



**PGA**  
Michigan Section

## **Michigan PGA – Growth of the Game Report Spring 2019**

A new year brings many new opportunities for PGA Professionals and Associates to connect with their customers or members in the area of player development. These connections build relationships which ultimately lead to growing the golf population. With added resources on PGA.org like PGA.coach, we have even more information at our finger tips to help create developmental experiences that are customized to the needs of our facilities.

From the perspective of the Michigan PGA and our strategic plan, growth of the game activities are continuing to flourish and are on a great track for the start of the 2019 season. With PGA Jr. League Captain registration opening early, many professionals were able to get their programs set up ahead of time and open up player registration as early as February. Currently we have 140 Teams registered with the potential of having 140 13U and 10 17U teams for the 2019 season. Secondly, the Drive, Chip, & Putt registration opened earlier this month and we anticipate 1,525 participants amongst our 10 local qualifying sites. In addition, we will look forward to our very own Oakland Hills Country Club hosting a Regional Drive, Chip, & Putt Qualifier this year.

Have you been the recipient of a Michigan PGA Junior or Adult Player Development Grant? Several professionals have benefitted from the grant funds to help grow existing programs at their facilities and/or begin new programs. Applications for 2019 grants are now available online at MichiganPGAGolf.com under the “Growth of the Game” tab. The Application deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> so if you are thinking of applying please do so soon. Starting in 2018, the Michigan PGA Growth of the Game Committee has selected a program of the year from both the junior and adult grant applicants. These program winners receive additional funds in the following year after receipt of their post award year application.

At this time, let me send a big CONGRATULATIONS to our Youth Program of the Year recipient – Michael Kettler of Riverview Highlands Golf Club in Riverview and to our Adult Program of the Year winner – Doug Temple of Doug Temple Golf at Maple Leaf Golf Course in Linwood.

Finally, our progress on creating a Golf in School program is steady. Currently, we have identified the golf professionals in the Section who are either extremely or somewhat interested to get started with a Golf in School program in their areas. In learning more about the National School Program, we are working to create a partnership with them, so that the school, the golf professional and the Physical Education teacher can all benefit. Working with the National School Program will help the Michigan PGA create a sustainable model that would be consistent throughout the Section and provide not only golf skills, but also life skills and character building traits to our youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Jennings, PGA  
Growth of the Game Committee Chair