

Minutes of the MISGA Annual Meeting
April 10, 2006
Chester River Yacht & Country Club

Call to Order & Introductions

President Tom Tarpley called the meeting to order at 10 AM welcoming all to this 31st annual MISGA meeting. To much applause, he thanked our hosts in Division III, Director Ralph Starkey, and Club Reps, Tom Clark and John Billings along with their many volunteers for the fine meeting arrangements; he remarked the bright sunny day for golf after the meeting was unusual for our annual meeting at Chester River. After covering the housekeeping items of registration and checking in for lunch and golf, each member in attendance introduced himself and his club affiliation to reinforce a primary MISGA goal of camaraderie.

Invocation

Chuck Ebbecke, the MISGA Secretary, opened the meeting with the invocation.

Opening Remarks

To save time for open discussion on the floor later, Tom Tarpley thanked the MISGA Officers and Committee Chairmen as a group rather than individually. Their work in keeping MISGA running well is essential. However, he pointed out three individuals for special praise as most responsible for producing the new update of the MISGA History: Charlie Fieldhouse, Bill Brown and Byron Keadle, all of whom received a full round of applause from the assembled Club Reps. Tom then asked the Rep from Hog Neck, Carl Sauca, to stand and be welcomed into membership as the newest MISGA club, again to much applause.

The State of MISGA

The President then delivered the following remarks:
MISGA has over 4,000 members and remains strong. We can grow even stronger by approving a change to our Constitution to reduce the age for membership and by considering a proposal to dedicate funds after ordinary expenses to ensure that every club in MISGA has an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) with training in its use. We can accomplish this with a cost sharing arrangement with the clubs

and all the Reps are encouraged to push for this at their clubs and to let the Division Directors know you support this endeavor. A show of hands seeking interest in pursuing this proposal indicated a large majority agreed.

President Tarpley then mentioned several other important activities which need our continued support:

- Club Rep Input to the MISGAgram The 'gram is only as good as the input from the Reps. The Reps are the reporters and Jim Mitchell is only the editor; please remember among all things you do, reporting to the MISGAgram should also be one of them.
- Increased use of the website [www.misga.org] reflects the fact that we have one of the finest and user friendly information sites available. Try it some time; you'll be amazed what you can find there.
- Support for the Frolics: Spring, Summer and Fall. Your participation ensures we all may visit prime places at very favorable prices and with friendly, familiar faces. If there is room at these events, former MISGA members will be welcome too; so let them know if you think former MISGA's may be interested.
- Posting scores and playing by the USGA rules are part of this great game of golf wherein we enjoy each others best efforts in fair competition. Play by the rules and post your scores.

Officer Reports

The Secretary's report on the reading of the minutes of the annual meeting of April 11, 2005 was waived and the motion to approve the unread minutes was approved by acclamation.

The Treasurer's: in the absence of Gary Sorrell, Tom Tarpley reported first on those clubs which had not yet paid their club dues. He then said the 2006 budget assumes a \$28,527 carryover from 2005, and a carryover into 2007 of \$26,826. Income for 2006 is projected at \$ 43,488 with expenses at \$ 45,189. This includes the CD of \$5,000 the proceeds of which are required to be used to supplement the prize pool of the statewide tournaments.

The details of the Treasurer's report, including line by line detail for the 2006 budget and 2006 Year to date actuals, will be sent to the Division Directors for distribution and posting by the Club Reps.

MISGA conforms to IRS reporting requirements by filing Form 990 of as 2005.

Division Directors' Reports

Division I: Dick Dale reported that Division I, in Delaware, has 8 clubs: 5 of which are in excellent shape with over 70 associates, 1 club in good shape with over 50, and 2 clubs are marginal with about 40 associates.

The Spring Fling participation continues to drop a bit with about 150 golfers this year; however, the optional third day of play is picking up more players than last year. There were still a few openings at the time of the meeting.

Division II: Tom Taylor said the seminar at Beaver Creek went well and the Division qualifiers will be at Glade Valley on 6/5 for the ABCD and Quail Valley on 7/17 for the Two-man.

He reminded all that the old 'Board Bash', renamed "Reps Invitational" has now been renamed again the 'Summer Fling' in a valiant attempt to save this event for the fun event it can be. It will be held September 13-14 at Carroll Valley and all Misga associates are invited to attend. The next Board meeting will precede this event with a meeting on September 12th at Carroll Valley.

Division III: Ralph Starkey said the Division was doing well and was seeking to fill the Division vacancy of Handicap Chairman.

Division IV: Earl Gayler, remarking on the Treasurer's report, said all their checks for club dues were in the mail ...and nobody laughed!

Division V: Paul Phillips reported the loss of one club but said the remaining nine clubs in the Division were doing well. After several attempts, the name of the missing club remains a mystery to me.

Division VI: Bob Nicholson said Division VI was in good order for mixers and qualifiers and that for the annual Pro-Am they were joining up with Division II for a combined DIV. II & VI Pro-Am which they will jointly host at Chartwell Country Club on September 26th. Clubs from other divisions are welcome if there is room. Check the link for Division VI's website at www.misga.org.

New Business

Motion to Change the Constitution: Ralph Starkey carried forward his proposal to reduce the age of MISGA Associates from 55 to 50 which had been approved earlier to the Board in its March 2, 2006 meeting at Prospect Bay.

The motion requires the approval of the assembled MISGA Reps at this Annual Meeting.

After a very short discussion which clarified the reduction in age was an option and not required by every MISGA club depending on that club's rules, the motion was overwhelming approved with only four opposed.

The approved and revised Constitution now reads:

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP, B. ASSOCIATES

A MISGA Associate is a person who has attained the age of fifty (50), is a golf member in good standing in a MISGA member club under the normal and usual conditions for membership established by that member club, has paid the MISGA associate's dues, and if such member club has a senior men's organization through which members become MISGA Associates, remains in good standing in that senior men's organization.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Associates: Charlie Fieldhouse announced copies of the new 1996-2005 History have been shipped to the Club Rep at each club. He thanked all those who contributed to it but singled out for special acknowledgement: Bill Brown, MISGA Historian, and Byron Keadle, MISGA Webmaster. He presented both men with a trophy clock suitably engraved recognizing their contribution. [Contrary to rumors, the clocks do not run backwards.]

Charlie then thanked the Reps and Division Associates Chairmen (DAC) for their help in completely moving the membership roster to the digital age. He again urged Division Directors and Club Reps to call him whenever a problem occurs, saying, "That's when they are easiest to solve!"

Audits: Howard Taylor has reviewed all of 2004 and 2005 records; they are in good shape with good documentation. The last two events of 2005 at Seabrook and Amelia Island will require some minor improvements in the future.

After missing several years of submission through innocent oversight, MISGA has filed informational IRS Form 990 to comply with the Federal requirements for non-profits such as MISGA.

Events: Peter Sorge announced the 2006 Fall Flings at Fripp on 11/5 and Amelia on 11/12 with a bonus at Amelia: an early check in on Sunday will allow on extra round of golf. But you will have to make arrangements in advance. Read the new MISGAgram for details.

Historian: Bill Brown, overcome by all the accolades on the new printing of the History, referred all hard questions to Charlie Fieldhouse. (Lots of laughter.)

Membership: Arnold Simms on earlier completing the revised checklist for admitting new clubs to MISGA and overseeing the admission of Hog Neck to MISGA had nothing more to report.

MISGAgram: Jim Mitchell repeated that he relies entirely on the input from this assembled group for the content of the MISGAgram. He can not make content up. He is only the editor and all the Reps are reporters. If an issue of the 'gram is of little interest to the membership, it is because there was nothing of interest submitted by the Club Reps. So when a Rep hears a complaint about the MISGAgram, he should first ask himself when he last submitted an item of interest.

The next issue is due in April, with applications for the Fall Flings.

Mixers: Dan Williams presented a summary of tips on the pace of play for Reps to pick up and post at their clubs.

Planning: Ken Wallgren presented a new- White Cover- edition of the MISGA Rep Manual to be distributed by the Division Directors to the Club Reps. The manuals are designed for the Club Rep and his principal Assistant Rep: thus only two per club. Please save the black binders of the old manuals for future use with updated inserts.

Rules & Hndcps: Co-chairs Dick Crone, West, and Jim Brittingham, East, reported that now with handicap committees in place they will seek to make them more effective by:

- Improving handicap monitoring through the club handicap committees;
- Providing rules interpretation & information to those interested in each club.

They distributed to all Club Reps the new 2006 USGA Handicap Manual and a pamphlet explaining how to rate a course from an unrated set of tees in order to facilitate the use of optional or 'forward tees' for Senior play.

Tournaments: C.J. Myers said plans for the state tournaments were well underway:

- ABCD Past Presidents at Harbourtowne, Monday, August 14 (Rain date Monday, 8/28)
- Two-Man at Manor, Thursday, August 17 (Rain date, Thursday 8/24)

Announcements with details and cost have been sent for the Two-Man and will shortly be sent for the ABCD to Division Directors and Division Tournament Directors.

In 2007, Division I will host the Two-Man Team event at Shawnee C.C. Also Division VI will host the ABCD Tournament and Tantallon has volunteered to host that event. Both events will be held during the last two weeks of August, 2007.

Web Master: Byron Keadle asked if your club has a web site to please send him the address so he can provide a link to it from the MISGA website. Currently 23 clubs are represented.

Entry forms to various Frolic events (Carroll Valley, Fripp, and Amelia Islands) are posted on the website and can be copied and filled out at your convenience.

Also, the newly published History can be found there if you'd like to copy parts of it to send to others.

Finally, the Leadership Roster is being handed out today. Please send changes to him as soon as you know of them. We need to keep the Leadership Roster on the MISGA website as up to date as possible.

Discussion from the Floor

The President opened the discussion by requesting any and all concerns, problems, or issues of any kind to be brought forward at this time:

* Where are the new Leadership Rosters for 2006?

They are right here in boxes about to be distributed. And the roster is also on the website where we try to keep it up to date.

*Where are the new MISGA Rep Manuals?

They too are right here to be distributed by the Division Directors, two copies for each club. They are also available on the MISGA website.

*How do I get a copy of the USGA Handicap System book?

They are being passed out to the Division Directors; one copy each to the Division Director, the Asst. Division Director and each Club Rep.

*Why can't I play a practice round at the Clubs hosting state tournaments?
It is not feasible to provide practice rounds for MISGA Associates particularly when they are requested on weekend mornings when club member play has priority over all else. Clubs hosting state tournaments are encouraged to work practice rounds into their regular MISGA schedules for those requesting it.

*Can MISGA players use gps or other high tech devices?
We follow USGA rules and the rules of the local club where we play. If a device is approved by the USGA and not prohibited by local rule, it may be used.

Presentation of Awards

Tom Tarpley then presented two pewter plate awards, amid a robust round of applause, to:

- Paul Keiser, one plate for serving as Division I Director from 2002-2005, and a larger one for serving as MISGA President in 2005.

Two other awards of recognition were given *in absentia* to Alfred Isaacs, former *usually in absentia* General Counsel, and Fenton Martin, the very first Director of the new Division III.

Adjournment

Remarking that he had completed this year's annual meeting ahead of last year's record time, Tom Tarpley called for a motion to adjourn which was quickly seconded and approved at 11: 17 AM. Lunch & golf on a beautiful spring day followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Ebbecke
MISGA Secretary