

**Attendees:** Jim Wilcox, Greg Morris, John Babyak, Dick Schwinger, Tom Rowlett, Bob Burd, Tom Taylor, Malcolm Peterson, Wayne Rowland, Gary Kramer, Jim Ewalt, Pete Sorge, Carl Lazar, Bob Hodges, Bob Brewer, Tom Tarpley, Byron Keadle, Lloyd Stimson, Errol Myers.

**President** – Jim passed out sheets so that people could select what they were having for lunch. Lunch would be paid for by MISGA. He assumed that no one would choose to play golf after the meeting. Jim said that this was his last meeting as President. He then asked that we all mention who we are, what club we belong to and what's our position in MISGA. A number of people said that they were leaving the Board after this meeting or after the next year. The western shore of MISGA is doing very well. We had three new clubs last year and we have a new one coming in. The eastern shore is having some challenges.

**Vice President's Report** – Greg Morris said that it has been an interesting year serving under Jim. He said that he learned a lot.

**Secretary's Report** – John Babyak said that he is not going to read the minutes. He sent them out to all of the Board members two weeks ago so he was not going to spend time reading them. He did get four changes to the minutes from Tom Taylor and one from Bob Burd. One was a correction to the title of the minutes, another was a name correction for Garey Wilmsen in Div II and the third was a one word addition in the Div II report to add "elected" to Board members attending the Summer Frolic. The other change was that Hog Neck charges \$40 to join not \$5. John asked if there were any other changes, there were none.

**Treasurer's Report** – Dick Schwinger said that we have \$7,287 in the checking account, \$4455 in savings and \$21,216 in CD's for a total of \$32,958 dollars. All bills have been paid. There was a question about how much do we spend typically in a year. Dick said that he did not know but that we are covering expenses. Dick said that he received an insurance policy in the mail for \$3500 dollars. Discussion followed. It is probably an insurance policy to cover the Board in case someone sues us. It covers Directors and officers. It probably covers MISGA if we sponsor an event. Someone will get an insurance professional to look at the policy to see if what we have is a reasonable policy.

### **Division Director's Reports**

**Division I** – Bob Burd said that it looks like we are going to combine Div I and Div III. Bear Trap has dropped out of MISGA, they don't want to travel anymore. Rookery North is going to be out. They had one MISGA and invited eleven clubs. Bear trap was already out but three other clubs only sent one person. So instead of 80 people they only had 54 and the club said that that wasn't enough because they closed the course for MISGA. So the club said that they couldn't do any other events. When we had our division meeting, Bob bought up the issue of support. Cripple Creek had four MISGA events and they had 200 visitors for the four events. Wild Quail had six events with 280 people. At Wild quail, twenty-seven of those, four for each event, were from their own club. They took in 15,000 dollars for the events but they don't want to travel to other clubs. We had five rain-outs at Cripple Creek this year. Bob also thinks that Jonathan's Landing may also be out of MISGA. They only had one event, with 32 people. Players feel that the costs are too high and they don't want to travel. If we combine the divisions we would have nine or ten clubs and Mal has agreed to be the Div Director and Bob Hodges would be the Asst Director. Howard Taylor would be the Treasurer. This would be Bob's last meeting. There was some discussion about associates having handicaps at two clubs.

**Division II** – Tom Rowlett said that this is also his last meeting. He handed out a report. The division has its qualifiers set, the Two-man team will be June 18<sup>th</sup> and the ABCD will be on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The division had a low turnout at all of the qualifiers and they are looking at different ways to improve that. At Ruggles Golf Club the club rep is moving to North Carolina and they have not found a new club rep. At the last board meeting we decided to not vote on them entering MISGA. He recommends postponing a vote till the next meeting. Can we do a rent-a-rep at Ruggles? No, it's a complicated situation, waiving greens fees, cart fees, lunch, etc. The division has had some leadership changes, Tom Taylor is the new Asst Director in place of Ed Masood who had a heart attack. Tom will become the new Director and Jeff Hild will be the new Asst Director on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Doug Walters of Rattlewood has agreed to be the secretary. We have had two new clubs join the MISGA sign-up system, Kenwood and Timbers at Troy. There was a question about tournament software. The response was that if the club is on the MISGA system they have access to Golfnet Tournament software. There was some discussion about Cress Creek.

**Division III** – Malcolm Peterson discussed Choptank River and said that owner spent a lot of money rebuilding the greens and that put him over the edge. As of December 23<sup>rd</sup> they are closing. They only had one mixer this year with only a few participants. The other three clubs are doing quite well, we have 90 associates at our mixers. There are 240 associates in Div I and 200 in Div III. I have had some discussions with clubs about associates not wanting to travel. What he found is that where clubs have a van pool the associates enjoy the trips. The reps are not aggressive about organizing car pool trips. Prospect Bay travels to Cripple Creek, about one hour and 20 minutes, because we like the course. We did not go to Jonathan's Landing because it is a quirky kind of course. Hog Neck is willing, for the price of joining and handicap, to take members and have them join MISGA. You can't be a member at a MISGA club and join Hog Neck, it has to be as a last resort. A lot of discussion followed about car-pooling to events and club closures.

**Division IV** – Jim Wilcox said the division has two new clubs, Blue Mash and Argyle. Argyle might not make it past next year. The club rep doesn't think that MISGA is worth it because not enough people want to play. Blue Mash is doing well, Ron Wiles, a former club rep at Montgomery, is now at Blue Mash. Manor no longer has a lot of players but they are like Hobbits and some other clubs where if you join the senior group you are automatically a member of MISGA. At Hobbits, we play a lot. If there are openings in the ABCD, Hobbits will fill in. Jim doesn't trust Hobbits restaurant. If you sign up to play a mixer and you don't show up or if it rains, you still have to pay them for the meal. It is a private restaurant, not part of the golf club. He feels that this is going to kill MISGA. We can't schedule a mixer and people are going to have to pay for food even if the event is rained out. The division is in pretty good shape.

**Division VI** – Greg Morris said that the division is healthy and we are adding Woodmore C.C. This year we had two clubs with no members. Cross Creek because of its condition and Bowie because it's Bowie. Bowie just didn't have enough participation. He thinks that both of these clubs should be put on a watch list. The ownership at Cross Creek is just not putting the required effort into it. They are optimistic about 2018. The division will top 800 associates. Patuxent Greens has been sold to a developer who plans to run the course. The MISGA associates at Patuxent have been talking to other clubs. If the course is maintained they will probably stay there. Walden has only a few members but they still have mixers.

### **Committee Chairmen Reports**

**Associates** – Mike Urquhart was not at the meeting but he did send a report. Our membership is staying pretty much the same as last year. Mike has resigned from the Board because of personal and job obligations. Lloyd Stimson said that Mike's report is what he will use for the allocations for the MISGA tournaments in 2018.

**Audit** – Gary Manion was not at the meeting.

**Counsel** – Jim Ewalt said that he had nothing to report.

**Events** – Pete Sorge said they just finished the Fall Frolic and Pete thought that it was successful. Three of the Board members attended. Everyone enjoyed the courses, the food was good as well as the accommodations. Next year, Pete is thinking about Seabrook, a first class venue. He normally does not do a contract until March or April. Pete said that there were 40+ people at the Fall Frolic.

**Historian** – Byron Keadle said that he was retiring after this year. There was a question about what exactly is the job of the Historian. He keeps the history of Board actions and also the cumulative history of Board actions. There are not a lot of Board actions, but there are a lot of discussions.

**Membership** – Carl Lazar was said that last week he and Jeff Hild went up to Eagle's Nest (Towson G & C.C.). He has been working on this for a couple of months. Eagles Nest now has a club rep. It's a great facility, a championship clubhouse and the course is fine. Carl feels that they would be a good addition. They will be in Div II. The club is in Towson MD. They will be open for MISGA in 2018. The reps name, a female, is named Judy Jervi. The course is now owned by Club Corp. Lake Presidential is cart-path only this year and next year so we can write them off from MISGA. Waverly Woods is not interested. Oak Creek doesn't have the membership.

**MISGAGRAM** – Bob Hodges said that he is publishing in January and the deadline for material is coming up soon. Bob was asked about Facebook said nothing is happening with it.

**Policy and Planning** – Bob Brewer said that this is his last meeting and Jeff Hild will be taking over. There will be some things discussed under New Business.

**PP Ad Hoc** – Tom Tarpley said that he had contacted almost all of the Past Presidents by phone and though they felt that there are individuals who are making great contributions to MISGA, further review is needed before making an award.

**Rules & Handicap** – Wayne Rowland said that a lot of rule changes are going to be made. For example, one club length is going to become 20 inches, 2 club lengths is going to become 80 inches and leaving the pin in when you put. If you play by any of the rule changes next season, you should not post your score. When dropping a ball, it is no longer shoulder length, it just requires air between the ball and the ground. The rules for 2019 will probably come out in June of 2018. The rulebook, an electronic version, should be out in June of 2018. Wayne is going to try to get someone to come to the Annual Reps Meeting to explain the rules changes.

**Tournament Chairman** – Lloyd Stimson said that the Two-man and ABCD tournaments will be at Norbeck this year. The two-man will be on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and the ABCD will be on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Chartwell could not accommodate us in 2018 but they said that they would be interested in future years. Allocations will be determined by the report that Mike Urquhart sent out. He also sent out Tournament and qualifier schedules. He has everything except for Div IV. The entry fees will be about \$105. This will be the last year for Lloyd as Tournament Chairman. If anyone is interested in the job for 2019 and would like to join him in meetings next year they would be welcomed. A discussion of lunch options at the events was discussed.

**Web Master** – Errol Myers said that when we go to Norbeck next year that we will not recognize the place. The inside is being gutted, the patio will be redone, an expanded driving range and the pro shop will be torn down. The website was up to date going into this meeting but there are changes that now have to be made.

### **Old Business**

Prior to old business, Jim thanked all of those who would be leaving the Board for their contributions.

**Eagle's Nest** – Jim called for a vote on Eagle's Nest coming into MISGA. There was a motion, a second and the motion was passed to allow them in.

Wayne Rowland said that at the last meeting he volunteered to put a master schedule on the website. He wondered if anyone had looked at it. It had been looked at and everyone who looked at it did like it. They thought that it had a lot of value.

### **New Business**

**By-law Changes** – There was a discussion about the procedure for making amendments to the by-laws. There were a lot of different issues. It was suggested that we table the discussion to the next meeting. There was a motion to table, it was seconded and approved.

**Division I & Div III** – There was a discussion about combining Div I and Div III. The constitution says that we will have six divisions so one of them would have to be made inactive. Greg Morris said that for presidential succession, Div I should remain active. There was a motion to make Div III inactive. The motion was seconded and approved. The Director of Div I is Mal Peterson and the Assistant Director is Bob Hodges.

**Greg Morris** – Greg Morris was going to propose an amendment to alter the voting policy under special circumstances. It was agreed to refer it to the policy committee.

**Vice President** – There was a motion to elect Mal Peterson as the MISGA Vice-President. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Wrap-up** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:55.