

Attendees: Jim Wilcox, Greg Morris, John Babyak, Dick Schwinger, Bob Burd, Tom Rowlett, Ed Masood, Malcolm Peterson, Wayne Rowland, Mike Urquhart, Gary Manion, Pete Sorge, Byron Keadle, Bob Hodges, Bob Brewer, Tom Tarpley, Lloyd Stimson, Errol Myers.

President – Jim started the meeting by asking that we go around the room and introduce ourselves, what position you hold and what club you are from. Jim thanked Tom Rowlett for serving as President for the past year, he thought that Tom was a great President. Then Jim mentioned Joe Bailey, a former Board member who died suddenly recently. Bob Brewer added that Joe was retired Air Force and was a really nice guy to play with. Joe had a blood disorder that he didn't know about and it was fatal.

Vice President's Report – Greg Morris said that he appreciates the assistance that he has received as he moves up the MISGA hierarchy. He mentioned Tom Tarpley and CJ Myers and a couple of others from his club. Pete Sorge and Lloyd Stimson. He is looking forward to working with the group.

Secretary's Report – John Babyak started to read the minutes. Part way through it was decided to accept the minutes as printed on the website.

Treasurer's Report – Dick Schwinger said that we have about \$170 in income that needs to be deposited and about \$122 in expenses that needs to be paid out. But we have a total of \$30,771 with about \$5,000 in the checking account, about \$4,500 in the savings account. The CD's have not been touched. We should be receiving the club dues, \$50 from each club. There was a question about the loss of \$2,700 and division expenses. That is money distributed to the divisions that is spent by them. There were some special items, like two green jackets, etc. Tom Rowlett pointed out that last year, the first payment to the divisions was before the first meeting and at that meeting the Board decided to reduce the amount given to the divisions which contributed to the deficit. Tom Tarpley pointed out that he paid for the second green jacket.

Division Director's Reports

Division I – Bob Burd said that their 2-man qualifier will be at Garrisons Lake and the ABCD will be at Hogs Neck. He doesn't have info on membership yet, his clubs don't have a men's association. The only club that might have problems is Jonathon's Landing. Maple Dale has given a good deal on memberships to try to get people in. So Jonathan's lost a lot of members to Maple Dale. Bob has not been able to find anyone to become the assistant Division Director. Jim Wilcox asked if anyone had any incentives to get people to take jobs in MISGA like divisions jobs, club reps, etc. We have lost clubs because no one would take the club reps job.

Division II – Tom Rowlett said the bad news is that West Winds has had troubles. The owner ran out of money and was not able to take care of the golf course. The person that had the mortgage foreclosed. They are trying to get the course back in shape but they will be inactive this year. Oakmont Greens, in Finksburg MD, has expressed an interest in MISGA and the division is pursuing it. Hollow Creek, now Richland, is interested in becoming MISGA members. They have no one to run a seniors group or be a club rep. They are trying to get their tee ground info updated and on the website. Last year our division tried to have a match play competition but only two clubs were interested. This year we will try something new where all of the clubs participate and play on the same day. Tom encourages the use of Golfnet software for scoring at mixers. A discussion of the Golfnet software followed.

Division III – Malcolm Peterson said the division is unchanged. There may not be a golf course at the Easton club. The priority is a dining facility, a sports club and a golf course. It may only be nine holes. So the club will probably be out of MISGA. Harbortowne has spent an amazing amount of money. Pete Dye Jr is the new architect and the course has been transformed, there are mounds and mounds everywhere. Harbortowne will have limited play this Fall.

Division IV – Jim Wilcox said their next division meeting will be March 22 at Montgomery Country Club. They have a Ryder Cup every year with Kenwood, Norbeck, Hobbits Glen and Montgomery. This will be the first year that Blue Mash is in MISGA, it will be the only public course in Div IV. Argyle Country Club is back in MISGA. The club rep was ill so the club dropped out of MISGA. But Leo Sherbert and Jeff Peirson have stepped up so Argyle is back in. They are only playing in Div IV this year.

Division V – Inactive

Division VI – Greg Morris said that at the end of 2016 they had 759 associates and 13 clubs. Walden came back and they have a small group of members that are very active. They are going to have a Pro-am at Crofton, on May 15th. It will be a pro and four players with a scramble format. Their qualifiers are all set.

Committee Chairmen Reports

Associates – Mike Urquhart said that he wanted to thank Bob Brewer for pointing him to the MISGA website to find documents. The key changes this year are that all checks will now be sent directly to the Treasurer. The club dues will also be sent directly to the Treasurer. The reports that Mike gets will be coordinated with the Treasurer. He is going to try to put together a master roster of all the clubs. That will depend on the clubs sending him the rosters in electronic format. There is also a summary division report that info about the clubs, number of associates and amount of dues. That summary information is what he will give the Tournament Chairman. A lot of varied discussion and laughter followed.

Events – Pete Sorge said that everybody that runs an event should have a checking account, authorized by MISGA, and should have at least two people that can each sign a check. As far as Williamsburg, he had negotiated the contract with Joe Bailey, before his demise, and he thinks that he has someone to run the event, Dick Dale. Pete was able to get the Williamsburg people to extend the date to sign the contract. The information about the event should go out soon. Ed Masood is in charge of the Summer Frolic. Ed said that the Summer Frolic would be held at the Liberty Mountain Resort on September 12-14. Tuesday the 12th will be a MISGA Board meeting following golf. Everything is committed in terms of the housing, meals and meeting room space. We are working on the cost. He has sent preliminary information for the MISGAGram and the web. He will send emails to everyone who has participated in the last two years. There was a lot of discussion about MISGA checking accounts, IRS, Form 990 issues that followed. Malcolm Peterson said that there is not a lot of guidance for MISGA individuals about these types of accounts. Jim said that Ralph Starkey and Dick Dale are taking over the Spring Fling and they already have 25 people signed up.

Historian – Byron Keadle said that the History of Board Actions has been put on the website.

Membership – Carl Lazar was not at the meeting.

MISGAGRAM – Bob Hodges asked that anything for the next MISGAGram should be submitted by March 15 or 20. The FACEBOOK site is up and running but Bob said that he is not a suitable person to run this site. The only way the FACEBOOK thing will work is if there is an administrator to run it. You can't let everybody pass stuff through that site. We need someone with the ability to pay attention to that site. Random discussions followed, but no one volunteered to administer the site.

Policy and Planning – Bob Brewer sent out copies of his report. There was a lot of work done in updating the By-laws and Guidelines. We would vote on the updates during the New Business section of the meeting. Some things we might consider this year as possible changes is more directions for Directors and more info about quorums. Bob was thinking that maybe if a Director cannot attend a meeting he could designate a replacement. He did a lot of work with Mike Urquhart in cleaning up files on the website. There is no information in the Guidelines about IRS Form 990 so that should be added.

Rules & Handicap – Rule changes for this year. Now instead of getting DQ'ed for playing out of a place that you should have taken a penalty, now you add a penalty stroke plus two strokes and continue playing. Wayne handed out a flyer from the USGA explaining a local rule that can be adopted by a club relative to accidental movement of a ball on the putting green.

PP ad hoc – Tom Tarpley pointed out that he paid for the second green jacket last year.

Tournament Chairman – Lloyd Stimson said that next year the Two-man Championship will be at Wild Quail on August 3rd. The ABCD will be at Norbeck on August 10th. The entry fee for each event will be \$105. Lloyd is developing the flyers and they will be out on the website. The MISGA Tournament Guidelines have been updated and put on the website. Divisional allocations and dates for all of the qualifiers are also on there. The history of the tournament results are also on the website. A discussion of past 'cheating in tournaments' and penalties followed.

Web Master – Errol Myers said that the website is pretty much up to date. He needs to talk to the Secretary about the December minutes and he needs to do some stuff on maps. There are two professional tournaments in the area this year, the Quicken Loans at TPC Potomac (Avenal) and the Senior PGA will be at Trump National (Lowes Island). There is an opportunity to watch or volunteer. Lloyd Stimson said that Earl does a great job.

Old Business

Fall Frolics - Pete Sorge said that he is working on three areas. We have been to Amelia Island four times till it was bought out by Omni. They have a new director of golf who has contacted Pete twice and Pete will see if they can work something out. It is a great venue. If not Amelia, Pete is considering going back to Seabrook or Fripp Island. Pete is only doing one Fall event. No dates have been decided upon.

Division V – Jim Wilcox said that there are some people who had been in Div V are still interested in MISGA. Discussion followed.

New Business

Revised By-laws – There was a motion to approve the February 5th draft version of the By-laws. The motion was seconded and approved by six voting members.

Division Realignment – There was a discussion. The issue was tabled.

Wrap-up – The meeting was adjourned.