

Attendees: Tom Rowlett, Jim Wilcox, John Babyak, Bob Burd, Ed Masood, Malcolm Peterson, Sam Ray, Ron Wiles, Earl Gentry, Greg Morris, Pete Sorge, Byron Keadle, Carl Lazar, Bob Hodges, Bob Brewer, Jeff Hild, Lloyd Stimson, Errol Myers, C.J. Myers and Dick Dale.

President – Tom Rowlett introduced himself as the MIGA President and turned the mic over to Jim Maclver, sitting in for club rep Frank Tighe. He pointed out the restrooms and wanted to check that everyone who is staying for lunch and/or golf has registered. There were a couple of additions. Tom then asked that we go around the room and let everyone introduce themselves. Tom then gave his opening remarks. From Tom's perspective MISGA is doing fine but we are experiencing some changes. One thing we need to do is strengthen club membership. As of December, we have 56 clubs. That number is down from over 60 clubs. Some of our clubs will be leaving MISGA for reasons like no interest/support from club management, no one to lead the club's seniors, clubs no longer operating as golf clubs. The MISGA Board is working to address these issues. There are changes that are positive, three clubs that have dropped out of MISGA want to rejoin. We have instituted a rent-a-rep program so that if a club needs help to get started they can get help they need. A number of clubs are instituting on-line sign-up tools. There has also been a decline in the number of associates. Previously we had almost 5,000 associates, now we have less than 3,000. One factor is the rising cost of playing in a mixer. Now, 25 clubs charge more than \$45 for a mixer. The average is about \$43 and the highest is \$52. We also have the slow play and cheating issues. The Board is working to improve these issues but we need the reps help. Be creative at your clubs to reduce the MISGA fees, improve slow play and make sure that there is no cheating at your club. Each rep has that responsibility. The Division allocation amounts have been reduced for the remainder of the year. You should have received your first payment in February. The remaining two payments will be reduced because of the Board's decision on the 2016 budget where we would be running on a deficit of \$5,000. We need to tighten the belt. Mileage is now 54 cents per mile. This year we have some new rules. Jeff Hild will cover some of the new rules.

Secretary's Report – For the minutes of the last Rep Meeting, Tom would entertain a motion from the floor to not read the minutes and have them accepted as they are on the website. The motion was made, seconded and approved. John Babyak said that he would like to say something. John said that he missed the February meeting because of a medical problem in his family and that Jeff Hild took the minutes and did a phenomenal job on them. Jeff sent the minutes to John and Tom and then John forwarded the minutes to the Board. A lot of people complemented John on what a great job he did. John wanted to tell everyone that it wasn't him that did a great job, it was Jeff. Any compliments need to go to Jeff, John had nothing to do with the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Dick Schwinger was not at the meeting.

Vice President's Report – Jim Wilcox said that he is going to give Mike Urquhart's report as the Associates Chairman. The \$50 club dues is due in by May 1st. The associate dues is due in by June 1st. When the reps submit their rosters, they must include the number of women from your club. You just have to submit the names and indicate those names that are for women. If you have new members join during the year, you are supposed to collect the dues if they join before November 1st. Jim said that a number of clubs don't do that.

Division Director's Reports

Division I – Bob Burd said Sussex Pines has dropped out of MISGA. They don't have anyone interested in playing in MISGA and they went from a private club to a semi-private. The ABCD qualifier is July 11. Total members in Div I should be close to what it was last year.

Division II – Tom Rowlett said that WestWinds has rejoined MISGA. They have scheduled some mixers. The Division tournament schedule is on the website. Hollow Creek may want to rejoin MISGA.

Division III – Malcolm Peterson said that Harbourtowne is undergoing a one year renovation and they plan to make it a destination resort. We don't know what it will mean for MISGA membership. The Eastern club has gone through some ownership issues. Hopefully the new ownership will get the club back in shape and resume MISGA. Caroline CC is in an ownership situation.

Division IV – Jim Wilcox said that we lost Argyle this year and there is some hope that they may rejoin next year. Jim said that the winners of the previous years ABCD would get a bye in this year's division qualifier. The division also gives a trophy to its qualifier winners. Our division is doing pretty well although our division host clubs are seeing a decrease in associates participation.

Division V – No report

Division VI – Earl Gentry said that Walden is back in MISGA and is in Div VI.

Committee Chairmen Reports

Audit – Gary Manion said that he has completed two audits, one for the year end for MISGA and the other is for the Fall Frolic. Everything is fine and the reports are in the process of being written up. He is looking for two other people to work with him, it is not a lot of time or effort. The bylaws state that the committee consist of a chairman and two associates. If anyone has any interest, contact him.

Counsel & Events – Pete Sorge joked that from a legal point he was able to keep Tom Tarpley out of jail. For events, we have Williamsburg coming up in May. We have Liberty Mountain in September and the Fall Frolic which will be October 24th. Whispering Pines is supposedly mailing him a contract. He has two fall back sites, Jekyll Island or possibly Fripp Island. Any questions or suggestions, please give Pete a call. We do not have a coordinator for the Winter Fling in 2017.

Historian – No Report.

Membership – Two clubs have come back into MISGA. At a third club, Carl started some conversation in January but after 91 days nothing happened. He is talking to a number of clubs but it is not easy.

MISGAGRAM – Bob Hodges said the next MISGAGRAM will be June 8th.

Policy and Planning – Bob Brewer said that his committee has worked the past year to update the Constitution and By-laws. The By-laws were approved by the Board. The Constitution was approved by the Board but we are going to vote on that today.

PP ad hoc – No report.

Rules & Handicap – Jeff Hild said that he sent out the principal changes to everyone. He just wanted to mention a few changes. They are clarifications but they are no clearer now. One is a change if you are playing two balls. Wrong score for a hole on the score card no longer gets you disqualified. Anchoring a club is no longer allowed. Artificial measuring devices are not approved by the USGA. Under local rule, distance measuring devices are allowed. Discussion followed. Embedded ball rule has been changed. There are new guidelines on what is a tournament score. If you play alone, you may not post the score. If the score is subject to peer review, a caddy or someone riding in the cart with you, you can post the score. There is a change in the amateur status. Money won in events like hole-in-one contests will no longer affect amateur status.

Tournament Chairman – Lloyd Stimson said that everything that you need to know about MISGA tournaments is on the website. Fees for the tournaments will be \$105. It hasn't been raised in three years. It's a good deal at that price. There was a question about division qualifiers and prize money etc. The answer was that that decision is made by each division, not MISGA. There is a section on the website for guidelines for running the tournaments.

Web Master – Errol Myers reminded everyone that this is the time of year when a lot of changes are happening. I would like everyone to check their clubs information on the website to make sure all of your information is correct. There is an information sheet for each club, It's open ended so you can put in whatever you want to. That is right above the map on your webpage. Someone suggested that your clubs fee info, cash, check or credit card, be on the webpage.

Old Business

Winter Fling 2017 – Tom aid that we are looking for a coordinator for this event. We need a coordinator four or five months before the event which would be held in February of 2017. There was a question about Nelson Fenwick who had previously ran the event. Has he dropped out? Pete Sorge said that Nelson is now running his own event, called the Winter Bash, which has nothing to do with MISGA.

Summer Frolic – In the Mid-Atlantic Winter issue of the Golf Guide, there is a good article on the Carroll Valley Resort. The Golf Guide is free and is available in many pro shops.

New Business

Proposal for a new MISGA Constitution

Bob Brewer moved that the club representatives approve revisions to the September 2012 version of the MISGA constitution. As presented in a draft on November 21st of 2015 by the Policy an Planning Committee. There were no questions or discussion. The motion was approved. Tom said that that was a big job and took a lot of effort.

Quicken Loans PGA Tournament

This event will be held at Congressional Country Club the week after Father's Day and they are looking for volunteers.

Senior Tees

There was a discussion about the use of forward tees for our older MISGA players.

Wrap-up – The meeting was adjourned at 11:15.