

Philadelphia Golf Alliance

Representatives from the Delaware Valley's respective golfing organizations as well as the United States Golf Association met in early March to discuss opportunities for making the game thrive in the Philadelphia region. The Golf Association of Philadelphia; Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents; Philadelphia Section of the PGA; Philadelphia and Vicinity Club Managers Association; the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia and the aforementioned USGA, exchanged ideas on current issues and the idea of collaborative action. This newsletter is the group's first step to keep not only each organization's members, but the golf community, at large, informed. Future newsletters will outline the group's endeavors during the season and beyond.

Golf Association of Philadelphia

The Golf Association of Philadelphia is the oldest state, local or regional association of its kind in the nation. Founded in 1897 by members of Aronimink Golf Club, Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia Country Club and Philadelphia Cricket Club, it is a non-profit organization that aims to preserve, protect and promote the game of golf. The Association includes 151 Member Clubs spread across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. It offers more than 70 tournaments annually, conducts educational seminars, encourages the game's growth through Junior golf opportunities and provides handicapping and course rating services to its membership. Additionally, the J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust — the Association's charitable arm — distributes financial aid to caddies in pursuit of a higher education. Since J. Wood Platt's inception in 1958, more than 3,350 caddies have received \$18 million. For more information, visit www.gapgolf.org.



Contact: Mark Peterson, Executive Director, mpeterson@gapgolf.org, or 610-687-2340, ext. 11.

PGA Philadelphia Section

The Philadelphia Section PGA is one of 41 geographical sections of The PGA of America. Each section serves as the local managing entity for the PGA of America in their designated regions. The Philadelphia Section covers Eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Delaware and parts of Northern Maryland. The Section serves over 860 PGA Members and Apprentices who are employed at over 300 golf facilities in our region. Additionally, the Philadelphia PGA operates a Junior Tour featuring over 800 junior golfers competing in close to 100 events annually. Our members are the men and women who keep and grow the game of golf. The PGA Professional is an ambassador of the game to amateurs worldwide, is not only a talented teacher and player, but also a tournament director, merchandiser, rules administrator, skilled businessperson and community leader. Find more information on our tournaments, community events, what it takes to become a PGA Professional, enrolling a child in the Junior Tour, or how the section is working to grow the game please visit www.phillypga.com.



Contact: Geoffrey Surrette, Executive Director, gsurrette@pgahq.com or 215-886-7742.

Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents

The Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents [PAGCS] has been dedicated to improving and promoting the game of golf for the past 90 years. The first meeting of the PAGCS was held at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in September of 1925. Currently, the PAGCS is comprised of an average of 350 golf course and turf professionals from all aspects of the industry.

In addition to education, networking and support, the PAGCS provides camaraderie, benevolence, scholarships and much more. Please learn more about our organization as we celebrate our 90th anniversary by visiting our website, www.PAGCS.org, where you will find links to the calendar of association events, as well as our nationally recognized newsletter, The Bonnie Greensward.



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Philadelphia Golf Alliance

Philadelphia and Vicinity Club Managers Association

Philadelphia and Vicinity Club Managers Association (PVCMA) is an alliance of more than 180 club management professionals among approximately 85 country, city, golf, yacht and racquet clubs in Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey and Delaware. Our mission is focused squarely on education and promoting professionalism in club management. In partnership with Philadelphia Club Foundation, we also host a trade show and two golf events annually to raise money for chapter education, manager and student scholarships, and Make-A-Wish® Foundation. All alliance members are invited to join us for any education or social event.



Philadelphia and Vicinity
Club Managers Association

Contact: Carolyn Muessle, Managing Director, managingdirector@pvcma.org.

United States Golf Association

The USGA conducts the U. S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with the R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA actively engages with more than 150 state and regional golf associations including the Golf Association of Philadelphia and the Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia. The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. The USGA Green Section staff regularly consults with golf courses and golf course superintendents throughout the Greater Philadelphia area regarding best management practices. With more than 80 championships and counting, Pennsylvania has hosted more USGA championships than any other state including the 2015 U.S. Women's Open to be played at Lancaster Country Club on July 9-12 and the 2016 U.S. Open Open at Oakmont Country Club.



Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia

The Women's Golf Association of Philadelphia is a relatively small regional golf organization whose roughly 2,000 individual members have a huge passion for the game and the association and its rich history. Any female member of a member club has the opportunity to join as an individual. Her membership includes handicap services, team matches, open days and more than 40 events each year.

In addition, consistent with the USGA's "Grow the Game" initiative, WGAP is expanding the junior program by opening our junior events to young ladies who are not affiliated with a member club, and to beginner golfers. Incorporating developmental flights in our two major events will allow beginner golfers to experience very low-key competition and provide opportunities to witness more seasoned players contend.

In 2015, we are working intensely to improve administrative efficiency, member services, communication and education. We are now building a customized database, becoming more actively engaged with social media and planning educational club "meet and greets." It is our hope that these initiatives, along with many others, will not only increase awareness about WGAP but also help to grow our junior and adult memberships and, ultimately, the game.

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