

MISGA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 20, 2004
Prospect Bay

President Don Ewalt called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and welcomed everyone to Prospect Bay. Don said that his goal for the year is to re-sell MISGA to some of our members. He noted that some of our pros seem to be turned off by MISGA in spite of the increased revenue from food, carts and prize money. Nassawango, which canceled its membership this year, was cited as an example. So, we need to re-sell MISGA to the membership, the pros, and club management. He then introduced the officers and asked each participant to introduce themselves. Board and committee members in attendance were the following: Bill Brown, Dick Crone, Dick Dale, Paul Desmond, Chuck Ebbecke, Don Ewalt, Charlie Fieldhouse, Earl Gayler, Dick Hunt, Paul Keiser, CJ Myers, Bob Nicholson, Paul Phillips, Pete Sorge, Ralph Starkey, Tom Tarpley, Ken Walgren, Dick Walsh, and Dan Williams.

Vice President's Report: Paul Keiser commented that three clubs in Division I are in financial trouble and that membership has declined from 600 to 320 in the last ten years.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the December 11 meeting at Rolling Road were unanimously approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Tarpley reported that funds in checking and savings total \$17,080.39. This amount together with our CD gives MISGA a total of \$22,370.46. The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Division Reports:

Div I - Paul Keiser reported that the Division is preparing for the ABCD State Final on August 16. A training seminar is scheduled for February 25. Dick Dale said that planning for the Spring Fling is going well and that 56 golfers are signed up thus far.

Div II - Dick Walsh said that the Division training seminar will be held on March 29 at Hunt Valley and that Dick Crone will attend and address the subject of rules and handicaps. The Division Pro Am will be held on October 4 at Holly Hills. Dick asked for Board reactions to the notion of a one day, 27 hole tournament with 3 nine hole formats - better ball, alternate shot and captain's choice. The cost might be about \$50 - \$55 and handicap would be based on the best golfer. The Board generally reacted favorably.

Div. III - Ralph Starkey reported that the Division is getting organized and is ready to go as a new Division. The first Pro Am for the Three Eastern Shore Divisions is in the planning stages for the fall - probably around September 27.

Div IV - Chuck Ebbecke noted the successful Christmas party held at Manor and said that a training seminar was held on January 2 and thanked Dick Crone for his valuable discussion of rules and handicaps. The next Division meeting will be on April 20.

Div V - Paul Phillips reported that a Division Training Seminar will be held in February for new Reps.

Div VI - Dan Williams said that the Division is trying to move the Pro Am to June 16 at Patuxent Greens to avoid competition with other Division Pro Ams. He said that the previously reported club with

low membership, is back on track now that management is billing all members over 55 for senior events. Dan raised the issue of how MISGA might entice more low handicap golfers. He suggested that we might conduct inter-club scratch tournaments modeled after the Maryland State Golf Association A - Team matches. The Board reacted favorably and Dan volunteered to further investigate this possibility.

Committee Reports:

Associates - Charlie Fieldhouse handed out a new summary roster reflecting the new Division. A new entry will be added to the file to reflect an Associate's desire for mailed copy of the MISGAGRAM.

A motion was unanimously passed to add an entry to the 5 - 89 form to reflect that an Associate wants to receive the MISGAGRAM by mail.

Audit - No report.

Counsel - No report

Events - Pete Sorge said that the MISGAGRAM will contain a note that says applicants to fall events must be MISGA members. He may ask Reps to check applicants' membership status. This is necessary to avoid problems encountered last year with non members attending a fall event. Widows of members can attend on a space available basis. Negotiations are under way with Fripp, Seabrook, and Jekyll for next fall's trips. Most likely, Fripp and Jekyll will be selected. Planning for a non-MISGA trip to the Dominican Republic is continuing. Dick Dale complimented Pete on the dinner seating arrangements at the Flings.

History - Bill Brown reported good progress on the history. Sam Hastings is developing a section on events and Byron Keadle is working on photographs. Some of the histories are spotty and inconsistent and the Division Directors are responsible for coordinating individual club inputs. Bill plans to have each Division history chairman or Division Chairman give a report at the Annual Meeting.

Membership - Paul Desmond again noted that we have more clubs and fewer members. 156 people are signed up for the Florida Fling

MISGAGRAM - Dick Walsh reported that the MISGAGRAM is ready to go.

Rules and Handicaps - Dick Crone said that the Eastern and Western Shore committees will meet separately and then the Co-Chairs will meet to coordinate recommendations and actions. Education will continue through flyers and MISGAGRAM articles. Clubs without Handicap Committees will be encouraged to form them and the Rules and Handicap Committee will help. The USGA said that a senior handicap committee would be "better than nothing" as an interim alternative to a club committee. The Board agreed to add to the guideline form for new club membership a question as to whether the club has an active handicap committee in accordance with USGA requirements. Dick Dale passed out a handout with a strong endorsement of the USGA requirement to use 90% of handicap for best two balls of four, team play.

Tournaments - CJ Myers said that his committee goals are: 100% attendance for those qualifying for state finals; fast play and good food; accurate records for use in the MISGAGRAM and for future insights into comparative performance. In addition, next year's goal will include first class tournament locations. In 2005, Division V will host the ABCD Tournament and Division II will host the Two-Man

Team event. He distributed copies of the Divisions' allotments for both tournaments as well as instructions and general information for each tournament.

Web - Dick Walsh noted that the calendar and tournament schedule is on the Web.

Past Presidents - Charlie Fieldhouse said that Bob Toth will be editor of the history and that four club histories have been received - two of these are good and two need more work.

Old Business - 1. Bob Nicholson, Plans and Policy Committee Chairman reported on the Committee's follow-up to the issue raised at the last meeting dealing with discipline of any MISGA Associate who seriously and knowingly violates MISGA standards. The Committee had several recommendations for changes to the by-laws. After discussion the Committee was asked to reconsider the matter at the next meeting.

2. Dick Walsh will publish the revised handbook and will have it available for the Annual Meeting. The changes below to the by-laws will be incorporated in the revised handbook after the 15 day waiting period, assuming that the vote was favorable. Dick has sent copies of the changes to all voting members by email and a follow-up vote will be taken by email.

Proposed By -Law changes:

1. Usually there is only one person willing and eligible to become Vice President.

Section II A

Old words... accepting the gavel and calling for the election of a new Vice President.

New words... accepting the gavel and calling for the naming or, if more than one candidate, election of a new Vice President.

2. Since the new Vice President assumes office January 1, that is when his two- year availability starts.

Section II B

old words...a candidate must have at least two years remaining.

new words... a candidate must have, upon assuming office, at least two years remaining...

3. Presidents assume office at the December meeting and Vice Presidents January 1.

Delete Section III C

current words - With the exception of the Assistant Directors selected as in B2 above, all newly elected Board members shall assume their positions at the first meeting of the Board in the new MISGA year.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting on April 12 at Chester River. The following meeting will be some time in June on the Western Shore.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectively submitted - Dick Hunt - Secretary.