

## **SFPGA Southern Chapter Meeting Minutes**

**April 4th, 2016 – (9:00 am).**

### Welcome, Opening Remarks and Special Recognitions:

SFPGA President and Director of Golf at Fort Lauderdale Country Club, Mark VanDyck, welcomed everyone to the 2016 Spring Meeting and introduced Southern Chapter President, Chris Krause for the opening remarks.

Chris Krause recognized the hard work of recently appointed committee chairs this past winter season, announced an exciting schedule of activities including education seminars, golf clinics and tournaments and thanked the Fort Lauderdale Country Club for opening its doors to the first event of the calendar season. In turn, Chris, in absence of Chapter Vice President Scott Kirkwood, took a few minutes to explain the Report of the Vice President and invited any members or apprentices to ask questions regarding the Southern Chapter Finances.

### Report of the Secretary and Treasurer:

Santos Caceres recognized the remarkable efforts of Geoff Lofstead and his highly productive team of professionals, stating "we are set apart with the most effective team of professionals among all PGA sections." Santos thanked the Southern Chapter Board of Directors for their leadership and support and encouraged the members to stay active attending meetings, playing tournaments and becoming involved with all chapter activities. In addition, he asked the membership to evaluate their current player development programs to invest heavily in those activities that are creating new golfers and correct those others which are not yielding positive results.

### Sponsorship Report:

Committee Chairperson, Santos Caceres, introduced the new sponsors of our Chapter including Srixon/Cleveland, Under Armour, Deck Roofing Inc. and announced those companies in the

process of becoming partners such as Global Golf Sales, Garia Golf Cars and Santander Bank. Santos also mentioned that Carol Day, wife of John Day has donated \$2000 to the Southern Chapter in remembrance of her deceased husband.

#### Education Co-Chairperson Introduction:

Emmanuel Palacios and Craig Merlin took the stage to introduce themselves as new leaders of the education committee and announced an exciting schedule of activities as regards to membership education and professional development.

#### Apprentice Chairperson Introduction:

Brian Varsey took the opportunity to introduce himself as the newly elected leader of this committee and encouraged all apprentices of the Southern Chapter to reach out to him for help and assistance anytime. Brian wants all apprentices to understand that he can help them get through the PGA Apprentice Program successfully and in a timely manner.

#### Tournament Chairperson Report:

Brian Schuler introduced himself as the newly elected leader of the tournament committee announcing changes in format and fee structure for this upcoming season. Brian detailed how the point system has changed to allow professionals to accumulate participation points as well as section event points that will count towards the Player of the Year Points for the Southern Chapter. Brian was excited and highly enthusiastic about the new tournament season.

#### Report of the Executive Director:

Geoff Lofstead announced a few changes to the tournament schedule for the South Florida Section. The Fort Lauderdale Open is going to Plantation Preserve Golf Club and the Section Championship is moving to the west coast hosted by Wyndemere Country Club / Quail Creek Country Club. As regards to the Golf Expo, Geoff said this year organizers have focused on a

small but solid organization for the event on April 16th and 17th at the Seminole Coconut Creek Casino. Anyone interested in joining the Expo should contact Meredith Schuler at the section office. Moreover, Mr. Lofstead talked about the positive impact of the Junior Golf Programs in place and made encouraging remarks of the participation numbers. Geoff explained to the membership the importance of the PREP Tour with the objective to bridge the gap between TEAM Golf and competitive junior golf.

The SFPGA Executive Director announced that PGA of America Vice President Paul Levy will be the special guest speaker for the Annual Meeting on June 22nd at Seminole Coconut Creek Casino and encouraged apprentices to attend this meeting.

As regards to our chapter matters, Geoff was excited to announce a new administrative position that Caitlin Huiting has filled. This position deals strictly with administrative matters and allows for the Board of Directors to set policies and the overall direction of the chapter.

#### Report of the Employment Consultant:

Mike McCollum addressed the membership and encouraged professionals to turn in their compensation surveys because only 39% of the South Florida section members have done so. In addition, Mike mentioned that it is important for all professionals to familiarize themselves with the new ruling regarding overtime and visit [pga.org](http://pga.org) for more information. In relation to MSR points, facilities, clubs and organizations will be soon awarding credits for specific education seminars that their own human resource departments provide. Also, those professionals whose years of active membership combined with age are equal or more than 90 will only be required to gather 12 MSR required points. Mike ended his presentation by requesting members that change classifications to do it within the appropriate time frame and made big emphasis on professionals to contact him personally for any job related inquiry.

#### Section Board Member at Large Speeches and Vote:

Steve Jablonowski, Richard McNeill and Brian Schuler presented their respective speeches to the membership whose vote decided that Brian Schuler Director of Golf at Plantation Preserve Golf Club is the new Board Member at Large for the Southern Chapter.

Old Business:

John Nelson made a special recognition to former Tournament Committee Chairperson John Pallot for his remarkable efforts during the 2015 tournament season.

New Business:

John Nelson requested clarification on the point system chosen by the Board of Directors and Tournament Chairperson Brian Schuler advised the members to visit [www.sfpgagolf.com](http://www.sfpgagolf.com) and click on 2016 Tournament Policies and Procedures to see the changes.

Call for Adjournment:

Southern Chapter President Chris Krause, Director of Golf at Deering Bay Yacht and Country Club called the meeting for adjournment at 10:05 am.