



Minnesota Section PGA Fall Meeting

Meeting Minutes

In-Person/Zoom Call

October 27, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Section President Scott McDonald opened the meeting and thanked event sponsors, GolfTec and Teemark. The day was also supported nationally by Bluegolf and the PGA Tour. McDonald also outlined the day's agenda.

The Meeting was kicked off by guest speaker Ian Leonard. Ian is chief meteorologist for Fox 9 in news in the Twin Cities and involved in the Section's "Bad Pants Open" supporting Special Olympics Minnesota. Ian shared his passionate message of "What will you do for someone else today".

Meeting Minutes

McDonald asked for a motion to waive and approve the reading of the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting minutes that were posted. Motion seconded and passed.

McDonald introduced GolfTec's Ty Armstrong to provide an update on GolfTec's support and the 'Pass the PAT Program". McDonald also introduced Section Partner Jim Leary and Smartpin, who presented a \$9500 check to Grant Hanson, for the only Hole-in-One the past three years in the Smart Pin Section Hole-in-One contest.

COO Jon Tollette, outlined and conducted the Section's Elections for 2025 positions; Metropolitan Director, Northern Director, and At Large Director positions.

Elections were then conducted and announced that Tommy Koehler of Braemar GC (Metropolitan Director), and Savannah Nelson of Crosswoods GC (Northern Director) won by acclamation. Andy Gerber of Hidden Greens GC and Eddie Wynne of University GC won At-Large Director positions over Adam Haugen of the Pines at Grandview Golf.

Those in attendance were provided a PGA of America update from Mike O'Donnell, Senior Director of Member and Section Operations, who discussed the current Org chart of his team at the PGA of America in the areas of Career Services, Execusearch, Player Development and Section Business Operations.

O'Donnell then went through what each department's roles in the Association and the impacts each have on the members, employers and consumers. O'Donnell also highlighted that PGA of America Golf Professionals are the TRUSTED, experts and leaders, the "FIRST CHOICE" in golf.

The attendees then were provided an update from Phil Anderson, PGA District 8 Director. Phil highlighted current ongoing with the Association, including the Ryder Cup, financial position of the Association and changes taking place since the hiring of new CEO Derek Sprague. Anderson also introduced 2026 KPMG Women's PGA Championship Tournament Director Laura Frick and team member Austin Hansen and discussed the 2026 Championship at Hazeltine National GC, Section involvement, and goal to break the attendance record for the event, which was 35,000 at the 2019 event (also held at Hazeltine).

Meeting Attendees were introduced to Career Consultant Andrea Kloppman-Heit, who provided an update on Section Career Services. The update included information on PGA Job Posting and notifications, member compensation and current year impacts, Associate Growth within the Section, the new PDR cycle ending June 15, 2028, and regional education calls happening again in 2025-26.

Tim Vernon, Secretary welcomed transferred Members into the Section, introduced the Section's newest PGA Members, and asked for a moment of silence for PGA Members Jim Carlson and John Harris, who both passed away in 2025.

Kellie Hoiness, Vice President provided an update on the Section's positive financial position as of year-end 2024. Hoiness noted the continued growth of Junior Golf, and the impact the Section and Section Foundation have to our members, the community, our facilities and the game of golf. Hoiness also noted that 2025 Junior Golf participation, Section Tournament participation and Section purses were up or consistent with 2024 figures and the Section's financial position remains strong.

Scott McDonald provided a President's report on the Section that included the continued growth of golf, the Section's position in the game, record Section purses, and how close is the industry to the tipping point with skyrocketing equipment prices and green fees, waitlists at Private clubs, record number of Associates getting into the PGA and changes in the economy.

Jeff Drimel, CEO provided an update on the 2025 season, including five highlights; member benefits, member employment offerings, hiring of One8 Visual to improve communications, Section calendar is full including Foundation fundraisers, tournaments, and junior golf and Section Leadership and staff have the Section in great standing. Drimel then provided update on the "Can you give us two?" requesting two event days at your club or donating two rounds of golf for our events or charities we are tied to.

Kellie Hoiness, Awards committee chair announced our 2025 Minnesota Section Award winners and noted they will be honored at the awards dinner on May 3, 2026, the night before our Spring Update and Section Pro-Pro event.

Scott McDonald conducted Open Forum with Phil Anderson and Mike O'Donnell. Questions and comments included status and backlash from the Ryder Cup, updates from PGA of America Headquarters and new CEO Derek Sprague, KPMG Championship and volunteer opportunities, current status of the PAT, PDR questions on Player Development, and Minnesota State High School status of moving to Fall (Barry Wahlin, PGA sitting on HS league liaison committee).

Financial and Committee Reports

Financial Reports and Committee reports were provided to the membership prior to the meeting.