

GATEWAY PGA COMMITTEE REPORTS 2026 SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Assistants' Association

Below is the March 2026 report respectfully submitted by Zane Roberts on behalf of the Assistants Association: Sophie Faulkner, PGA, Jim Davey, Anna Hueber, Jady Reese, Will Scheipeter and Adam Betz, PGA. The Assistants' Association is committed to providing professional development, fostering member engagement, and enhancing event opportunities for assistants. This report summarizes the key discussions, decisions, and action items from the previous meetings held.

Leadership and Committee Structure

- Subcommittee Realignment:
 - Split Education, Social Events, Playing Events into 3 subcommittees.
 - New committee members added: Will Scheipeter.
 - Call for 1-2 additional committee members to enhance involvement.

Membership

- Membership Requirements:
 - Members must rejoin AA to participate in 2026 events.

Event Planning and Updates

- Educational Workshops:
 - Spring and Fall sessions confirmed with recent success at FGLC. 12 associates advanced their Work Experience Portfolio.
- Assistant Playing Events:
 - Zane Roberts to reach out to St. Albans for details on the Invitational event.
 - Google Drive was established to manage ProAm prize tracking.
- Social Events:
 - Proposed a Social night sometime after the Spring Meeting, with possible dates of April 17th or April 22nd.
- Philbrick Cup:
 - Seeking a Host Site for the event
 - Seeking sponsorships to support the event.

Key Goals for 2026

- Professional Development:
 - Grow assistants association to 60 members.
 - Advance Associates from level 1 to higher levels.
 - Continue establishing a database of Class A professionals willing to assist with mentoring.
- Increased Member Engagement:
 - Host 3 social and networking events to strengthen relationships.
 - Encourage diverse groupings at section events to foster better connections.

- Zane Roberts, Chairperson

Communications

The Communications Committee has worked alongside Collin Becker and Thomas Pool during this offseason to launch the 50th Anniversary media campaign that will continue throughout 2026. Using the new Gateway Section office media room, videos have highlighted section PGA Professionals Jesse Barge, Michael Tucker, Nathan Charnes, and Brett Moomey along with Dottie Pepper and Michael Block so far.

The weekly Chip Shots newsletter continues to be the main communication forum with our section members. The upcoming Awards and Hall of Fame celebrations will allow us to continue spotlighting our deserving golf professionals to our local golf community.

Journey to a Pro profiles will continue with Dan Polites and Adam Betz being the first two who shared their journey. Video content and interviews were conducted at DP Golf Center and Family Golf & Learning Center.

Socials: Within the past 90 days the section & foundation has garnered 331.4k views, 98.4k reach, 4.3k content interactions, 1.8k link clicks, and 262 new followers.

Email Marketing: We are actively working with SLU MBA Team, to enact a strategy moving forward to implement Monthly Giving Campaign. We started by sending out a survey to gauge feedback. Free Golf for a Year sweepstakes has been completed, and the BMW Championship Package sweepstakes has been launched. Both of which are consumer-facing sweepstakes promotions.

As always, we ask that you share any members to spotlight with Collin or Thomas. If they are doing something worth sharing at their facility or within their community, we want to help spread the word.

- Brett Moomey, Chairperson

Junior Golf Committee

- *Prior to our Junior Golf Committee Meeting there was a Junior Golf Task Force meeting between the executive officers of our Gateway PGA, Ali Wells, Jason Eisenhauer, Mike Suhre, Marvin Herrod, and Mackenzie Myers to discuss the financial status of our Junior Tour and if it can be self-sustaining without support from National. Our increases with quality of events have created a demand for Gateway Junior PGA memberships and events. Proposed changes to membership structure, membership fees, and event fees were assessed and adopted with approval from the PGA Reach Foundation Board, which the Junior Tour falls under.*
- *Meeting in mid-December and discussed the following*
 - *Price changes to Junior Tour Membership & elimination of plus memberships*
 - *Dynamic and Top Tier pricing for events*
 - *Changes to a rolling sign up*
- *Junior Golf Committee has been restructured in the following ways*
 - *Our focus has changed and bit and been shifted by our strategic planning session to move from more “enriching live through the game of golf” to “be financially secure and to allow our programs to be supported which will enrich lives through the game of golf”.*

- *2026 Junior Golf Committee Members: Mike Suhre, Marvin Herrod, Jason Eisenhauer, Helen Kurtin, Barbara Blanchar, Mark Christensen, Zane Roberts, Kyle Williams, Dan Polites, Mike Kegin, Mackenzie Myers*
- *Committee Members will focus on generating and creating potential sponsorships, and fundraising relationships that can help with the costs, gifts, opportunities that our Junior Golf Operation encounters to make the experience for our Junior Golfers better.*
- *Junior Committee is dedicated to helping with events and making them high quality, starting with helping with intern onboarding and rules training.*
- *Rules information is available as a QR code on scorecards to give players an added resource.*
- *Next Meeting will be in April 2026*

See below for Jason Eisenhauer's Junior Tour Update.

Junior Tour

- 2026 Membership Opened on January 6th
 - Paid Memberships as of 3/9
 - 2026 - 429
 - 2025 - 385
 - 2024 - 389
 - 2023 - 462
- March and April Spring tournaments have opened, and all seven are on a waitlist.
- The new rolling registration has gone well; members are adapting to it quickly. An unintended result so far is that tournaments sell out even faster. However, the benefit has been proven; families that weren't thinking about golf in February still had a chance of getting into April events and eventually will have a chance at May tournaments
- We had to cancel our April tournament Eagle Springs. We are delaying the decision on the two summer dates scheduled at Eagle Springs
- March 14th Spring tournaments begin
- May 26th Summer tournaments begin
- Junior Golf Intern Team has been hired
 - 8 Junior Tour Tournament Interns
 - 1 MarCom Intern
- Partnerships
 - We have several exciting activations planned this year for our title sponsor, Family Golf and Learning Center, and we are proud to be partnered with them
 - Optimist, Nebraska University PGM, FootJoy, Ecco, and Bushnell are confirmed partners
 - Still working with Simon at Srixon for a partnership
 - There will be an Under Armour Polo buying opportunity for Junior Tour members in April, offering members the ability to purchase a discounted polo from Under Armour
- Please help me recognize several facilities on the schedule this year
 - Jefferson City CC - Junior Cup Matches host
 - Gateway National and Annbriar - Junior PGA Championship Qualifier hosts
 - Bear Creek - Junior World Qualifier host
 - Country Clubs (The Legends, Sunset Hills, Illini, Norwood, Spring Lake, Quincy, St. Louis, Dalhousie, Old Hickory, St. Clair, Greenbriar, Franklin County, WingHaven)

- Public facilities that have repeatedly supported the Junior Tour (FGLC, Oak Brook, Innsbruck, Stonewolf, The Quarry, Cardinal Creek, Woods Fort, Aberdeen, Far Oaks, Springfield Parks, Eagle Springs, Creve Coeur, St. Ann, Berry Hill, and Ballwin)
- Email Jason if you'd like to come out to a tournament to be a celebrity starter on the first tee or work as a Rules Referee on the course

Partnership Committee

The Partnership Committee continues to prioritize the growth and development of the Gateway Golf Society, established in the summer of 2025 to create a welcoming community of passionate golf enthusiasts while generating meaningful support for Gateway PGA Professionals, the Gateway PGA Section, and the PGA REACH Gateway Foundation. The Society launched with 7 members and \$17,000 raised in 2025, and has continued to build momentum in 2026 with growing membership and increased engagement.

As the committee progresses through 2026, the focus has evolved in three key areas. First, there is a heightened emphasis on recruiting new Society members to expand the network and strengthen long-term sustainability. Second, the committee is working to deepen engagement and support from clubs and PGA Professionals across the Section, aligning with broader strategic priorities and reinforcing the importance of facility involvement. Third, the Society is executing an exciting and diverse schedule of events, including clinics led by Jay Delsing, Adam Betz, and host PGA Professionals, as well as exclusive playing opportunities and featured speaking engagements with industry leaders such as PGA of America President Don Rea and Gateway PGA Vice President Nathan Charnes.

The mission of the Gateway Golf Society remains centered on building a community of individuals who value PGA Professionals, the game of golf, and the facilities that serve their communities. A key priority is to elevate and support PGA Professionals by creating meaningful opportunities for engagement through unique, high-quality experiences. The 2026 programming calendar reflects this vision, emphasizing exclusive member events, playing opportunities with host professionals, instructional clinics, and winter gatherings designed to foster connection while providing access to respected voices within the industry.

2026 Schedule

The 2026 event calendar is coming together with strong momentum, as planning continues and several key dates have already been successfully executed or confirmed. Greenbriar hosted a standout clinic featuring Jay Delsing, Adam Betz, and host professional Matt Gindler, setting the tone for the year. Additional highlights include a Society playing opportunity at Algonquin Country Club on April 7, a high-level speaking engagement in May featuring Nathan Charnes at WingHaven, a clinic at Westborough Country Club in September, and a Member/Guest playing opportunity in October following the Stifel Charity Classic. In November, PGA of America President Don Rea will engage with Society members, joined by Nathan Charnes, offering a unique opportunity to hear insights and updates from national leadership. Additional events are currently being explored, with more details to be announced as the calendar continues to develop.

Past Events / Activity to Date

The Gateway Golf Society has generated strong early momentum through a series of engaging and well-executed events. A winter clinic at Old Warson Country Club provided members with a unique indoor

experience utilizing the club's simulator facility, led by PGA Professional Casey Cox. The Society also hosted a dynamic event at Family Golf and Learning Center, where Jay Delsing and Kevin Weeks delivered an interactive clinic that combined high-level instruction with meaningful member interaction. These early successes have helped establish the tone and value of Society programming while reinforcing its mission of connecting participants with PGA Professionals in impactful and memorable ways.

Looking Ahead

The committee believes the Gateway Golf Society represents a significant opportunity to further strengthen connections between supporters of the game, PGA Professionals, and facilities throughout the Section. Success in 2026 will be measured not only by continued execution of high-quality events, but also by growth in membership and increased engagement from clubs and PGA Professionals. The Society is also reflected in the Section's 2026 budget, reinforcing its role as an important and sustainable component of the overall business development strategy.

PGA Member Involvement

As the Gateway Golf Society continues to grow, the committee is actively seeking increased involvement from Gateway PGA Professionals. Those interested in hosting events, presenting to Society members, sharing experiential ideas, or supporting recruitment efforts are strongly encouraged to participate. PGA Professionals with interest, ideas, or opportunities to contribute are invited to contact Committee Chair Adam Betz at adam@familygolfonline.com.

- Adam Betz, Chairperson

Player Development

As we look forward to the 2026 Golf Season the Player Development Committee along with the Section staff are looking to improve on 2025 numbers.

In 2025 we had the following for PGA Junior League numbers:

2025 KPIs:

- 121 Programs
- 1,824 Unique Players
- 52 Engaged Coaches
- \$457,907 in Coaching Revenue

2026 Goals:

- 127 Programs
- 1,915 Unique Players
- 55 Engaged Coaches
- \$480,000+ in Coaching Revenue

As you can see we are looking to improve. Remember that this is a Deferred Compensation eligible program that we encourage our members to be a part of.

Thank you to all the Gateway PGA Professionals that participated in the Gateway Golf in schools. What a great way to give back to our community and youth.

- Gateway PGA Professionals went to Churchill Center & School twice in February, teaching the game to 150 students both times!
- A group also went to Bristol Elementary in March, teaching the game to over 350 students in one day!

We will also have 3 – 4 Gateway Golf and Business for Women. Below are the numbers from 2025 and what we hope to do in 2026.

2025 Recap:

- 2 Sponsored Events
- 1 9 Hole Play Day
- 97 attendees across the three events
- \$8,000+ revenues to PGA facilities

2026 Goals:

- 3+ Sponsored Events
- 1-2 Play Days
- 150+ attendees

Last Drive, Chip and Putt is in full sign-up mode. We are excited to see our local qualifier at Augusta National competing in the national DCP. This is also a Deferred Compensation program.

- Gideon Smith, Chairperson

Rules of Golf

The 2025 Rules of Golf Committee includes Jesse Barge (Chairman), Michael Brown (Tournament Director), Mark Morfey, Matt Gindler (Board Laisson), Kevin Schaffer, Kevin Dunn and Marvin Herrod.

The committee will provide rules officiating for the section's stroke play events, match play championship and the qualifiers for the PPC and Sr. PPC. The committee will also officiate at Gateway Junior two-day events. Officials will also be provided for the Korn Ferry Tour Monday Qualifiers. Gideon Smith, Emily Van Rie, and Braden Bennet will help Jason Eisenhauer with the rules for the junior event at Spring Lake C.C.

It is very encouraging to have the largest number of members involved with the Rules of Golf Committee since its inception.

At the national level Jesse Barge continues to serve on the PGA of America Rules of Golf Committee. He was an instructor at a PGA/USGA Rules of Golf Workshop in Denver, in February. Jesse's assignments for 2026 include the PGA Championship, the Junior PGA Championship, and he will chair the rules committee for the Senior PGA Professional Championship.

- Jesse Barge, Chairperson

Teaching & Coaching Committee

The Gateway PGA Teaching & Coaching Committee met on January 14, 2026, to review committee initiatives, discuss feedback from the 2025 Teaching & Coaching Summit, and begin planning programming and educational opportunities for the 2026 season.

During January, February, and March, the committee hosted its Online TTT (Teachers Teaching Teachers) Winter Series, providing continuing education opportunities for Gateway PGA professionals. This year's series featured three outstanding presenters:

- Dr. Izzy Justice – Neuroscientist and performance coach
- Phillip Dawson Jr. – Player development coach
- David Orr – Internationally recognized putting instructor

We were fortunate to have these presenters share their expertise with our section. Each session delivered valuable insights and practical information aimed at helping Gateway professionals further develop their coaching skills and better serve their players.

In addition to the online series, the committee is currently working with the Section office to finalize programming for the remainder of the year. Logan recently connected with Assistant Executive Director Thomas Pool to review upcoming initiatives and ensure our events are well planned and aligned with the Section's professional development goals.

Looking ahead, the committee is planning several in-person educational opportunities:

- We are working to host Janean Murphy, the 2024 LPGA National Teacher of the Year, for an in-person TTT (Teachers Teaching Teachers) event earlier in the season. Final scheduling details are currently being determined.
- We are also exploring the possibility of hosting an additional in-person TTT event around the BMW Championship at Bellerive Country Club, though the presenter and details are still to be finalized.
- Planning is also underway for the Gateway PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit in December. Our first preference is to host a presentation from TPI, and we are currently exploring that opportunity. Additional speaker options, including Dr. Sasho MacKenzie, are also being considered as we work to finalize a presenter for the event.

The Teaching & Coaching Committee remains committed to providing meaningful educational opportunities that help Gateway PGA professionals continue to grow as instructors and coaches. We appreciate the support of the Section leadership and look forward to continuing to build strong programming throughout the year.

- Dan Polites & Logan Murphy, Co-Chairpersons