

**Attendees:** Tom Rowlett, Jim Wilcox, John Babyak, Dick Schwinger, Bob Burd, Ed Masood, Malcolm Peterson, Earl Gentry, Greg Morris, Mike Urquhart, Gary Manion, Pete Sorge, Byron Keadle, Bob Hodges, Bob Brewer, Tom Tarpley, Jeff Hild, Lloyd Stimson, Errol Myers, C.J. Myers, Tom Taylor and Ralph Starkey.

**President** – Tom Rowlett asked everyone to introduce themselves. Tom welcomed everyone and said that we would have the Board meeting followed by dinner. He had a few comments. The first was to express condolences to Dick Schwinger for the passing of his wife. Everyone is curious about Richland Golf Club in Middletown MD in Div II. Jeff Hild said that they had a meeting with the general manager and he said that he had no interest. Tom said that during his tenure there were a couple of things that came up. One was Timbers of Troy. The issues were the cost of mixer fees, being too high, and the food is substandard for MISGA. Earl looked into it and it seems their fee was reasonable because it included cost for mixer balls and range balls. Another issue was a complaint from one club about another club not using the MSGA Handicap System. The MISGA Constitution says that we will use the USGA approved handicap system which the MSGA system is. All MISGA clubs use an approved system so there is no issue there. For our meeting today and for all future meetings, when we have an agenda item and a discussion, if required, we should have a clear action item at the end of the discussion. We sometimes move from one item to the next without having any specific action items.

**Vice President's Report** – Jim Wilcox said that his major assignment was to see what we could do about the Eastern Shore situation. He sent out an e-mail to all of the reps and assistant reps to get some ideas from them.

**Secretary's Report** – Tom asked if everyone had copies of the minutes. He asked if there were any issues with the minutes. The reading of the minutes was waived in order to save time. There was a question about whether only Board members could make motions. It was pointed out that others can introduce motions but only Board members can vote on them. That is in the By-laws.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dick Schwinger passed out copies of his report. He asked if everyone had received the second and third budget checks. We now have 12,675 in the checking account, and 4,460 in the savings account. The only change on the CD's is interest that they have earned. Mike's Urquhart's numbers and his numbers match. If possible he sent the checks to the Division Treasurer. If not, it went to the Division Director. Pete Sorge suggested that since the use of the CD's is restricted we should document the restriction so that people understand it. The original endowment was 10,000. Lets get someone assigned to research the CD's and document their status. Tom Tarpley took the assignment. C.J. pointed out that the original amount was 5,000, with 150 of interest going each year to the Past Presidents Tournament. Tom declared the Treasurer Report approved as read.

### **Division Director's Reports**

**Division I** – Bob Burd said there was nothing new other that Garrisons Lake has picked up some new members and Jonathon's Landing is losing member because Maple Dale came up with a special promotion to try to get new members.

**Division II** – Tom Rowlett asked if everyone had received a copy of his report. He said they had 52 players at the two-man event 40 at the ABCD qualifier. The big issue in his division is a leveling in the number of associates. He is concerned about that and is going to try to improve it next year.

**Division III** – Malcolm Peterson said they have had three clubs fold, Caroline, Easton and Harbortowne. Talbot C.C. dropped out for a number of reasons, like MISGA members didn't fix ball marks, etc. The Easton club and Caroline had ownership issues. At the Easton club, grass was not being cut. There have been bank discussions about defaulting. The new owners have great plans but the cost of bringing back the golf course will be high. Harbortowne is now scheduled to open in 2018. It is being redone, a Pete Dye design. Apparently it was not built to Pete Dye standards years ago. The owner is spending millions of dollars to upgrade the facility to a resort destination. There is a question whether he would be agreeable to MISGA at that type of facility. He has met with members and has given them assurances that he is interested. The division has three clubs in good shape, Chester River, Prospect Bay and Hog Neck. At Choptank River, they have sixteen members. The reformation of divisions is not an obvious solution for Div III.

**Division IV** – Jim Wilcox said that he has a new assistant director, Wayne Rowland, from Montgomery C.C. Ron Wiles, the former assistant, left Montgomery to join Blue Mash. Maybe he will help to get Blue Mash into MISGA. Blue Mash is a good public course. We have not given upon getting Argyle to rejoin MISGA. The division has a number of Ryder Cup type events with Kenwood, Norbeck, Hobbits Glen and Montgomery. The division is meeting in October to do scheduling. We have decided not to put an age requirement on playing from different tees. It is now the player's choice with a three stroke difference between the white and gold tees. If you look at Mike Urquhart's report you see that Div IV has a lot of associates but participation is low. So the report is misleading. Jim asked Gary Manion to comment about Norbeck. Gary turned it over to Errol Myers. Errol said that Norbeck is a member owned club but there is a private investment group that has made an offer to buy the club. If that happens, as far as he knows, the club will operate the same as now. The group owns about thirteen clubs now. Norbeck members would have playing privileges at the other clubs. If the club is sold, it should be transparent to the outside world.

**Division V** – No report

**Division VI** – Earl Gentry said that the division has thirteen clubs and 751 associates with a slight increase of ten associates last year. They are still looking at ways to increase participation in mixers and division qualifiers.

### **Committee Chairmen Reports**

**Associates** – Mike Urquhart handed out copies of Summary Reports. MISGA is continuing to see a decline in membership. In Div III we have no data from two clubs, Chester River and Clearview. If we got information from them it would be about 89 associates. The number of clubs is 55 without those two clubs. About the large number of associates in Div IV, a number of private clubs have senior groups that include MISGA membership. Kenwood has 126 members in the senior group but only about 50 take part in at least one MISGA event. Lloyd Stimson asked if the numbers in the report are what he should use for allocation of players for the State Tournaments for 2017. Mike said not to use them, he would have the numbers at the December meeting.

**Audit** – Gary Manion said that there are two outstanding audits, the State Tournaments, the ABCD and the Two-man. Last Spring Gary asked about getting people to join his committee and unfortunately he did not get anyone to join. Someone had a comment about Div VI. Timbers at Troy has had a change in management and they may not be in MISGA next year.

**Events** – Pete Sorge said that for the Fall Frolic he has three members of the Board that will attend. There are about 53 people going to the Pinehurst area. This event is cheap compared to other years. Whispering Pines is a nice venue. Pete tried to get back to Little River but the

course was sold and they are having management problems. Pete said that he normally doesn't go anywhere that he hasn't checked out but he understands that Whispering Pines is O.K. Pete doesn't have anyone to take over the Winter Fling in 2017. He did not know how the Winter Bash, run by another group, went last year. A discussion of the Winter Fling followed. Tom asked if we should stop having the Winter Fling. There was a motion to end the event. The motion was seconded and passed with four votes out of seven voting members.

**Historian** – Byron said that he maintains the History of Board Actions and Cumulative History of Board Actions. The info comes from the Board minutes and after the December meeting he will combine the actions for the year and update the History. .

**Membership** – No Report.

**MISGAGRAM** – Bob Hodges said that he sent out an e-mail that we might want to do Facebook. He got two kinds of responses. One, thought it was a good idea. The other was how do we control the flow of information. So he thought about that and put together a couple of pictures about how Misgagram works now and what it would look like if we used Facebook. In the current system, people submit articles or pictures to the Editor. He creates a document, gets it printed and distributed. The Editor controls the content. If readers have comments they send them to the Editor. One person controls the information flow. In the Facebook model, users would submit articles and pictures to the Editor. But those things would now go on a local website instead of being printed and distributed. At that point, things get different. You have people who are reading the website who can produce input and based on what kind of filter you have, it controls what they are allowed to change. Their changes go right back into the website. MISGA now longer controls what is on the website. You would need someone who manages permission for people like what they can change and what they can't. What you really need to think about is people can comment on what you have or they can put stuff on the website themselves. Do we want to go forward with a system like that? There was a question as to whether we were talking about MISGAGRAM or the MISGA website. Bob said no. He asked if we want to set up a Facebook so people could interact more around MISGA. There would, however, be less control over the information. There was a comment about not being able to control who commented. It was pointed out that you could control who reads or posts on the site. There was a question about who would be the 'sheriff' to control the site. Someone said that if we are trying to build membership with younger people, they live on Facebook. A lot of Facebook discussion followed. Tom asked if we could set up a demo version on Facebook. Bob said that he could set up a site and only give the Board permission to access it. If we could put special events and State Championships you can get on and take a look at it. Facebook is going to take a lot of pushing by the reps and assistant reps. Bob said that he would start to work on it, with no timeline to complete, with the Board as initial users. Bob agreed to give a status report at the December meeting.

**Policy and Planning** – Bob Brewer sent out copies of his report. We got the revised Constitution and By-laws approved earlier this year and they are now on the website where the club handbook used to be. The handbook has been archived because it is no longer in effect. All of the official documents that we have under the Organizational section, that includes Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, Constitution and Guidelines. Jeff Hild said that he would be responsible for the Guidelines. He has now given Bob a new version of the Guidelines and Bob will have the committee review and comment on those and put them on the webpage. The only other thing is that there are other documents on the website that because of the changes in the Constitution and By-laws have to be reviewed.

**PP ad hoc** – No report.

**Rules & Handicap** – No report. Someone asked if you have a player with no handicap, how do you handle it. At Rookery, they allow the person to play but on that team they do a blind draw in place of that person. The person gets to play in the event and post a score.

**Tournament Chairman** – Lloyd Stimson said that in 2017 the Two-man team event will be at Wild Quail on Thursday August 3rd. The ABCD will be at Norbeck on Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup>. In special events like closest to the pin and closest to the line, we have given a box of balls, which have been donated by the Pro shop.. Do we want to start a pool and give out cash. It was mentioned that some people think that we should eliminate prizes to cut own on the cheating. We will try the cash pool next year at the ABCD Tournament at Norbeck with five dollars collected at registration if an associate wishes to participate. Someone said that for the closest to the line event, players were using irons to hit short shots close to the line. After some discussion it was decided to start the line at 150 yards. Lloyd said some players are complaining about the late start times. He asked if it would be O.K. to move the tee off time from 12:00 to 11:30. The cocktail hour and dinner would also be moved up one half hour to 4:30 an 5:30. There was a motion and a second but someone said to Lloyd “you are in charge, do it”.

**Web Master** – Errol Myers said that everything is up to date. Lloyd Stimson asked if anyone was interested in taking over the Tournament Chairman’s job. A resounding NO was the response.

#### **Old Business**

None.

#### **New Business**

##### **Tournament Complaint**

Tom received a letter complaining about the fact that the same associate wins the Two-man and ABCD every year. The person said that if that person participates, he won’t. Tom said that if that person continues to participate and win, more people will refuse to participate. That same p[layer plays a lot of other events an almost always wins. Someone said that he thought that we had instituted a rule that if you won two years in a row your handicap would be reduced. There was a lot of discussion which I, John Babyak, believe will solve nothing. John Babyak’s opinion is to make the player and his partner play scratch and they will go away. Anything else is nonsense. More discussion happened.

**Wrap-up** – Tom said that we had to adjourn. The other new business will be moved to the December meeting. The meeting was adjourned.