

Attendees: Bob Turner, Byron Keadle, Gary Sorrell, John Babyak, Wayne Stultz, Dave Cook, Malcolm Peterson, Jim Wilcox, Steve Neal, Dave Mitchell, Lloyd Stimson, Charlie Fieldhouse, Howard Taylor, Jim Ewalt, Pete Sorge, Mike Giuffrida, Herb Hanson, Earl Gayler; Ken Wallgren, Dick Crone, Errol Myers, David Wallerstein and Ralph Cruikshank.

Call to Order - The MISGA President, Bob Turner, opened the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

President's Remarks – Bob thanked a number of people for the guidance and support they provided to him: C.J. Myers, Tom Tarpley, Charlie Fieldhouse and Byron Keadle. He introduced Errol Myers, the new webmaster. Since there were new members present, Bob asked each Board member to stand and state his name, club affiliation and position on the Board. Four new clubs joined MISGA in the previous year; Fort Meade, the Beach Club, Bear Trap Dunes and Fairway Hills.

Secretary's Report – The minutes of the September 2008 Meeting were previously distributed via e-mail and were published on the web site. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Financial reports were distributed. The IRS announced a rate of \$0.55 per mile business travel reimbursement rate. In the Y-T-D vs. Actual Budget, the rebates that were given to the clubs were taken out of the associate dues. A draft 2009 budget was presented based on 2008 expenditures. A 5% increase was added to most items. We should have a surplus of about \$8,799 at the end of next year. That was noted as a proxy for the rebate amount. Dues notices would go out in January with club dues due by April 1, 2009 and Associate dues due on June 1, 2009. Gary said that he is going to begin actively looking for a replacement and hopefully will have one sometime next year. The proposed allotments for division operations were presented also. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Vice-President's Report – Byron, as incoming President, asked that all committee chairmen continue in their positions for 2009. Some members would be leaving: Charlie Fieldhouse(Associates), Ken Wallgren(PP ad hoc) C.J. Myers(Tournament) and Byron Keadle(Webmaster). Llyod Stimson would be completing his term as Div VI Director and would be leaving the Board. Bob Turner, the current MISGA President, would be staying on as Div IV Director. Byron needs information about the pewter trays that are given to members who leave the Board. On the e-mail distribution system, just a reminder that we have to keep our e-mail groupings up-to-date. He reminded chairmen/coordinators to send event entry forms to the MISGAGRAM editor and the webmaster. The first meeting of next year will be on March 18, 2009 at Crofton C.C.

Committee Reports

Associates – A report was submitted via e-mail. Operation Second Chance fundraiser was completed, we did a great job on it. All reports were sent to Howard for audit. Bob turner thanked Charlie Fieldhouse for all that he has done for MISGA over the years.

Audit – A report was submitted via e-mail. Two reports were audited since the September meeting. One was the Summer Fling at Carroll Valley. There was a shortage of \$489.89 because of low attendance. The other report was for OSC. There was a donation of \$6000 from MISGA to OSC. The other functions for this year were the two Fall Frolics, the two-man team and the ABCD. Those reports had not been completed.

Counsel – Jim Ewalt reported that everything is in order.

Events – The two Fall Frolics have been completed and Pete is working to resolve the bills. There were two successful events this year, at Fripp Island and Amelia Island, but attendance was down about 40% at each event. Next year MISGA decided to have only one Fall Frolic. Some new venues will be looked at, including Pinehurst. We would also look at some of the other places that we have been to before. The Spring Fling will be in Williamsburg again in May 2009.

Historian – Mike Giuffrida said that he now has his instructions about what he has to do and how he is to interact with the webmaster.

Membership – A report was submitted via e-mail. Dave Wallerstein said that he has been working to try to get a number of clubs to join MISGA. He has had conversations with about ten clubs. Some of these clubs are public courses and the concept would be, like some of the other public ones, that there would be a special category of membership to play in MISGA. It was suggested that there are some good clubs that would like to join but can't get the minimum number of associates and maybe the initial requirement is too high. There are a lot of private clubs in MISGA now that have 32 members but only send ten members to a mixer. A discussion followed about the requirement that new clubs have a minimum of 32 associates to join MISGA. It was pointed out that a new club has five years to get to the minimum requirement. Bob Turner said that we can do, under the present constitution and by-laws, whatever we want to do and if the membership brings a club to the Board, we can decide whatever we want to decide. Problems with slow play and mixer formats were discussed.

MISGAGRAM – A report was submitted via e-mail. Herb Hanson reported that by getting associates to view the MISGAGRAM on the web, we were able to offset the increases this year for printing and mailing. We're going to keep the costs down by limiting the MISGAGRAM to eight pages and by taking advantage of the quirks in the postal rules. Because of the number of events advertised in the Spring issue, that issue has 12-16 pages. If we could spread the event announcements out, one per issue, we could keep our costs down. There was a suggestion that opting out of hardcopy should be the default and it should only be mailed if requested.

Policy and Planning – No Report.

Past Presidents – It was suggested that everyone read the MISGA History and past minutes to try to prevent "reinventing the wheel".

Rules & Handicaps – A report was submitted via e-mail. Dick Crone reviewed the results of monitoring the posting of scores from the 2008 ABCD and 2-Man Tournaments. The results were really good: 95.7% of the participants posted their ABCD scores; 92.7% posted their 2-Man scores.

Tournament Chairman – Tom Tarpley was not at the meeting but he did e-mail a report showing the allocations for the State Tournaments in 2009. There was a question about prizes for low gross in the tournaments. It was explained that there are low gross prizes in the ABCD but not in the two-man. Within the divisions, for the division qualifiers, prizes can be distributed any way the division chooses. There was a discussion about differences in pro-ams relative to the pro's ball.

Website – A website report was distributed via e-mail. Errol Myers, the new webmaster, has been working to keep the website up-to-date. Tabs have been added to the main map for all clubs. There is now a map for each division with tabs for each club. Errol is going to be consolidating the club map page and a page for the links to the websites. There will be a feedback page on the website.

Director's Reports

Division I – John Kennedy was absent, Wayne Stultz gave the report. Wayne Stultz tendered his resignation as the Assistant Director of Div I and his division has voted Howard Taylor in as the new Assistant.

Division II – Report distributed via e-mail. The division did not have a Director at the meeting.

Division III – Report distributed via e-mail. The division had a small drop in membership, 22 associates. The division also raised the question concerning low gross scores for mixers and State Tournaments.

Division IV – Report distributed via e-mail. The number of associates in the division dropped 15.7% in 2008 vs. 2007. There is a balance of \$2900 in the division treasury, primarily because the division, being a small geographic area, does not reimburse for travel. Many clubs in the division have been upgraded in the past couple of years.

Division V – The Assistant Director for the Division is Dave Mitchell. The Bay Club is coming back into MISGA. The Elks club lost their greens this year due to chemical application but it should be fine by Spring.

Division VI – Report distributed via e-mail. The division had a 2% decline in the 2008 membership but two new clubs have been added so they have a 19% increase. The division membership would like to see the MISGA dues reduced to \$5.00. They would like the MISGAGRAM to be an opt-in for hardcopy as opposed to the current opt-out. The division club reps and assistants felt that the manner in which the "Failure to post scores policy" was implemented and enforced on the appeal process created a divisive situation. They recommended a procedure to handle the posting of tournament scores. The division will be sponsoring a pro-am next year at the National Golf Club at Tantallon.

Charlie Fieldhouse – At a break, Bob Turner recognized the work that Charlie has done in the past taking photographs at the various meetings and events. He presented Charlie with a new camera in appreciation of his efforts.

New Business

Carolina Seniors Golf Association – The CSGA was referred to Pete Sorge by the Sports Director at Amelia Island. They would like to have a contact within our group and are interested in building a network of golf association directors. They thought the group could share business practices, venues, problems, etc. Pete Sorge recommended that we maintain a contact with them and volunteered to do that. It was agreed that we should establish this contact and should pass this information to the Free State Seniors.

Associate Dues – Bob Turner asked if we should keep the dues at \$10 or reduce it. Reducing the dues eliminates the need for rebates. It was suggested that it would be wrong to reduce the dues and then have to raise it again in the future. The Treasurer stated that we would only be able to reduce the dues to \$8.00. There was a motion to maintain the dues at \$10.00. The motion was approved.

Procedure for the election of the MISGA President – The process of electing a president through a rotation of divisions was questioned because in some instances, someone had to resign from the Board for a year in order to come back on the Board and later become the President. Bob Turner, who did not have a lot of experience on the Board prior to becoming President, felt that an incoming President should have a couple of years experience on the Board before becoming elected. The consensus of the Board was to keep the rotation.

Election of the new 2009 MISGA President – There was a motion to elect Byron Keadle as the next President. The motion was seconded and approved.

Election of the new 2009 MISGA Vice-President – There was a motion to elect Howard Taylor as the next Vice-President. The motion was seconded and approved.

Wrap-up – The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2009 at Crofton Country Club. There was a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.