

NEBRASKA PGA

NEWS

September 2026



BIRDIE B2NANZA

BIRDIES MAKE IT BETTER

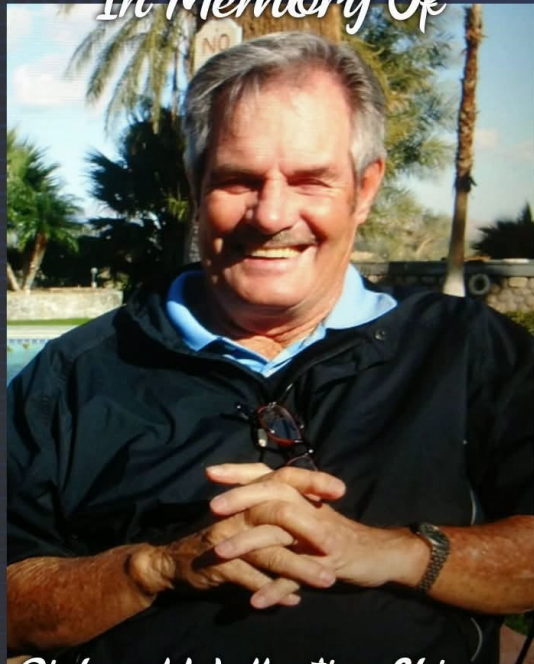


\$180,000

**RAISED BY OUR NEBRASKA PGA PROFESSIONALS
AND THE GOLFING COMMUNITY!**



In Memory Of



Richard Wallentine Skinner



It is with heavy hearts that the Nebraska Section PGA announces the passing of Richard “Rich” Skinner, PGA, who passed away on September 11, 2026, at the age of 88, surrounded by his loving wife and daughters.

Rich dedicated more than 60 years of his life to the game of golf. Affectionately known as “The Golf Doc,” Rich was named the Nebraska Section PGA Teacher of the Year in 1988 and was inducted into the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame in 2018. Rich’s passion for teaching, club fitting, and mentoring golfers of all ages left a lasting impact on the game throughout the Nebraska Section.

The Nebraska PGA extends its deepest condolences to Rich’s wife of 67 years, Sharon, their daughters Sherie and Val, and the entire Skinner family. Rich was a remarkable PGA Professional and an even better person. Rest in peace, Rich.



David Honnens, PGA
Nebraska Section PGA Executive Director

THE TEAM

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ON THE TEE



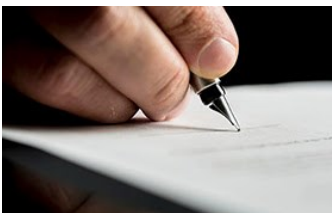
-WILSON GAME BALL WINNER
BOBBY O'KEEFE, PGA



TOURNAMENTS



-2026 SCHEDULE
-TOURNAMENT RESULTS



MEMBER MATTERS



-PGA TOURNAMENT SERIES
-LEARN FROM LEGENDS



PGA REACH NE



-BIRDIE BONANZA RESULTS
-MICHELLE WILLIAMSON STORY



JUNIOR GOLF



-FALL SUMMIT SERIES
-PGA JR LEAGUE

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PGA of America Golf Professionals have access to ExpertVoice to take courses from golf brands to **earn PDR credits** and **unlock exclusive discounts**. They can also shop deals from hundreds of brands across other categories beyond golf.

Get access to brands like these and more:



How to get started:

- 1 Scan the QR code to visit ExpertVoice
- 2 Sign up with your PGA member ID to access your free membership
- 3 Start shopping discounts on hundreds of top brands



For help, visit ExpertVoice.com/Support

The Nebraska Section PGA has announced Bobby O'Keefe, PGA the recipient of the Wilson Sporting Goods Monthly Game Ball for the month of September



PGA
OF AMERICA
1916
NEBRASKA
SECTION

WILSON SPORTING GOODS
SEPTEMBER NEBRASKA PGA GAME BALL

BOBBY O'KEEFE, PGA
Oak Hills Country Club

- ◆ Leadership & impact at Oak Hills CC as the new General Manager
- ◆ Dedicated service to the NEPGA Section as Vice-President
- ◆ Commitment to Veterans through PGA HOPE Nebraska

Wilson

The Nebraska PGA Section is proud to recognize Bobby O'Keefe, PGA, General Manager at Oak Hills Country Club, as the September Wilson Sporting Goods Game Ball recipient.

The Wilson Game Ball Award recognizes PGA Professionals who go above and beyond in serving their facilities, communities, and the game of golf. O'Keefe has made an impact on each of those fronts through his leadership at Oak Hills Country Club, his continued service to the Nebraska PGA Section, and his commitment to programs such as PGA HOPE Nebraska.

Since taking over as General Manager at Oak Hills, O'Keefe has helped move the facility forward while creating a culture centered around the member experience and empowering his staff to find new ways to make an impact.

For O'Keefe, that starts with understanding exactly what makes a facility unique.

"Recognizing who you are as a club and your culture and being really good at it," O'Keefe said.

"Finding ways to elevate our member experience is something I try to do each day and challenge our staff to do the same."

He believes improving the experience at a club does not always require major changes or large investments. Often, it comes down to listening, paying attention to the details, and finding opportunities to exceed expectations.

"Most of the time the biggest impacts don't cost any additional money," O'Keefe said. "It is just taking what you may have heard and delivering them a WOW factor. Taking chances and leaving your comfort zone sometimes is necessary to ultimately reach your goals." [Continue Reading...](#)

IN MEMORY



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Richard Wallentine Skinner, PGA announce his passing onto greener fairways on Friday, September 11, 2026 at the age of 88, surrounded by his loving and devoted wife, Sharon and daughters Sherie and Val.

Richard was born on July 9th, 1938, in Preston, Idaho, and was the son of Karl Skinner and Venus Mary Wallentine. He was raised in Preston, Idaho, and graduated from Preston High School. On March 30, 1959, Rich married the love of his life, Sharon Hill in Smithfield, Utah. Together they began a journey that would span 67 years of marriage, countless adventures, and a lifetime of memories.

The young couple first moved to a cattle ranch in Hamilton, Montana, where their daughters Sherie and Val were born. They returned to Utah, where Richard worked alongside Sharon's father and became a journeyman electrician. It was during that time, while installing lights at the driving range at Summit Park Golf Course in Smithfield, that he discovered a passion that would shape the rest of his life. Quite simply, he fell in love with golf!

Richard enrolled in the PGA Business School in Los Angeles and graduated in 1966, launching a professional career that would span more than six decades. After working as a PGA Professional in Idaho, he moved his family to North Platte, Nebraska in 1969. There he became a respected and award-winning member of the Nebraska Section PGA. He served as the PGA Golf Professional at North Platte Country Club for 23 years before he and Sharon purchased Indian Meadows Golf Course in 1989, a place that became both a business and a legacy for their family.

Throughout his career, Richard earned numerous honors. He was named Nebraska Section PGA Teacher of the Year in 1988 and became affectionately known as "The Golf Doc." He taught golfers of every age and skill level throughout Central Nebraska and worked with Professional Golfers from around the world. Richard was named one of the top Club Fitters in the United States in 1987.

He was inducted into the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame in 2018, an honor presented by his LPGA Golf Professional daughter and fellow Hall of Famer, Val Skinner. At the time of his induction into the Nebraska Golf Hall of Fame a few proud stories were shared by LPGA Tour Professionals from across the country.

Rich will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Sharon and his daughters, Sherie Lee and Valerie Kay, and his nephew, John Scott Simpson.

SAVE THE DATE

**NOV
16**



**8:00
AM**

**NEBRASKA
SECTION**

FALL MEETING

QUARRY OAKS ~ ASHLAND, NE

2026 NEBRASKA PGA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
FEBRUARY 23-25	36TH VEGAS CLASSIC PRO-AM	LAS VEGAS, NV
APRIL 13	PRO-PRO-PRO	PLAYERS CLUB OF OMAHA
APRIL 20	PRO-3AM	FREMONT GOLF CLUB
MAY 4	PRO-3AM	BENT TREE GOLF CLUB
MAY 12	LEGENDS OF GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	FIELD CLUB OF OMAHA
MAY 18	SENIOR-JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP	OMAHA COUNTRY CLUB
MAY 26	FACILITIES CHAMPIONSHIP	LOCHLAND COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 1	ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP	SHADOW RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 1-2	SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP	SHADOW RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 8	308 CUP PRO-AM	MEADOWLARK HILLS GOLF COURSE
JUNE 15	PGA REACH NEBRASKA PRO-AM	HAPPY HOLLOW CLUB
JUNE 15-16	JUNIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP	BEATRICE COUNTRY CLUB
JUNE 22	GOLF FOR THE TROOPS	WILDERNESS RIDGE CLUB & RESORT
JUNE 29	PRO-ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP	THE PINES COUNTRY CLUB
JULY 1	PBC NEBRASKA QUALIFIER	HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE
JULY 6	PRO-3AM	FIRETHORN GOLF CLUB
JULY 13	PRO-3AM	LANDMARD GOLF CLUB
JULY 20	PRO+LADIES JAMBOREE	CHAMPIONS RUN OMAHA
JULY 27-28	SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP	HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
AUGUST 3	PBC MONDAY QUALIFIER	HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE
AUGUST 10	PRO-3AM	OAK HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
AUGUST 17	TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	SHADOW RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
AUGUST 24	PRO-3AM	HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
AUGUST 27	SENIOR/ASST MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS	CHAMPIONS RUN OMAHA
AUGUST 31	PRO-3AM	TATANKA GOLF CLUB
SEPTEMBER 8	BIRDIE BONANZA	BENSON GOLF COURSE
SEPTEMBER 11-13	NEBRASKA OPEN	ELKS COUNTRY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 17	MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP	OMAHA COUNTRY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 21	PRO/PGA HOPE GRADUATES EVENT	PLATTEVIEW GOLF CLUB
SEPTEMBER 23	WOMEN'S SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP	WILDERNESS RIDGE CLUB & RESORT
SEPTEMBER 24	FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY FINALS	OAK HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
SEPTEMBER 28	PRO-3AM	CLUB AT INDIAN CREEK
OCTOBER 1	CUP SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP	HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE
OCTOBER 13	27-HOLE PRO-3AM	TIBURON GOLF CLUB
OCTOBER 19	CENTENNIAL CUP (OMAHA VS THE WORLD)	QUARRY OAKS GOLF CLUB
OCTOBER 18-23	KORN FERRY TOUR Q-SCHOOL	WILDERNESS RIDGE CLUB & RESORT

2026 NEBRASKA PGA MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS



**ASSISTANT
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**SECTION
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**WOMEN'S
CHAMPIONSHIP**

ADDITIONAL MEMBER CHAMPIONSHIPS



**SENIOR-JUNIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**FACILITIES
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**PRO/ASSISTANT
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**TEAM
CHAMPIONSHIP**

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS



**ASSISTANT MATCH PLAY
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**SENIOR MATCH PLAY
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**MATCH PLAY
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY
CHAMPIONSHIP**

SCHAAKE SWEEP AT TATANKA GOLF CLUB PRO-AM



For the second straight year, the Nebraska Section PGA hosted a Pro-Am at Tatanka Golf Club, located on land owned by the Santee Sioux Nation. Associated with Ohiya Casino & Resort, Tatanka is known for its stunning natural landscape and prairie-style setting. Perfect weather greeted 26 teams of Nebraska PGA Professionals and their amateur partners for the event, which featured a 1 Gross + 1 Net Best-Ball format.

In the Professional-only stroke-play competition, Ryan Vermeer, PGA of Happy Hollow Club, and Carson Schaaque of Tiburon Golf Club wasted little time separating themselves from the field. Both players opened with blistering 6-under 30s on their first nine holes, setting the stage for a two-man race for Low Professional honors.

After making the turn, Schaaque kept his foot on the gas, adding birdies on Nos. 2 and 4 while keeping his scorecard clean the rest of the way. He finished with a bogey-free, 8-under round to capture Low Professional honors. Vermeer finished runner-up at 6-under, while Brad Bailey, PGA of Wilderness Ridge Club & Resort, claimed solo third at 4-under.

In the team portion of the event, Carson Schaaque completed the sweep alongside amateur partners Charlie Levy, Ron Deets, and John Erickson. The group fired an impressive 20-under total to claim the team title by a single shot.

Finishing runner-up at 19-under was Tom Johnson, PGA of Norfolk Country Club, who teamed up with Matt Meuret, Mitch Todd, and Clay Wintz.

[Continue Reading.....](#)

HOLE IN 1 CLUB



Congratulations to Firethorn's Brady Schnell for making an ace on No. 11 during the second round of the 35th Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska State Open.

The NEW Hole-in-One Club is now open. Entry into the club is **only required one time** until the next Hole-in-One is made. Entry fee is \$20.00. Get signed up before the next Section tournament.

[ENTER CLUB TODAY!](#)

FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONS



Supporting Sponsor of
PGA of America
Professional Tournaments



Congrats to Tony Pesavento of Omaha Country Club and Pete Hagen of Johnny Goodman GC for completing the late comeback.

The duo wins the event on the second playoff hole thanks to a birdie from Hagen.

NE PGA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP



SUMMIT
GOLF BRANDS



B. DRADDY



FAIRWAY & GREENE



zeroRESTRICTION

For the first time in her career, Carly Ulrich of Fremont Golf Club captures our Nebraska Women's PGA Professional Championship!

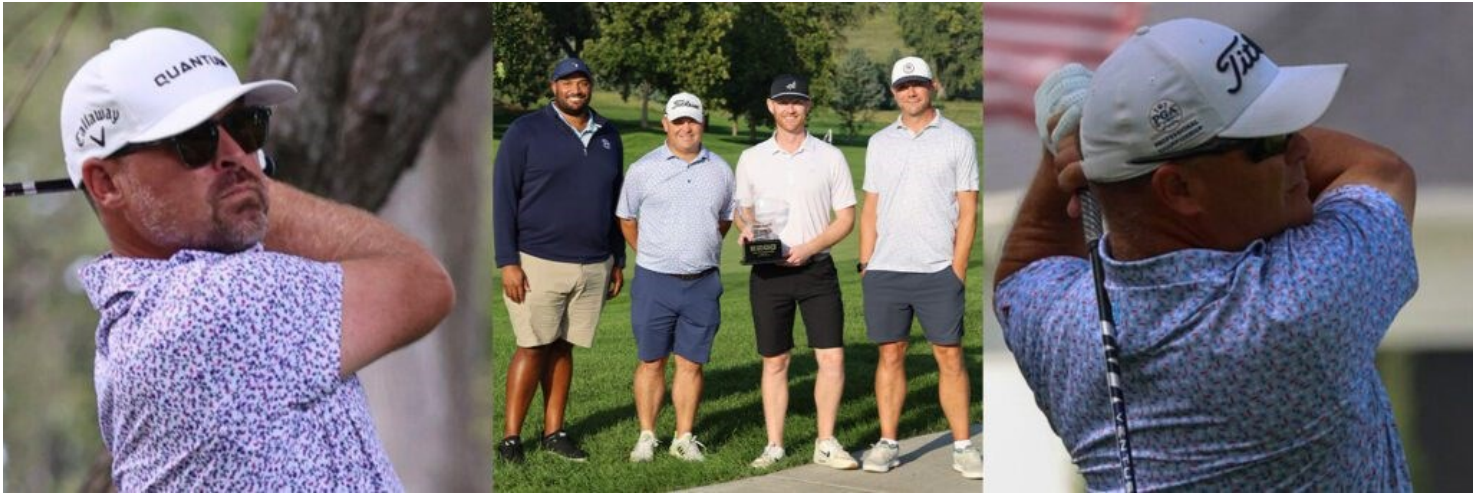
It came down to the final putt on No. 18 and she stepped up and drained it for the win at Wilderness Ridge.



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TEAM OAK HILLS CLAIMS THE FACILITIES CHAMPIONSHIP PRO-AM



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LIGHT


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TWISTED TEA


WHITE CLAW
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PIVOT
PRIME

READ RECAP

OMAHA'S CARSON SCHAAKE WINS 35TH BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD NEBRASKA OPEN



A total of 115 professional and amateur golfers from across the country teed off at Elks Country Club for the 35th annual Blue Cross and Blue Shield Nebraska Open. Historically one of the state's premier golf tournaments, the event also raises scholarship funds for Nebraska community college students. Thanks to support from the Nebraska PGA, Nebraska Public Power District, and BCBSNE, the tournament has now surpassed \$2.2 million in scholarships over its 35-year history—impacting hundreds of local students.

Following the Pro-Am and scholarship banquet, the competition got underway with a purse of more than \$60,000. Each year, the field includes top professional and amateur golfers from Nebraska as well as players from around the world who hold cards on various professional tours. Both the professional and amateur divisions compete in the 54-hole event for separate purses, adding extra drama as the tournament unfolds.

After 36 holes, a familiar face had built a commanding lead heading into the final round. Tiburon Golf Club Teaching Professional Carson Schaaque of Omaha, Nebraska, came out firing and never let up.

Schaaque opened the tournament in blistering fashion, making four birdies and an eagle over his first seven holes to quickly reach 6-under. He carried that momentum throughout the rest of the round, posting an opening 8-under 63.

He kept his foot on the gas in Round 2, delivering another impressive performance with a 7-under 64. Even more remarkable, Schaaque remained bogey-free through 36 holes and built a five-shot advantage heading into the final round.

Schaake's first bogey of the 54-hole championship didn't come until his 52nd hole of the week, a testament to just how dominant his performance was from start to finish. He closed with a 4-under 67 to finish at 19-under for the tournament, tying the event's all-time scoring record.

The victory also carried plenty of history. Schaake became the first Nebraska PGA Member or Associate to capture the title in 20 years, joining Justin Herron, who last accomplished the feat in 2006.

For Schaake, the win also brought some redemption. After falling in a playoff at the 34th edition of the tournament, he returned this year and left little doubt, blitzing the field on his way to winning an event he said he had "been after for years."

In addition to Schaake capturing the overall championship, Iowa PGA's Judd Gibb put together a remarkable week of his own, earning the Senior Division title with a three-round total of 2-over.

Claiming the Amateur Division trophy was former Nebraska men's golfer Harry Crockett, who turned in an impressive performance throughout the week to finish at 5-under for the championship. Congratulations to both Gibb and Crockett on an outstanding week of golf!

Special thanks go to title sponsor Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska for supporting both competitive golf and Nebraska students, as well as to the Nebraska Public Power District for making the Pro-Am a memorable day for everyone involved. Appreciation also goes to Head Golf Professional Derrick Ceder, PGA, and the entire Elks Country Club team for once again hosting a top-tier event.

For full results & more info from the 35th Blue Cross and Blue Shield Nebraska Open, [CLICK HERE](#).

ABOUT THE BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD NEBRASKA OPEN

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Nebraska Open is endorsed and operated by the Nebraska Section of the PGA and the Nebraska Golf Association and coordinated by Nebraska Public Power District. The proceeds are donated to the Nebraska Community College Foundation, which awards scholarships to hundreds of needy Nebraska students attending five community colleges in the state. These colleges include Central Community College, Columbus, Hastings & Grand Island; Southeast Community College; Lincoln, Milford; Beatrice; Northeast Community College, Norfolk; Mid-Plains Community College, North Platte; McCook; and Western Nebraska Community College, Sidney; Scottsbluff.



2026 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA HOLES OF THE WEEK SCHEDULE



NEBRASKA
SECTION



2026 HOLE LOCATIONS

APRIL 13 - PLAYERS CLUB

#4 PAR 4 - #12 PAR 4

APRIL 20 - FREMONT GC

#9 PAR 4 - #13 PAR 5

APRIL 27 - OAK HILLS CC

#4 PAR 3 - #10 PAR 4

MAY 18 - OMAHA CC

#6 PAR 5 - #16 PAR 5

JUNE 8 - MEADOWLARK

#2 PAR 5 - #18 PAR 4

JUNE 22 - WILDERNESS RIDGE

#4 PAR 3 - #11 PAR 4

JUNE 29 - THE PINES CC

#2 PAR 5 - #16 PAR 4

JULY 6 - FIRETHORN GC

#2 PAR 4 - #11 PAR 5

JULY 13 - LANDMAND GC

#3 PAR 4 - #10 PAR 4

JULY 20 - CHAMPIONS RUN

#9 PAR 4 - #17 PAR 5

AUG 17 - SHADOW RIDGE

#4 PAR 4 - #11 PAR 4

AUG 31 - TATANKA GC

#2 PAR 5 - #18 PAR 5

Tito's



Handmade
VODKA
AUSTIN, TEXAS

2026 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA HOLES OF THE WEEK

LEADERBOARD



Players Club
Fremont GC
Omaha CC
Wilderness Ridge
The Pines CC
Firethorn GC
Landmand GC
Champions Run
Shadow Ridge CC
Hillcrest CC
Tatanka GC
Oak Hills CC

Players	Hole Par	4	12	9	13	6	16	4	11	2	16	2	11	3	10	9	17	4	11	2	10	2	18	4	10	Total
Ryan Vermeer	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	3				3	5			3	4	5	4	4	3	3	4		-10
Brad Bailey	4	4	3	4	6	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	4	5			4	4			-9
Shane Zywiec	3	3	4	5	4	4	4	4	4				4	4	4			4	4	3	3	4	5			-8
Justin Herron	3	4	4	5	6	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	4	6	5			-7
Mike Coatman	3	3			4	5	5	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	6					-7
Alex Schaaake	3	3	4	4	4	5	3	3	4	4																-6
Brady Schnell	3	3	4	5	5	4	4	4				3	5			3	4	4	4	5	4					-6
Mark Foelbaek	4	3			4	5						4	4	4	4	3	4	4	5	4	4	4	5			-6
Carson Schaaake	4	3	3	5			2	3										4	4	3	4	4	5			-6
Caleb Badura	4	3			4	4			4	4								4	4			4	4			-6
2 Players Tied																										-5
4 Players Tied																										-4

THANK YOU TO

SUPERINTENDENT
HANNAH ORR & HER
GROUNDS TEAM

FOR HOSTING!



Tito's





2026 PGA Tournament Series Coming Soon

Get ready for the 2026 PGA Tournament Series, coming December 7-18 at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, FL. Four events will give PGA of America Golf Professionals the opportunity to compete across PGA Golf Club's championship courses. Registration opens October 7.

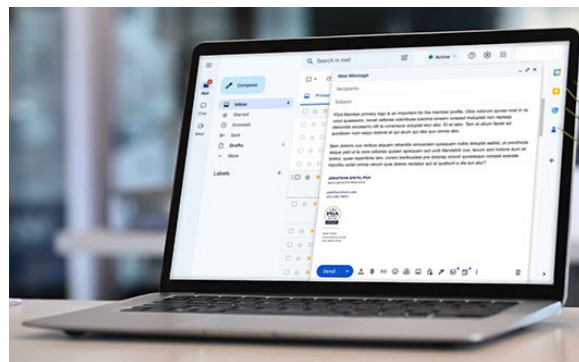
[Learn More](#)



Learn from Legends

Get a first look at the game-changing insights PGA Coaches like Randy Smith, PGA, Dave Phillips, PGA, Mark Blackburn, PGA, and others will be bringing to the stage at the Play the Game Presentation October 12-13 at Virginia Country Club. Find the full lineup, agenda and tickets at Go.PGA.com/PTG.

[Watch a Preview](#)



A Professional Polish for Every Email

Keep your professional presence up-to-date! Our custom email signature tool makes it easy to generate a high-quality, branded signature. Simply customize your details, then copy and paste the result into your email settings to ensure every message you send looks professional and on-brand.

[Generate Signature](#)

CAREER CONSULTANT

Kevin Drew, PGA

PGA of America Career Consultant Serving the
Nebraska & Iowa Sections



5-Min Survey: Help Us Build Local Compensation & Operations Benchmarks

As golf professionals across our two sections, navigating career growth, competitive compensation, and facility operations is a shared priority. To give everyone clear, reliable data tailored specifically to our Midwest market, I am conducting the **Iowa & Nebraska Golf Professionals Compensation & Operations Survey**.

[Click Here to Take the Iowa & Nebraska Survey](#)

How This Helps You & Your Peers:

- **Localized Benchmarking:** National statistics don't always reflect our regional market. This provides accurate, local data on base salaries, lesson rates, shop sales, and overall compensation trends.
- **Empowered Career Planning:** Gives you and your fellow professionals concrete, unbiased data to use during contract reviews, budget planning, and career transitions.
- **Operational Insights:** Highlights regional standards for staffing, annual round volumes, revenue structures, and emerging trends like simulators and lesson subscription models.

Your Privacy is Paramount: All responses are **100% anonymous**.

Timeline:

- **Deadline to Complete:** Please take 5 minutes to submit your responses by **October 4th**.
- **Results Sharing:** An aggregated report of the results will be emailed by the **2nd week of October** to everyone who requests it.

If you'd like to keep your PGA profile current while you're thinking about your career, you can [update your job seeker preferences on pga.org](#) or [update your compensation profile on pga.org](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Kevin Drew, PGA,ARWC

PGA Career Consultant Iowa & Nebraska

402-670-2973

kdrew@pgahq.com

DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR

Aaron Krueger, PGA

**PGA of America District 8 Director Serving
Nebraska, Iowa & Minnesota Sections**



Dear Nebraska PGA Members & Associates:

Another month has passed, and fall is upon us. This is always a busy time for the PGA of America and for PGA Sections. We have Section meetings, the PGA Annual Meeting, 2026 Special Awards and planning for 2027 all on the horizon.

Below are several updates from around the Association. Last month, I recapped the PGA Member Survey, which is being used to help develop PGA Forward, the PGA of America's new strategic vision. I look forward to visiting your Section meeting in November and sharing more information about PGA Forward at that time.

2026 PGA SECRETARY ELECTION

In late August, delegates gathered in Dallas for the PGA Super Regional Meetings, which featured five candidates for PGA Secretary. The next PGA Secretary will be elected by delegates at the 2026 PGA Annual Meeting.

The Secretary candidates are:

Jared Barnes, PGA – Utah PGA Section

Paige Cribb, PGA – Carolinas PGA Section

Larry Kelley, PGA – New England PGA Section

Steve Parker, PGA – Northern Ohio PGA Section

Russ Libby, PGA – North Florida PGA Section, was eliminated in the Sept. 10 primary voting.

During the Super Regional Meetings, each candidate made a formal presentation before participating in breakout sessions with each Section — the PGA's version of speed dating! Their campaigns began this spring and will continue through November's Annual Meeting.

All four remaining candidates are outstanding PGA Members who have conducted strong campaigns and bring significant experience to the process.

Your Nebraska PGA Officers have submitted a letter of support for Jared Barnes, PGA, citing his extensive experience, member-first approach and leadership. The election process will continue over the coming weeks, culminating with the selection of the next Secretary of the PGA of America at the Annual Meeting.

NEW INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR JOINS PGA BOARD – JEFF JONES

We are pleased to welcome Jeff Jones to the PGA of America Board of Directors as an Independent Director. Jeff will fill the Independent Director seat previously held by PGA CEO Terry Clark and brings an impressive breadth of leadership experience.

Jeff has served as President and CEO of H&R Block, President of Global Ridesharing at Uber and in senior leadership roles with Target and Gap.

Throughout his career, Jeff has developed a reputation for thoughtful leadership, innovation and a deep understanding of people and organizations. Just as importantly, he brings a genuine passion for golf and an appreciation for the important role PGA of America Golf Professionals play in the lives and communities they serve.

We are excited to welcome Jeff to the PGA of America Board and look forward to the perspective, experience and enthusiasm he will bring to our Association.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PGA REACH – SCOTT KMIEC

On June 30th, the PGA of America named Scott Kmiec the Executive Director of the PGA of America REACH Foundation, the Association's 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Kmiec will be based at the Home of the PGA of America in Frisco, Texas, and will report directly to Chief Operating Officer Phil Anderson, PGA.

Kmiec is a longtime employee of the PGA of America and was previously the Senior Director of PGA Career Services and ExecuSearch, serving since 2016. He was also the Foundation's first Senior Director from 2013-16. Prior to 2013, Kmiec spent 16 years as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Section PGA and New Jersey Golf Foundation.

Kmiec will lead the PGA of America REACH Foundation, providing strategic, financial and operational leadership to advance its mission. Priorities will include fundraising strategy, program execution, financial stewardship and organizational growth while strengthening national alignment across PGA of America leadership and its 41 Sections across the country.

Under Scott's leadership as the Senior Director of PGA Career Services and ExecuSearch Kmiec drove tremendous growth in both the size of the operation and the career impact for PGA of America Members and industry employers.

During his time as the Foundation's first Senior Director, he oversaw the creation of PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere), the flagship military pillar of the Foundation. PGA HOPE has now served more than 65,000 Veterans since its inception. Additionally, Kmiec helped PGA Sections establish their foundation efforts.

TAP-INS

The field size for the Senior PGA Championship has been reduced to 144 players. This change does not impact the number of PGA of America Professionals in the field, which remains at 35.

The search for the PGA of America's next Chief Marketing Officer is in its final stages, with a new CMO expected to be named soon.

PGA of America financial results remain solid for the quarter. The previously open Commercial executive position, now filled by Jeff Clennon, created some budgetary pressure related to sponsorship revenue. Investments and cash remain strong, and work is beginning on the Association's next four-year budget cycle, which is structured around domestically hosted Ryder Cups.

It is an honor to serve as your District 8 Director on the PGA of America Board of Directors. If you have questions, concerns or would like to discuss any area of this report in greater detail, please feel free to reach out to me directly at akrueger@pgahq.com or call me at 319-321-4253.

Sincerely,

Aaron Krueger, PGA
District 8 Director, PGA of America Board of Directors
General Manager, Wakonda Club

PGATM
OF AMERICA

REACH FOUNDATION

NEBRASKA



NEBRASKA



The Power of PGA HOPE: Michelle Williamson's Journey from Loss to Lasting Community

Six weeks after the most devastating day of her life, Michelle Williamson went to a golf course. She wasn't looking for a cure for grief. She wasn't even much of a golfer.

For years, Williamson's relationship with the game amounted to what she jokingly calls being able to "hack a stick." But months earlier, she had signed up for PGA HOPE, the PGA of America REACH Foundation's program that introduces and teaches golf to Veterans and Active Service Members. Now her first session had arrived at a

moment when almost everything else in her life had changed.

On March 26, 2024, her husband, Mark, a retired Air Force colonel, died suddenly at age 53. Williamson had spent her entire life connected to the military—first as the daughter of an officer, then as an officer herself and finally as the wife of one.

Now, for the first time, that life was different.

But once a week, for 90 minutes, Williamson could get outside, surround herself with other Omaha-area Veterans and think about something far less consequential: getting a little white ball from one place to another.

"I cannot explain how much golf has saved me," she said.

Williamson's connection to the military began long before she wore the uniform herself. Her father, Jim Eddings, spent 27 years in the Air Force, and she grew up as what she proudly calls a military brat. [Continue Reading.....](#)

“”

It got me outside. It got me with other military Veterans. It got me doing something active and it turned my head off for an hour and a half every week for one night. Mistakes are made, but this is the thing as a widow – they're not so big. **I can take on this sport and really, not get very frustrated with it because I've been hit with the hardest thing in the world.**

Michelle Williamson

U.S. Air Force Veteran



BIRDIE B2NANZA

BIRDIES MAKE IT BETTER



\$180,000

**RAISED BY OUR NEBRASKA PGA PROFESSIONALS
AND THE GOLFING COMMUNITY!**

READ

RECAP





NEBRASKA JUNIOR GOLF

**The 2026 Summer NJG
Tour season is complete!**

CLICK HERE TO SEE
RESULTS FOR ALL OF OUR
EVENTS





NEBRASKA JUNIOR GOLF



**2026 SUMMIT SERIES - BENT TREE GOLF CLUB
(DAY 2)**

JUNE 25TH, 2026



2026 BIG O JUNIOR CLASSIC

JUNE 23RD, 2026



2026 CENTRAL NEBRASKA JUNIOR AM

JUNE 19TH, 2026



**2026 REGULAR NJG TOUR EVENT - EAGLE RUN
GC**

JUNE 11TH, 2026



**2026 SUMMIT SERIES EVENT - JACKRABBIT RUN
GC**

JUNE 5TH, 2026



2026 SPRING JUNIOR SERIES - MAGNOLIA EVENT

MAY 2ND, 2026

CHECK OUT THE PHOTO
GALLERIES FOR YOUR
FAVORITE JUNIOR EVENTS

NJG Fall Junior Series

Presented By



GOLF
MANAGEMENT

Explorer Event

Oakland GC - September 20th

[Results](#)

Pioneer Event

Jackrabbit Run GC - September 27th

[Results](#)

Frontier Event

Elks CC - October 4th

Starting time: 1pm Shotgun Start

[Pairings](#) [Scoring](#)

Congratulations to our Drive, Chip and Putt Regional Qualifiers

DRIVE
CHIP &
PUTT



Regional QUALIFIERS



NEBRASKA
SECTION

Girls 10-11 Division | Riverside GC Local Qualifier

HANNAH BERNT - KEARNEY, NE

Boys 10-11 Division | Riverside GC Local Qualifier

HARLEY AUSTIN - FAIRBURY, NE

Girls 12-13 Division | Eagle Hills GC Local Qualifier

ANNA MIDYETT - BENNINGTON, NE

Girls 12-13 Division | Eagle Hills GC Local Qualifier

ADDISON COLLINS - LEIGH, NE

Boys 12-13 Division | Riverside GC GC Local Qualifier

HARVEY SAUTTER - YORK, NE

Girls 14-15 Division | Hillcrest CC Local Qualifier

HAILEY SCHLEGELMILCH - LINCOLN, NE

Boys 14-15 Division | Riverside GC Local Qualifier

CONNER CLEMENTS - MURDOCK, NE

ONE MORE STEP... #ROADTOAUGUSTA

Regional Qualifier Results



PGA Jr. League Nebraska Section Championship was Held at The Club at Indian Creek on Sunday, August 9th

Eight All-Star teams of junior golfers competed for the opportunity to advance to the Regional Championship

Elkhorn, Nebraska (August 9, 2026) – For the fifth year in a row, The Club at Indian Creek hosted the PGA Jr. League Nebraska Section Championship, with four All-Star teams of junior golfers ages 14-17 in a division and four All-Star teams of junior golfers ages 10-13 in another division. The players and their families joined in on what was an amazing opportunity and memorable experience for everyone involved.

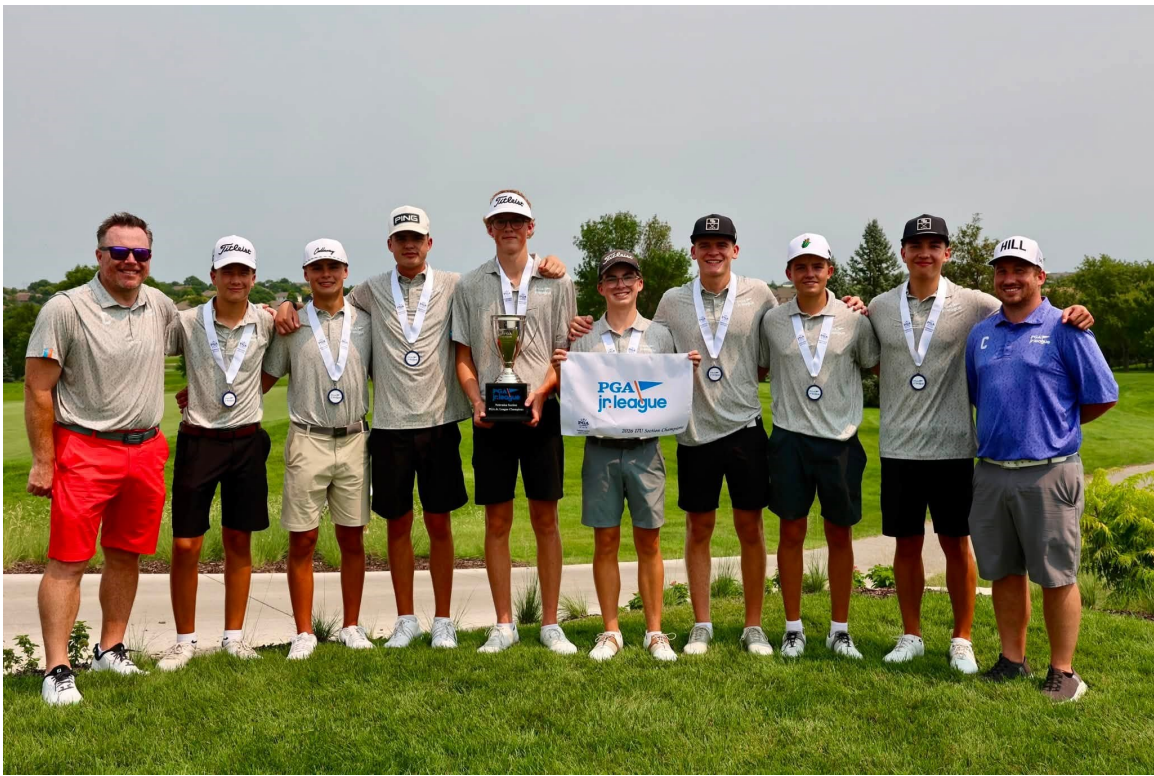
Section Qualifiers and Championships are the first of three phases in the [PGA Jr. League All-Star Season](#), which highlights the aspirational nature of competition celebrated in a way unique to PGA Jr. League. This championship event was a 9-hole scramble stroke play qualifier played on the Red Feather Course in which each of the all-star teams were broken into two-person scramble pairs (four pairs on each team counting the best three of four pair scores for the team total). Due to inclement weather on Saturday, the event was postponed to Sunday the 9th. The day was more than just a junior championship as it was in collaboration with the Pinnacle Bank Championship (PBC), which has been a regular stop for the Korn Ferry Tour as professionals are attempting to earn their PGA TOUR card. Saturday included a putt-putt course and Nebraska Athlete autograph station as part of the PBC Youth Day and the opportunity to hit on the driving range right next to the professional golfers. The low score of each division was crowned as the Section Champion and also punched their ticket to the Regional Championship, which will be held on October 2-4 at Paradise Pointe GC in Smithville, MO. The team who advanced to the Regional Event in the 17u Division is The Miracle Hill (Green) All-Stars. In the 13u Division it was the Eastern Nebraska All-Stars. The official results are below.

Following recreational play in the spring and summer, hundreds of 13u All-Star teams (boys and girls ages 10-13) and 17u All-Star teams (boys and girls ages 14-17), are formed from a combination of players in each league. Section Champions from both age divisions advance to the Regional stage of competition at one of 12 sites in the fall. Ultimately, twelve 13u Regional champions will vie for the title at the PGA Jr. League Championship at PGA Frisco's Fields Ranch West, November 11-15, to be broadcast live on select ESPN networks. The 17u National Car Rental PGA Jr. League Championship is at Twin Warriors Golf Club in New Mexico on October 22-25.

PGA Jr. League is the flagship youth pillar program of the PGA of America's 501(c)(3) foundation, PGA REACH, with the goal of making the program accessible to all youth regardless of background, circumstance or ability. Boys and girls ages 17 and under learn and play golf on teams, wear numbered jerseys and receive expert coaching from PGA Professionals.

[Photo Album](#) of the event

Click [HERE](#) to read more about the Regional Event.



Official Results:

17U Division

1. Miracle Hill (Green) - 98*
2. Miracle Hill (Blue) - 113
3. The Ridge GC - 118
4. Miracle Hill (Red) - 122

13U Division

1. Eastern Nebraska - 108*
2. Capital City - 109
3. Firethorn Fireballs - 114
4. Field Club of Omaha - 116

*Advanced to the Regional Championship





PROMOTE YOUR FALL SEASON NOW!



Your summer PGA Jr. League season may be ending, but it doesn't mean the fun has to stop anytime soon!

With students heading back to school, it's vital you get your fall leagues on their calendars now! Publish your fall program as soon as possible and make sure you're communicating with previous players as well as families with ties to your facility and your community. As a reminder, the \$120 GameChanger membership fee the kids have already paid is good all year long. The longer into the year they play, the greater value they get from their membership fee! You are still welcome and encouraged to charge a fall/winter coaching fee to drive revenue.

There are plenty of creative ways to keep the fun of PGA Jr. League rolling this fall and winter.

"Continuing PGA Jr League with a Fall season has been a great way to build our juniors into competitive players. At The Ridge we change up the format and use a combination of Op36 and PGA Jr. League. The kids love spending time on the course every week and as a coach I enjoy spending more time with the kids developing them into lifelong golfers." —Karrie Van Ravenswaay, PGA Head Golf Professional, The Ridge Golf Club in Sioux Center, IA

Counting all the reasons you can't have a fall program? Player Engagement Consultant Kim Shafer offered a few solutions in this article: [PGA Magazine](#).



✓ **Publish your program.**
[Here's how.](#)

✓ **Get the word out.**

Use word of mouth, email lists, social media and all the promotional tools in the [2026 Marketing Toolkit](#) to make sure your players, their families and your community know about your program.

✓ **Strike while the iron's hot.**

The fun of PGA Jr. League doesn't have to end with summer — but don't wait too long to get the word out about your fall programming. Within a couple of days or a week from the end of your summer season, make sure you're connecting with families and players, encouraging them to invite their friends, and reach out to local community partners such as schools, after-school clubs, and more with information about your fall PGA

✓ **Share your calendar as soon as possible.**

With school starting, family calendars are starting to fill up. Set your practice and game day schedule with school calendars in mind and make sure your program gets first priority by sharing it early.

CELEBRATE

October Birthdays

Matthew Eilrich	10/1	Tim Norris, PGA	10/20
Scott Gutschewski, PGA	10/1	Michael Fauver, PGA	10/21
Cory Fletcher, PGA	10/2	Joseph Wiegand, PGA	10/21
Thomas Johnson, PGA	10/4	Jon Robins, PGA	10/21
Noah Briley	10/8	Jonathan Mielke, PGA	10/21
Damon Brower	10/10	Mason Rogers	10/23
Greg Wiemers, PGA	10/10	Justin West, PGA	10/23
Samuel Jonell, PGA	10/10	Dominick Mitchum, PGA	10/25
Adam Person, PGA	10/11	Bryan Hughett, PGA	10/27
Taron Wright, PGA	10/13	Robert Vermeer, PGA	10/28
Halley Morell, PGA	10/16	Shuang Zhao, PGA	10/29
Kyle Beam	10/17	Timothy McAndrew, PGA	10/30
Stephen Vieyra, PGA	10/19	Robert O'Keefe, PGA	10/31