

To view supplemental reports, click on the high-lighted link (blue rectangle). To return to base Minutes document, use ALT + Left Arrow, more than once if necessary.

Attendees: Bob Turner, Will Hall, John Babyak, Gary Sorrell, Wayne Stultz, Tom Taylor, Bob Loun, Malcolm Peterson, Jim Wilcox, Lloyd Stimson, Byron Keadle, Charlie Fieldhouse, Howard Taylor, Pete Sorge, Herb Hanson, Earl Gayler; Ken Wallgren, Dick Crone; C.J. Myers and Tom Tarpley.

Call to Order - The MISGA President, Bob Turner, opened the meeting at 10:00 A.M. He introduced Dave Stevenson, the club rep from Crofton, who went over the administrative details; facilities, lunch and golf. Since there were a number of new board members, Bob had everyone introduce themselves. Bob said that the Fall & Florida Flings were great and he thanked Pete Sorge for doing a good job. He asked that the reps be encouraged to attend the Summer Frolic at Carroll Valley in September.

Vice President's Remarks – Will Hall said that as a group we need to change the way we think about some of the issues that we face, like lack of participation.. He felt that the meetings are too long.

Secretary's Report – The minutes had been distributed to the Board via e-mail prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's Report was distributed and discussed. The report included a proposed budget for 2008 and a chart showing the proposed Division Expense Allotments. A motion was made to approve the proposed budget. The motion passed. (Report)

Division Reports

Division I – Wayne Stultz, Assistant Division Director, said that there are issues with handicaps, sandbagging, meal costs and cart surcharges. He suggested flights using handicaps.

Division II – A report as distributed. The division Stroke Play Championship will be using a new payout system based on the number of players in each flight. The 2008 Summer Frolic will be held at Carroll Valley on September 3rd and 4th with a Board meeting on the 2nd. (Report)

Division III – Malcolm Peterson, the Assistant Division Director, had a request from the General Manager at Prospect Bay to supply the number of lunches required for the Club Reps Meeting. Last year, they prepared a lot of food but many people chose to skip lunch.

Division IV – The Division ABCD Tournament is scheduled for Montgomery Country Club which will still be closed in June. The event will be played at Challedon in Mt. Airy, MD. Montgomery has MISGA associate issues.

Division V – The Division lost one club, the Bay Club, but picked up another, the Beach Club.

Division VI – The size of the division has increased to twelve clubs from ten. (Report)

Committee Reports

Associates – There was a concern over the new club associates and MISGAGRAM. We use the previous year's roster to send out MISGAGRAMS.

Audit – Howard had a report for the Summer Frolic at Ocean City. There was a small amount of overage which was not returned. There was no report for the ABCD Tournament at Tantallon. There were some billing problems at Seabrook and Amelia Island but these were out of Pete Sorge's control. (Report)

Counsel – Jim Ewalt was not at the meeting.

Events – Pete Sorge discussed the Fall Flings in 2008. The first will be at Fripp Island from November 2 to 7. The second will be at Amelia Island from November 9 to 14. There is a problem because the MISGAGRAM is already printed for April. Usually the Fall Fling applications are done in April to be put in a May 1st MISGAGRAM. We may have to put the applications on the website. Pete would like to change the amount of money that requires a refund to the event participants from \$10 to \$25. He warned everyone that the events sold out last year in two days. The Spring Fling in Williamsburg will be well attended.

Historian – Mike Giuffrida did not attend the meeting.

Membership – A report was distributed. Dave Wallerstein of Crofton is joining the Membership Committee. He will be working on trying to bring new clubs into MISGA.(Report)

MISGAGRAM – Herb Hanson said that the publish dates are April, July, September and December. He would like to keep the MISGAGRAM published quarterly. There are conflicts with away events. Herb and Pete will try to work something out for the future.

Past Presidents Committee – No Report.

Policy and Planning – A plan for trying to centralize the location of State Final events will be addressed later.

Rules & Handicaps – A report was distributed. The Notice of Ineligibility for those associates who did not post scores from the previous year's State Finals was discussed. It was decided that the Division Handicap Chairman should be the person to notify any disqualified associate. Two new rule changes for 2008 were discussed. (Report)

Tournament Chairman – A report had previously been distributed. C.J. said that he would need a \$640 subsidy from the MISGA Treasury in order to keep the price at Piney Branch to \$75 per person. He plans to use the May 1st number of associates in each club for the new tournament allotments.

Website – A report had been distributed. Byron had a serious system crash requiring the installation of a new hard drive. The web site was not affected. Some data will have to be redeveloped. (Report)

Items for Discussion

Tournament Fund – C.J asked for a subsidy of \$5.00 per participant for a total of \$640.00 in order to keep the cost at Piney Branch to \$75.00. A motion was made to agree to the subsidy. Much discussion followed about setting a bad precedent, omitting lunch, using the Tournament CD et al. The motion was passed.

Refund Policy – The events Chairman asked that the amount of excess money from an event per participant be increased from \$10 to \$25 before the money has to be refunded. Currently the excess is used to subsidize prize money at a future event. The motion was passed. Pete mentioned that Amelia Island gave him two gift cards to be given to someone. We have auctioned this type of card previously.

E-mail Distribution System. – A report was distributed. This is how it works. An e-mail, with or without attachments is sent to the Division Directors and Assistant Directors. They forward the e-mail to the Division Club Reps who then forward it to each associate at his club. There are some problems with this approach but we should be able to provide better service to the associates and save money for the organization. (Mgram Art.) (Review E-Dist.) (Example.)

Notice of Ineligibility to participate in State Tournaments – The notification to the individuals should be done by letter and that the letter should contain an appeal provision. A motion was made to make the event tournament chairman the appeal judge. The motion was passed.

Associates Roster Due Date – A motion was made to move the roster due date back to May 1st. The motion was passed.

Surplus – Because of an IRS situation, it was suggested that we move some of the surplus into the Tournament Fund. A motion was made to move some of the funds. The motion was passed. A second motion was made to move \$14,000 to the Tournament Fund. That motion was also passed.

Centralized State Tournaments – Earl Gayler has proposed that we try to locate the State Tournaments that are within 25 miles of the Bay Bridge. This would eliminate the 3-3½ time that it takes to get from the Eastern Shore to Div II. He had a map showing the location of all MISGA clubs and a chart to show how far each club was from the middle of the bridge. It was agreed that this made sense. Divisions III and VI will contact the various clubs to see if they would be interested in a tournament rotation. Cost would also be a factor.

First Tee – Will Hall suggested that we could collect old golf clubs and balls to be donated to the First Tee Program. He was told that he did not need MISGA approval to do it. Charlie Fieldhouse took the initiative for a 911 Fund and was very successful.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35.

MISGA Treasurer's Report
March 19, 2008 Board Meeting

- Financial condition -- very solvent. Have filed 2008 Maryland personal property report and next IRS 990 is due May 15 for 2007.
- Found no rules for how much a non-profit organization can carry over from year to year, but still concerned that we want to have our carry-over funds at least identified for some stated purpose. A carryover amount of \$20,000 to \$25,000 is probably alright, given cash flow needs early in the year before revenue is received. We will be discussing this later in the meeting.
- The proposed 2008 budget is shown as Attachment 1 and needs to be discussed, modified as necessary, and then approved by the Board. Note that the total division allotment amount was doubled by the Board at the December meeting. The mileage rate has been increased to 50 cents per mile as we discussed in December. Have not included a donation amount and the MISGAGRAM amount has been lowered due to expected lower postage estimates.
- The Year-to-Date actual income and expenses versus the Proposed 2008 budget are shown on Attachment 2.
- Proposed Division Operations allotments for 2008 are shown on Attachment 3, as modified by doubling the amounts, and I am distributing one-third of those amounts to each division today. For new clubs, propose divisions (1, 5, and 6) be given \$1.75 for each paid member after Associate Dues are paid for each new club.

PROPOSED 2008 MISGA BUDGET				
as of 3/19/08				
Category Description	Actuals for 2007	Proposed 2008 Budget	Notes for 2008 budget numbers (increases are above 2007 actuals)	
INCOME				
ASSOCIATES DUES	39,890	41,000	4 more clubs for 2008, increased to 4,100 members at \$10 each	
CLUB DUES	2,900	3,100	62 clubs times \$50	
EVENTS REVENUE	0	0	assumes events revenue retained for future events	
INTEREST -- Gifted CD	262	179	interest rate is lower, to 3.0% from 4.5%	
INTEREST -- SAVINGS,CDs	374	840	estimated based on carryover funds and 3.0% rate	
TOTAL INCOME	43,426	45,119		
EXPENSES				
BOARD MEETINGS	0	200	assumes 4 meetings at \$50 each	
BUSINESS INSURANCE	2,791	2,931	5% increase	
BUSINESS SUPPLIES	868	473	5% increase	
COMPUTER/TELEPHONE	0	25	assume will be as it was in prior years	
COMPUTER SERVICES	115	121	5% increase	
DIVISION OPERATIONS	3,639	7,060	estimate doubled for 2008 at 12/4 Board meeting	
DONATIONS	5,000	0	assumes none for 2008	
MAILING & POSTAGE	160	168	5% increase, rates go up in May 2008	
MISGAGRAM	17,520	13,120	reduced from 2007 due to lower postage, going more electronic??	
PRINTING	3,621	802	assumes no poster printing in 2008	
TRAVEL	3,754	3,910	new mileage rate at 50 cents per mile	
TROPHIES & AWARDS	2,345	2,462	5% increase	
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,813	31,272		
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	3,613	13,847		
Funds available at end of 2007 *		27,939		
Projected funds at end of 2008 *		41,786		
* includes Gifted Certificate of Deposit (\$5,957 as of 12/31/07)				

YEAR TO DATE ACTUALS VERSUS PROPOSED 2008 MISGA BUDGET						
as of 3/19/07						
Category Description	Year to Date	2008 Budget	Budget minus			
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Proposed 3/19/07</u>	<u>actuals to date</u>	<u>Notes</u>		
INCOME						
ASSOCIATES DUES		41,000	41,000			
CLUB DUES	1,350	3,100	1,750			
EVENTS REVENUE	(500)	0	500	Deposit to Piney Branch for ABCD finals		
INTEREST -- CDs + Savings	186	1,019	833			
TOTAL INCOME	1,036	45,119	44,083			
EXPENSES						
BOARD MEETINGS		200	200			
BUSINESS INSURANCE		2,931	2,931			
BUSINESS SUPPLIES & FEES		473	473			
COMPUTER/TELEPHONE		25	25			
COMPUTER SERVICES		121	121			
DIVISION OPERATIONS	2,353	7,060	4,707	One-third of allotments distributed 3/19		
DONATIONS		0	0			
MAILING & POSTAGE		168	168			
MISGAGRAM		13,120	13,120			
PRINTING/BINDING		802	802			
TRAVEL		3,910	3,910			
TROPHIES & AWARDS		2,462	2,462			
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,353	31,272	28,919		<u>Account Balances</u>	
2008 INCOME LESS EXPENSES to date	(1,317)	13,847		Gifted Certificate of Deposit	6,001	
				Checking Account	242	
Funds available at end of 2007		27,939		Savings & Other CDs	19,946	
Projected funds at end of 2008		41,786		Total	26,189	

Proposed 2008 Three-Stage Allotments Based on 2007 Paid Membership Per Division									
			Per Charlie			Doubled 12/4/07			
			11/26/2007			Amount of	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
Division	2008	New Clubs	Paid Up	Percentage	total	Allotment	Allotment	Allotment	Allotment
	Clubs	in 2008	Members	of Total	Allotment	for March 2008	for May 2008	later (after 6/1/08)	
1	9	1	484	12.3%	865	288	288	289	
2	13		756	19.1%	1,351	450	450	451	
3	8		459	11.6%	820	273	273	274	
4	10		1,110	28.1%	1,983	661	661	661	
5	10	1	523	13.2%	935	312	312	311	
6	12	2	619	15.7%	1,106	369	369	368	
Totals	62	4	3,951	100.0%	7,060	2,353	2,353	2,354	
						Proposal =>	Given to DDs	Give to DDs	Give to DDs
							at 3/19/08	in May 2008	when all division dues are paid.
							Board Meeting		Should be in June or July 2008
Note:	For clubs which are new in 2008, propose adding \$1.75 to division allotment for each paid member								

D2 Directors Report
March 19, 2008
Crofton Country Club

The Div. II Annual Spring training session and meeting is scheduled for March 26th at Quail Valley Golf Club.

Bear Creek Golf Club has had its name changed to Westminster National after being closed for three months for course renovations.

The Div. II pro am is scheduled for August 25, 2008 @ Holly Hills

The Div II Stroke Play Championship is scheduled for June 16th at Rattlewood Golf Club and the divisions Two Man is scheduled for June 23rd at Beaver Creek. Winners from both tournaments will receive trophies and the top finishers will be qualified for the state tournaments. We will be using (hopefully) the new payout system for the stroke play tournament which was developed by John Wright. It will all depend on the number of players at each level.

The Summer Frolic plans are well in hand with invitations to all MISGA members, for the 2 day program, on the web site. The invitations for the board meeting of Sept. 2 have been sent by email to all Board members. Their entry form is for the 3 day package. It is not on the web site.

All clubs report that they are ready for the season.

MISGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Crofton Country Club - Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Division VI - Director's Report

1. On Wednesday, March 26, Division VI will hold its initial 2008 *Club Reps Meeting (Training Seminar)* at Tantallon Resort & Club.
2. This year, Division VI includes 12 MISGA member clubs – up from 10. *Fairway Hills* and *Fort Meade* have scheduled MISGA mixers with a number of the division's clubs as well as with clubs in other divisions.
3. **Division VI - 2008 Qualifier Tournaments**

Div Qualifiers	Location	Date	Rain Date	Tee Time
ABCD	Tantallon	Wed – June 4, 2008	Wed – June 11, 2008	9:00 am shotgun
2-Man Team	Univ of MD	Tues - June 17, 2008	Tues – June 24, 2008	1:30 pm shotgun

4. **Division VI - Financial Statement**

AVAILABLE	(as of 11/20/07)	\$ 1,152.09
INCOME		
TOTAL		\$ 1,152.09
EXPENDITURES		\$245.57
Mileage (CRM-11/26/07)	\$245.57	
BALANCE	(as of 3/9/08)	\$ 906.52

5. The Division VI *Historian* position continues to remain vacant.

Prepared by:

Stim

Lloyd Stimson
Division VI - Director

MISGA Board Meeting
March 19, 2008
Crofton CC

Audit Committee Report

1. 2007 Spring Fling at Ocean City - Final Financial Report

Revised report 12/15/2007 documents all expenditures with receipts or checks and all income was identified as to source. Overage of \$781.53 was less than \$10.00 per person and was retained in Division One's checking account.

Recommend all future events follow the guidelines; establish a separate account for each event and forward overages to the MISGA Treasurer.

2. 2007 Summer Frolic at Carroll Valley - Financial Report

All expenditures were supported by receipts or checks and all income was identified by source. Overage of \$174.58 retained in Division Two's checking account.

Recommend all future events follow the guidelines; establish a separate account for each event and forward overages to the MISGA Treasurer.

3. 2007 ABCD Finals at Tantallon - No Financial Report received or expected.

Recommend future state tournaments follow guidelines and complete a report.

5. 2007 Fall Frolic at Seabrook Island SC

6. 2007 Fall Frolic at Amelia Island FL

Financial Reports delayed because of billing problems

7. MISGA Treasurer Records for 2007

All income and expenses were properly documented. The Treasurer records and the Associate Chairman records agreed on total number of paying associates. One duplicate reimbursement was found and will be corrected.

Howard E Taylor
Audit Committee Chairman

Membership Committee Report
Crofton Country Club
March 19, 2008

1. Letter developed (copied from Tantallon) to help in individual clubs membership drives.
2. Developed and distributed report showing membership participation by all clubs individually. Would love to show the visitation by every club, but such information is unattainable.
3. The size of the membership committee doubled with the addition of Dave Wallerstein, a member of Crofton CC. He is concentrating on recruitment of new clubs into MISGA. He is working with club pros at this time. He has developed a list of non-MISGA clubs, both in Maryland and Delaware. He is using his business contacts in various clubs to develop interest.

Thomas Taylor
Chairman

From: David Wallerstein <david@m-icorp.com>
 Sent: Monday, December 3, 2007 2:21:39 PM
 Subject: Potential Private and Semi Private Golf Courses in Maryland

POTENTIAL MISGA PRIVATE AND SEMI-PRIVATE GOLF COURSES IN MARYLAND

Aberdeen Ruggles	Military	Aberdeen
Andrews	Military	Andrews Air Force Base
The Bay Club	Semi	Berlin
Baltimore Country Club	Private	Timonium
Brantwood	Semi	Elkton
Bonnie View	Private	Reisterstown
Breton Bay	Private	Leonardtown
Cat Tail Creek	Private	Glenwood
Caves Valley	Private	Owings Mills
Cedar Point Golf Club	Military	Patuxent River
Chantilly Manor	Semi	Rising Sun
Chesapeake Bay G.C.	Semi	North East
Chesapeake Hills	Semi	Lusby
Chestnut Ridge CC	Private	Lutherville
Creek Club	Semi	Berlin
Cross Creek	Semi	Beltsville
Country Club of Maryland	Private	Towson
Country Club at Woodmore	Private	Mitchellville
Deer Run Golf Course	Semi	Berlin
Elkridge Club	Private	Towson
Fountain Head	Private	Hagerstown
Glenn Dale	Semi	Glenn Dale
Golf & CC of Swan Creek	Private	Havre de Grace
Green Spring Valley Hunt Club	Private	Owings Mills
Hayfields	Private	Hunt Valley
Hillendale CC	Private	Phoenix
Leisure World	Private	Silver Spring
Maryland Golf & CC	Private	Bel Air
Mountain Branch	Semi	Joppa
Mountain Vista G.C.	Semi	Bradshaw
Nassawango G.C.	Semi	Snow Hill
Nutters Crossing	Semi	Salisbury
Old South	Private	Lothian
P. B. Dye Club	Semi (?)	Ijamsville
River Downs	Semi	Finksburg
River Run	Semi	Berlin

Robin Dale	Semi	Brandywine
Rocky Gap	Resort	Flintstone
Swan Point	Semi	Issue
Suburban Club	Private	Pikesville
Talbot CC	Private	Easton
Towson Golf & CC	Private	Towson
TPC @ Avenel	Private	Potomac
Turf Valley	Resort	Ellicott City
Twin Shields	Semi	Dunkirk
Wood Creek	Semi	Delmar
Woodholme	Private	Pikesville
Woodmont	Private	Rockville
Worthington Valley	Semi	Owings Mills
dlw 12/3/07		

**POTENTIAL DELAWARE,
MARYLAND, PA GOLF CLUBS**
02.10.08

Back Creek GC – public
7003 yds par 71
Middletown, DE

The Bay Club – public
36 holes par 72's
Berlin, MD

Bayside Resort GC – public
7545 par 72
Shelbyville, DE

Baywood Greens - public
6983 yds par 72
Long Neck, DE

Bear Trap Dunes – public
27 holes par 72
Ocean View, DE

Biderman private equity
6241 yda par 72
Wilmington, DE

Brandywine CC private equity
6451 yds par 70
Wilmington, DE

Brantwood G. C. public
6101 yds par 70
Elkton, MD

Cavaliers CC private equity
6536 yds par 71
Newark, DE

Chesapeake Bay CC public
6434 par 70
North East, MD

The Club at Patriots Glen public
6730 par 72
Elkton, MD

Cripple Creek G&CC private equity
6800 par 72
Dagsboro,

Deerfield Golf & Tennis public
6323 par 70
Newark, DE

Deer Run public
6105 par 70
Berlin, MD

Delaware Nat'l private non equity
27 holes
Wilmington, DE

DuPont CC private equity
54 holes
Wilmington, DE

Fieldstone GC private non equity
6748 yds par 71 5 star rating
Wilmington, DE

Hartefield Nat'l private
6969 yds par 71
Avondale, PA

Heritage Shores GC public
18 holes 7005 yds par 72
Bridgeville, DE

Glen Riddle GC public
36 holes par 70 and 72
Berlin, MD

Kings Creek CC private equity
18 holes 6615 yds par 72
Rehobeth, DE

Links at Lighthouse Sound public
18 holes 7031 yds par 72
Berlin, MD

Ocean Resorts public
18 holes 6596 yds par 72
Berlin, MD

Old Landing GC public
18 holes 6097 yds par 71
Rehobeth Beach, DE

The Peninsula G &CC private equity
18 holes 7302 yds par72
Millsboro, DE

Rehobeth Beach CC private non-equity
18 holes 6059 yds par 71
Rehobeth Beach, DE

River Run GC public
18 holes 6705 yds par 71
Berlin, MD

The Rookery GC public
18 holes 6471 yds par 71
Milton, DE

Three Little Bakers CC public
18 holes 6748 yds par 71
Wilmington, DE

White Clay Creek CC public
18 holes 7007 yds par 72
Wilmington, DE

Wilmington CC private equity
36 holes
Wilmington, DE

Report of the MISGA Handicap Committee
to the Board and Officers of MISGA
for the MISGA Board Meeting
at Crofton C.C.
on March 19, 2008

Recent Committee Activity

Informing 2008 Championship Tournament Ineligibles

On February 22, the Committee Chairman, after days of consultation over an extended period, transmitted by email to our Committee members (the Division Handicap Chairmen) a procedure to inform Associates who did not post either of their 2007 MISGA Championship Tournament scores that they will not be eligible to participate in both of the 2008 Championship Tournaments, in accordance with the Tournament Policy adopted by the Board on December 4, 2007. Copies were emailed to the Division Directors, the MISGA Tournament Committee Chairman, the Division Tournament Chairmen, and the Chairman of the Policy and Planning Committee.

This procedure for informing the ineligibles involved the Division Handicap Chairmen calling the Club Reps of the ineligible Associates, who would then call the ineligibles to inform them. They would be given the phone numbers of their Division Handicap Chairmen, to call to discuss the matter, if they desired. (The Division Handicap Chairmen would be briefed on the Golfnet scoring records of the ineligibles, so that they could discuss the matter.) The Division Handicap Chairmen could then either discuss the matter and/or refer the Associate to me, giving him my phone number and email address.

On February 23, the Division VI Director sent the Chairman an email stating that "it would be more appropriate for the Handicap Chairman to send [a letter] to the guilty associates." He further stated that "I think it is unfair to ask the Club Rep to perform the duty of 'executioner' on this issue. Club Reps should not be required to wear the 'black hat'."

Also on February 23, the Handicap Chairman responded that the Club Rep would only be informing the Associate, that he would have to know about the ineligibility anyway, and that if he did not want to make the call, he could merely tell the Division Handicap Chairman, who would then make the call.

On February 25, the Division VI Director sent an email suggesting that the entire issue (of who should inform the Associates) be discussed at this Board meeting, at Crofton, on March 19. In that email, he further stated that "a standardized NOI [Notice of Ineligibility] should be developed...[including] such information as: the statement of the failure to post, the associate's record..., a description of the punishment and appeal rights and procedures."

Also on February 25, the MISGA President emailed the Secretary to "put the matter on the agenda", which was done.

Since then, the Handicap Chairman has prepared and held, pending the Board's approval, a written notice to be mailed from the Handicap Chairman to ineligible Associates, containing the elements suggested by the Division VI Director, and enclosing the Associate's Golfnet scoring record. The notice includes the Handicap Chairman's phone and email address, if the Associate wants to discuss the matter.

It appears that the only remaining issue might be an "appeal" procedure, if the Board does not want the Handicap Chairman have final authority. If the Board wants an appeal procedure but does not want itself to be the appellate body, then the Tournament Competition Committees for the 2008 Championship Tournaments might be the appropriate entities to fulfill that role. Such Committees are already, by definition under the Rules, in charge of the Conditions of the Competition (including eligibility requirements) for the tournaments they run.

April 2008 MISGAgram Article

In early March, the Chairman sent a Rules and Handicaps article to the MISGAgram editor, covering the topics of: posting southern scores, posting scores via the Internet, notable 2008 USGA Rules changes, and posting MISGA tournament scores (including the newly established championship tournament eligibility policy).

Committee Activities Planned for 2008

Continue to Monitor Tournament Score Postings - Work on Division Tournament Postings

Because of the Board-approved Tournament Policy requiring the posting of a previous year's Championship Tournament scores as a condition of eligibility for participation in a current year's Championship Tournament, the Committee will inform the Championship Tournaments' Competition Committees regarding those Associates who will not be eligible to participate in the Championships because they did not post their 2007 Championships scores.

Because of the Board-approved Tournament Policy advising the Divisions' Tournament (Competition) Committees to consider requiring the posting of a previous year's Championship Tournament scores to be eligible for participation in the Division Tournaments, the Committee will inform the Division Tournament (Competition) Committees regarding those Associates in their Divisions did not post their 2007 Championships scores.

Because of the Board-approved Tournament Policy requiring the Championship Tournament (Competition) Committees to consider requiring posting of a current year's Division Qualifying Tournament scores to be eligible to participate in the current year's Championship Tournaments, the Committee plans to expand its monitoring of score posting to the Division Tournaments (as was done in Division IV in 2007). This will give the Committee the ability to provide the Championship Tournament Committees with the information needed in case they make ineligible for participation in the Championships those Associates who did not timely post their Division Tournament scores.

Continue to Develop Informal MISGA Handicap Contacts - Exchange Information

The Committee has not completed the task of developing informal handicap contacts at all MISGA clubs, and will continue to develop those contacts.

If contacts are developed at a significant number of clubs in each division, the Committee will again consider forming informal division handicap committees.

These actions should assist the Committee and the clubs in facilitating the exchange of handicap information. (This latter plan is repeated from the 2007 plans, because the work in this area continues.)

Inform Membership regarding USGA Rules of Golf Changes for 2008

The USGA Rules of Golf were amended on January 1, 2008. Most of the changes are relatively minor.

Lifting a Ball in a Hazard to Identify --

The most notable change, which will affect most golfers, allows the lifting of a ball in a hazard to identify it (currently prohibited under section 12-2).

But that section also requires that before a ball is lifted, our intention must be announced to our opponent or a fellow competitor and the opportunity must be given to observe the lifting and replacement of the ball. Also, the condition of the ball's lie must be rebuilt to its original condition (applies mainly to bunker lies). (Penalty for breach of these steps: match play - loss of hole; stroke play - two strokes.)

A corresponding change to Rule 15-3 (Wrong Ball) removes the exemption from the wrong ball penalty for playing a wrong ball in a hazard. Because we now have the opportunity to identify our ball in a hazard, we have no excuse for hitting a wrong ball from there and are therefore penalized.

So, if in doubt, identify your ball in a hazard.

Distance Information is Not Advice --

The definition of "advice" has been changed to essentially allow the exchange of any distance information between any golfers in a group, regardless of whether they are opponents or fellow-competitors. Now, distance information is not considered "advice," including (incredibly) the distance between a golfer's ball and the hole (Decision 8-1/2).

As noted above, the Chairman prepared a MISGAgram article (April issue) regarding these more important changes. The Committee also plans to issue an email regarding these changes through the very valuable Keadle email system, to inform all Associates.

Respectfully submitted,

- Dick Crone (Kenwood) - MISGA Rules & Handicap Committee Chairman

Cc: MISGA Handicap Committee Members (Division Handicap Chairmen & Jim Wilcox)
C.J. Myers, MISGA Tournament Chairman
Other MISGA Committee Chairmen

MISGA Board Meeting
March 19, 2008
Crofton C. C.
Web Site Report

The major activity during the period was recovering from a serious system crash on March 7, resulting in loss of all data and software on my hard drive. Fortunately, the web site was not affected. The only difficulty was rebuilding my local copy of the web site. While my computer was getting a new hard drive installed, I used my wife's computer to begin the arduous recovery process and to maintain email contact. By March 11, I had my computer back with a new, blank hard drive and could begin installing software, over 25 programs. Restored data came from backup DVDs recorded periodically, the most recent being December 23. That means I've got almost a 3-month gap of data to redevelop, if possible.

Recent Additions:

1. (12/07/2007) Leadership Roster updated with new Board for 2008.
2. (12/30/2007) Posted Board Minutes for 12/4/2007.
3. (1/1/2008) Expense Forms adjusted to allow \$0.50/mile.
4. (2/23/2008) Posted Board Action History 2007
5. (2/23/2008) Posted Cumulative History Board Actions.
6. (3/3/2008) Prepared Archive CDs for 2007.

SYSTEM CRASH (3/7/2007).

7. (3/16/2008) Posted 1983 version of Constitution and Bylaws (historical interest).
8. (3/16/2008) Posted Emergency Info on web site for emergency recovery in the future.
9. (3/16/2008) Posted source documents on web site for safe-keeping.

Byron W. Keadle
Byron Keadle
MISGA Web Chairman

MISGA E-Mail Distribution System

MISGA has recently initiated a MISGA-wide email distribution system capable of reaching every MISGA associate who has an email address. Its purpose is to deliver important information/documents in a timely manner. For example, the system was used to distribute Frolic Flyers/Entry Forms that had missed publication in the MISGAGRAM, but had entry deadlines. This method of email distribution could be dubbed the "chain-mail" method because it uses a hierarchical (tree) structure of distributed email directories.

This is how it works. The email, with or without attachments, is sent to the six Division Directors (plus Asst. Directors). The Division Directors forward the email to all of the Divisions' Club Reps. Each Club Rep then forwards the email to every address in his MISGA Senior Email Directory. The recipients, whether Division Directors or Club Reps, would recognize in the subject line, "MISGA DISTRIBUTION-ALL." This would signal them to forward the email to the next level in the chain (hierarchy). The message would also be flagged as "High Priority," causing a red exclamation mark to be displayed and the annotation, "This message-is high priority" when the message is opened (using Outlook Express as an example email handler).

This technique has several advantages: (1) These Distribution Lists (email directories) should already exist at the appropriate levels. That is, each Division Director maintains an email list of the Club Reps in his Division; the Club Reps in turn maintain email lists for all associates in their senior MISGA organizations who have email addresses. This is the standard method of communication that has been in use for several years. No additional work is required to maintain the email lists – that is part of the ongoing duties of each tier in the organization. (2) The distribution system can be used to disseminate either links to documents or the documents themselves. (3) There is no spam problem with a large distribution list on a single message because the message address list is distributed – the largest address list is a single club's MISGA roster. (4) From the MISGA viewpoint, this is a cost-free, paperless distribution system. No paper is printed or mailed (with postage and envelopes) to over 4400 people.

Of course, there are trouble spots. (1) Some associates do not have email capability. In this case, it would be incumbent on the Club Rep to post the message or document on the senior bulletin board at the club and phone the non-email associates. (2) Apparently, not all Club Reps use email for communicating with their rosters. This can be overcome by emphasizing that it one of the duties of the Club Rep to maintain an email directory of his associates. (3) This chain-letter type of distribution requires that each level perform the requisite forwarding activity. If a link fails to execute his responsibility, the lower tiers will not receive the email and the system breaks down. (4) Updating the email rosters is an ongoing annoyance, but a necessary activity and is best done at the lowest level. Consequently, associates must assiduously notify club reps of email address changes.

With your help, we look forward to having MISGA stay abreast of technology in order to provide better service to the associates and to save money for the organization.

Byron Keadle

Review of Email Distribution System

March 19, 2008

- I. Did it work? Was it effective in delivering information/documents?
 1. It distributed Entry Forms to many who would not have gotten them except by a huge printing and mailing effort.
 2. It identified deficiencies in the communications practices of certain Club Reps and Clubs; i.e., no email address list or communications method except bulletin board, word-of-mouth, telephone (maybe), and perhaps smoke signals. Having been made aware that they are expected to service the needs of their members with this system, some Club Reps have scurried to get their email directories in order.
 3. From the MISGA viewpoint, this is a timely, cost-free, paperless distribution system. Contrast it with printing paper and mailing first class to over 4400 people.
- II. Should MISGA continue the practice of bulk email distribution for getting time-critical information to its associates? Certainly; it is the cheapest, fastest, and most effective method of delivering content to the members.
 1. What principles should govern the practice?
 - a. Directors – maintaining address list of Club Reps and using email for division communications should be required (policy). I feel certain that all Directors already use email in the appropriate manner to support DISTRIBUTION-ALL. The Board can reasonably insist that Directors forward this type of email to the Club Reps in the Division.
 - b. Club Reps – It should be optional (guidelines) for Club Reps. Only that single club suffers if the Club Rep does not use the system. How the Club Rep handles the email system or otherwise delivers information to his members is the responsibility of the Division Director and the Club Rep.
 - c. Associates – If an individual has email, but doesn't check his mailbox or notify the CR of email address changes, then only that individual associate suffers.
 - d. Associates (No Email) – The Club Reps, being in the best position to know which members don't have email, can US-mail the information to these members. Reimbursing the Reps for costs incurred would be a lot cheaper than a MISGA-wide US-mailing.
 3. I recommend that we continue to use Email Distribution System for delivery of urgent information/documents to associates.

Byron W. Keadle
Byron Keadle

Attachment: Sample message for "MISGA DISTRIBUTION-ALL."

MISGA DISTRIBUTION – ALL (Spring Fling-08)

This is a “chain letter” for the timely delivery of important information to all MISGA associates who have email.

The first tier delivery is to all Division Directors and Assistant Division Directors, with CCs to all other Board Members.

DIVISION DIRECTORS: Upon receiving this email, the Division Directors are requested to “FORWARD” the email, with ATTACHMENTS if any, to all Club Reps in their respective divisions.

The second tier delivery is to all Club Reps in each division

CLUB REPS: The Club Reps, in turn, are requested to “FORWARD” this email, with ATTACHMENTS if any, to all MISGA associates on their email roster. **Please insure that all MISGA members at your club have access to this document, either by bulletin board, printed hard-copy, or by download from MISGA web site (see below).**

MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

The Flyer/Registration form for the Spring Fling-2008 at Williamsburg is attached to this email. The contract negotiations were not completed in time for inclusion in the printed MISGAGRAM. If you are interested in participating, please follow the instructions on the form. Attendance will be limited to the first 120 who sign up on a first come basis.

In addition, the Flyer/Registration form is downloadable from the MISGA web site at: http://www.misga.org/Entry_Forms/SpringFling-08.pdf