad Rhino to help us grow our reach outside of our core audience. This will help us as we try to increase the amount of communications revenue in the

Executive Director's Report

business as well as add value to our current partnerships and expose us to new prospective partners over time. Please help us grow our content by reaching out to Matt or Cassie with any story worth telling our audience. A rising tide lifts all boats so any time we can elevate our brand it helps everyone!

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia: Courtney Curcio, Erin Martin, and Cassie Vogel continue to grow our outreach and impact in the communities that we serve. As you may have read in Anthony's report we have a great season ahead of us. With adding five additional HOPE Chapters in 2025 we will now have 20 across the section serving more veterans than we ever have. In our Youth Pillar, we continue to see growth in Drive, Chip & Putt, PGA Jr. League, and our Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships now giving almost 50 the opportunity to experience our junior tour, work with a PGA Professional and give them access to equipment needed.

We were informed that the available funding from PGA REACH national will be reduced going into this season. So now more than ever we need you to become ambassadors for our efforts. We would ask that you engage somehow with our fund-raising efforts. Join the club association, run a golf marathon, participate in our putter raffle or introduce us to a prospective trustee. Anything that you can do to help bring attention to our mission and our programs is greatly appreciated

I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support of our team and our programs. It is because of that support that I continue to be challenged and energized each season to have me, and the entire staff strive to deliver the best experience that we possibly can

for the membership as a whole.

In closing I want to thank my team for their hard work and commitment along with the officers, board and all of you for giving me your trust and support.

I look forward to seeing you all during the season!

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Surette, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Executive Director

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Report

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

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

PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee: In 2024 the foundation achieved notable success with substantial growth in both fundraising and program initiatives. Against the backdrop of continued success in the golf industry nationwide, we actively seized opportunities to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals within our communities, staying true to our mission and vision.

PGA Jr. League: Participation within our Section continues to grow. Our goals for 2025 is to reach 2000 players.

PGA HOPE: In 2025, we will have a total of 10 chapter locations: Bensalem Township Country Club, Bensalem, Pa.; Indian Springs Country Club, Marlton, N.J.; Country Club of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, Pa.; Union League Liberty Hill, Lafayette Hill, Pa.; Union League National Golf Club, Cape May Court House, N.J.; Frog Hollow Golf Club, Middletown, Del.; Five Ponds Golf

Club, Warminster, Pa.; Saucon Valley Country Club, Bethlehem, Pa.; Regent's Glen Golf Club, York, Pa.; Huntingdon Valley (Pa.) Country Club; Honeybrook Golf Club, Honey Brook, Pa.; Woodloch Springs Country Club - Hawley, Pa.; the Golf Zone, Honey Brook, Pa.; Lehigh Country Club, Allentown, Pa.; Carlisle (Pa.) Barracks Golf Course; Newark (Del.) Country Club; Springhaven Club, Wallingford, Pa.; Riverton Country Club, Cinnaminson, N.J.; Makefield Highlands Golf Club, Yardley, Pa.; and Commonwealth National Golf Club, Horsham, Pa.

Golf in Schools: The program was in 65 different schools / districts in 2024-2025. We support this program through PGA REACH Philadelphia by funding the program to local schools that participate. Our goal is to continue to grow the program by adding new schools each year and are projected to be in 10 new schools in 2025. We also have plans to enhance the program by building an after-school component to the program as a next step for kids that participate.

Philadelphia Junior Tour Diversity Scholarships: The foundation built upon its existing diversity programs by expanding its Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Diversity Scholarship recipients to 48. In 2025 the scholarship application closed on March 10th with over 40 applications. The new class of 2025 will be announced at the 2025 Philadelphia PGA Spring Membership Meeting.

Pro-am: We are excited for our Annual PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am Championship on October 7 at Stonewall. Proceeds raised from this event will go toward supporting REACH programs and services for youth, military, and diversity groups.

Foundation events: HOPE Cup, August 25 at

PGA of America REACH Foundation Philadelphia Report

Riverton C.C.; PGA REACH Philadelphia Pro-Am, October 7 at Stonewall; District 2 PGA HOPE Cup, October 21-22 at Crystal Springs.

In conclusion, we invite all of you to get involved with these programs in any way you can. Please reach out to Courtney, myself, or any of the committee members for more information on how you can help support PGA REACH Philadelphia. We are here to be ambassadors for our Section and to help you at your facilities grow the game and make a difference in people's lives.

PGA REACH Philadelphia Committee Members: Matt Bonanno, PGA; Kyle Monahan, PGA; Jeff Breiner, PGA; Dan Mrozinski, PGA; John Carpineta, PGA; Sean Palmer, PGA; Gerry Davis, PGA; Scott Reilly, PGA; Jonathan Flint, PGA; Jenna Sorrano, PGA; Steve Frederick, PGA; Geoff Surrette, PGA; Gerry Davis, PGA; Steve Wager, PGA; Jason Lamp, PGA; Bob Lennon, PGA; and Mike Little, PGA .

Finally, please join me in thanking Geoff Surrette and the entire Section Staff for all they do for us daily. The behind-the-scenes work required to service a section our size requires a great deal of work. We have the best Section staff in the country, and it is an honor and privilege to work alongside them.

Anthony Malizia, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Director of Section Affairs

Central Counties Chapter President's Report

I hope everyone had a healthy winter, and all of you were able to enjoy some time with your family and friends along with finding time to take care of yourself and recharge a bit for the season that lays ahead.

A huge thank you to Sara Muldoon and Matt Malick of Hershey Country Club for hosting our Spring Meeting and golf for the start of the 2025 season.

I would like to take a moment to congratulate two of our Chapter Members. First, Matt Hoffman, Carlisle Barricks Golf Course, on being named Philadelphia PGA Section Merchandiser of the Year - Public Category. Secondly, John Pillar, Country Club at Woodloch Springs, on being named the Philadelphia PGA Section Patriot Award winner. Congratulations, gentlemen, those honors are well deserved. It is always a pleasure to see Chapter members being recognized for their hard work and dedication to the game at the Section level.

The Chapter board has been hard at work again this year building out the tournament calendar for the 2025 season. This year, we were able to add a couple events. We welcome back Bent Creek Country Club as a Chapter Pro-Am host and we are in the process of adding an individual event at Frosty Valley Country Club as well.

Financially due to the changes we made a few years ago, the Chapter remains on much better footing and is no longer losing money. Our restricted Fund with Haverford Trust remains solid and has seen less volatility than in years past with Raymond James. We look forward to keeping the relationship with Haverford for years to come.

I would like to thank Matt Goudie, PGA director

of Instruction at Lancaster Country Club for putting together the first Teaching & Coaching Summit for the Chapter.

The Chapter board would also like to welcome Luke Montalbano as our new Section tournament director. He takes the place of Brian Shulte, who has moved on to a different position in the industry.

Lastly, I would like to say a special thank you to the entire Section staff, Geoff, Barb, Sue, Courtney, Matt, Cassie, Luke, and all their support staff. It was not for all of their hard work and dedication, this Chapter and Section would not have the success that we see every day.

I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and prosperous year ahead. Best of luck for the 2025 Season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Breiner, PGA
Central Counties Chapter President

Philadelphia Assistants' Organization President's Report

The PAO is once again looking forward to a great season in 2025. The organization has rewritten its mission statement over the winter and has made some changes to the way that the organization is organized. The mission of the Philadelphia Assistants' Organization is to help PGA assistant golf professionals achieve career success through education, networking, and tournament play. Those three pillars are what the PAO will strive to improve in 2025 and going forward. As such, we have streamlined our board from six members down to four with each member having a purpose and plan for 2025.

2025 PAO Board of Directors: Co-Chair Andrew Turner; Co-Chair Patrick Shine; Kyle Jackson, tournaments; Laura Schiavo, education; and Jason Duckworth, networking.

We do want to acknowledge both Brad Sanders and Christian Hoecker, who were board members in 2024 and have moved into head professional positions at Sunnybrook Golf Club and Country Club of York, respectively. We wish them the best in their new positions!

Tournaments: Our tournament schedule this year will be very similar to years past. We are looking forward to working with Luke and getting a schedule together. As usual we will have our combined events with the Section events at the Delaware Valley Open, TaylorMade Classic, Conestoga Classic, Williamd Hyndman III Memorial Classic, Doylestown Open and the Jack Jolly Championship. The PAO will also host a Spring Meeting, Match Play, Tour Championship, a stand alone event at Manufacturers, and the Philadelphia Assistant PGA Professional Championship. In addition, we will be hosting the Doylestown PAO Women's Pro-Am for the second time.

At the end of the year, the Mid Atlantic's Assistant Professional Association will host the PAO as Philadelphia attempts to defend its title in the Independence Cup. Most everyone who plays this event considers it one of the most fun events they get to play in.

Education: The PAO board has set a goal of at least three educational events this year, that will be centered around three different topics. The topics may include, teaching/coaching, operations, resume building, interviewing, member engagement and mentorship. We are working on creating a list of head professionals, directors of golf, teaching pros and other professionals who are further along in their careers. These professionals are offering up their expertise, wisdom and knowledge to be sounding boards for assistants, mentors and generally share their experience with the PAO's members. If any PGA Professionals are interested in the mentor or if you would like to be involved in an educational offering, please reach out to Laura Schiavo.

Networking: This is a new position on the board and is an area that the board members, and many who have been here before us, believe to be paramount to the success of the PAO. The PAO is committed to providing at least three networking opportunities throughout the year for it's member to just get to know each other and bounce ideas back and forth. One of the greatest things in our Section is how tight knit the Philadelphia PGA is and we want to foster that for the future through the PAO. These opportunities may be golf oriented or may simply be places for PAO members to hang out, spend time with each other and create bonds that last throughout these assistant's careers.

We are looking forward to a great 2025 and will

Philadelphia Assistants' Organization President's Report

provide members of the PAO with more details concerning these events in the near future as the schedule solidifies.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Turner, PGA / PAO Co-Chair.

Teaching & Coaching Report

Our Teaching & Coaching Committee remains excited to serve the Philadelphia PGA Section membership with various learning and educational opportunities. Similar to this time last year, the committee has been busy planning and supporting numerous events. I would like to thank all of them for their support thus far.

For the past couple of years now, the committee and our section have been hosting monthly Coaches Corner video calls. These continue to remain very popular and well attended each month. We have been able to secure presenters and topics that our members are interested in and learning from. And of course, one of the primary benefits of this format is that it is easily accessible to everyone throughout our section. We look forward to continuing to host these with an exciting lineup of presenters and a high level of participation anticipated.

On Thursday, March 6, we hosted our annual Philadelphia PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit. Despite having to reschedule the date of this event due to the weather, we still saw approximately 80 professionals joining us for the day at Llanerch Country Club. For this event, the committee was very intentional about providing a diverse grouping of presentations on various topics. In addition to having multiple section award winners present, our keynote speaker featured Michael Jacobs, the national recipient of the 2025 PGA Professional Development Award.

On Monday, March 24, we are excited to support and help host a Central Counties Chapter Teaching & Coaching summit at Lancaster Country Club. This event was similar in nature to our Section Summit, but with more professionals from the western half of our Section.

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

Sincerely,

Eric Handley
Philadelphia PGA Teaching
& Coaching Committee Chair

Youth Golf Report

Thank you to everyone who continues to support youth golf within our Section. We have one of the largest and most successful programs in the country and something we should all be very proud of. Below are some highlights for the upcoming junior golf season. Take a moment to familiarize yourself with these offerings and consider introducing them to your facility.

Drive, Chip & Putt: The 2024 Drive, Chip & Putt season was a success for the Philadelphia PGA Section. The Section saw 951 participants at the local qualifiers and 223 participants at the sub-regionals. For a consecutive year, we hosted the regional qualifier at Aronomink Golf Club with a total of 96 participants. In 2025, our section will host 11 local qualifiers, and two sub-regional qualifiers and will hopefully surpass the 2024 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.

Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour: The Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour had 931 members in 2024 (911 in 2023). There were 4,686 tournament rounds played (3,930 in 2023), and we aim to exceed the 2024 numbers this season. We have partnered again with Operation 36 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.

The junior tour would not be possible without the support of our host professionals and facilities, and the Section would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who hosted

events in 2024 and thank you to those hosting us in 2025! The 2025 tournament schedule is currently on our website and all events are open for registration. Our staff is currently finalizing the fall and summer schedules, as there are still some dates available.

Patron partners for the 2025 year consist of Valley Forge Tourism, Moyer, and Visit Delco

Motivate and inspire a new junior golfer at your facility by participating in the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour Affiliate program. Each year, you can give away a free Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour membership (valued at \$195) to a promising junior at your facility. The only restriction is that the free membership must be given to a new tour member, but PGA Professionals may award the membership however they wish. The junior Tour recognizes Affiliate Member facilities on phillyjuniortour.com. This past year, 74 facilities used their affiliate membership in 2024 (49 in 2023). Philadelphia PGA Section Professionals are the best ambassadors for growing the tour. Please consider adding a link to phillyjuniortour.com to your facility's website.

The tour is committed to growing the game of golf. In 2025, the staff are taking steps to highlight our female members. There will be a two-day Girls Summer Championship once again, and in select events, we will hold a percentage of the field for the Girls 13-18 divisions. We are introducing separate Boys and Girls 12 & Under Divisions as well.

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

Youth Golf Report

golf, please refer to the college resources page on our website at phillyjuniortour.com/college-series/college-prep-resources.

I want to thank all Junior Golf Committee members: Jamie Komancheck, Kyle Miller, Matt Finger, Mike Meisenzahl, Tom Michaels, Tom Gilbert, and Sam Ambrose. A huge thank you to our junior tour staff, Joe Sponheimer, Zach Zerbo, Annie Borah and David Messina as well as all of the many Interns and field staff for their time and effort toward the Philadelphia PGA Junior Tour. We have the best youth golf program in the country and it's owed entirely to their hard work and tireless efforts.

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 PGA Junior Tour.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Kennedy, PGA
Philadelphia PGA Secretary

2025 Philadelphia PGA Spring Membership Meeting Agenda

Call to Order	Year, PGA Golf Professional of the Year
National Anthem	Partner Recognition
Invocation	Partner Recognition
Introductions	President's Report
Motion to Dispense	Executive Director's Report
Special Recognition: Clark Luis, PGA	Partner Recognition
Secretary's Report	Old Business
Partner Recognition	New Business
2026 PGA Championship	Open Forum
Awards: Salesperson of the Year, Justin Riegel Assistant Golf Professional of the Year, Merchandisers of the Year	Tournament Announcements
Partner Recognition	Adjourn
Awards: Youth Player Development Award, Player Development Award, Deacon Palmer Award, Patriot Award	
Partner Recognition	
Break	
Breakout Sessions	
Hall of Fame	
Partner Recognition	
PGA of America Report	
Awards: Professional Development Award, Bill Strausbaugh Award, Teacher & Coach of the	