

Hello Golfers and Friends,

10-12-12

Well, as usual many of our members have been out in their community showing the rest of the world that blind and vision impaired men, women and children can participate successfully in the game of golf. For example, in this newsletter we will hear from Jeremy Poincenot about a clinic that he and David Meador conducted in Tyler Texas, for blind children and adults. Thanks, guys. Next we will hear from Dick Pomo about a fund raiser for Wounded Warriors that he and Sharon will be participating in. They too are sharing the message with blind and vision impaired veterans and others about the USBGA. And of course, the publicity gained by three of our members getting a hole-in-one has certainly impressed a lot of jealous golfers.

The Board too has been busy planning for the future. They are working on the by-law changes that were discussed at the Annual General Meeting in August and hope to have them ready in November. They are also working on tournaments for 2013. The dates for the National Tournament and US open will be August 17-22. The 17th and 22nd will be travel days. The tournament will be held in Portland, Oregon. You have already received the notice from Dick Pomo about the Arizona Regional Tournament and we believe that the Kentucky Bluegrass Regional Tournament will once again be on the schedule.

Of course, as much as we dislike discussing it, this all takes money, so our final article is from David Meador regarding his ideas as Fund Raising Chairman for the organization.

#### **Article one:**

Recently, David Meador and I had the privilege of introducing blind golf to kids and adults at the Cascades CC in Tyler, TX.

In the morning, there was a mini-clinic attended by 16 blind and visually impaired kids from East Texas. Working with a representative from The First Tee, we exposed the kids to putting, chipping and driving. The kids really enjoyed the experience, and the next morning we learned that one participant had gone home and told his mom that he no longer felt embarrassed to have a vision impairment, and he now felt more self-confident.

During the afternoon's Corporate Scramble, David demonstrated his technique on a par 3, while I demonstrated my drive on a par 5, then each foursome hit their own balls. The participants were amazed by David's ability to determine if they'd hit a good or bad shot based on the sound, and they enjoyed having the experience of lining me up.

The next morning, we both spoke to the employees at the Lighthouse/Horizon Industries, the majority of whom are blind or visually impaired. We shared our stories, including the impact the USBGA has had on our lives.

It was fun to expose blind golf to a group of kids and inspire enthusiasm for the game, and a great opportunity to introduce blind golf to almost 100 fully-sighted golfers. All-in-all, it was great to be a part of the USBGA's efforts to raise awareness of blind golf.

Jeremy Poincenot

**Article two:**

Hi Everyone,

Most of you will remember that about this time last year I sought your support for the Wounded Warriors golf fund/raiser that the Green Valley /Sahuarita Arizona Chamber of Commerce sponsored. Sharon and I are again on the committee and will represent USBGA on a hole by demonstrating blind golf on November 12. Players are given the opportunity to hit a shot blind folded and at the same time contribute for the opportunity. As usual we will be on a par 3, and as unlikely as it seems, teams can use my shot!! Stop laughing Mirus.

Last year we raised enough funds to not only have a sign showing our sponsorship on a hole, but we were able to donate funds to the cause as well. We will again have a sign showing our support. The fact that our donation came directly from our individual members was noted and greatly appreciated by the chamber. Our contributions help us build bridges in the community and hopefully will gain support for our 2013 tournament. Most of all, this is a worthy cause and allows us to publicize USBGA commitment to offer an opportunity for blind or visually impaired veterans to participate in the game of golf. .

This year I am a little smarter, (not much), but checks can be sent directly to Mary Jane Popp who will in turn make out the final check. Her address is listed below.

Thank you in advance for whatever amount you can contribute.

Mary Jane Popp  
3911 Dodson Chapel Rd. No 34  
Hermitage TN 37076

Because we have a sign from last year, our charge for the sign will be \$100.00 with any remaining funds added as a specific donation from USBGA members.

Dick Pomo  
Home: 520-648-1088

## **Fall Fund Raising Campaign**

By Fund Raising Chair, David Meador

Many of you received an email from me early in September. It promised I would call you to ask you for a select set of names which you might consider qualified prospects for our Direct Mail Fund Raising Campaign this fall. Our goal is a select group of 250 names. Ideally, these will include four or five money capable friends from each of you. Some will have several. Some perhaps only one or two.

Of course, none of us likes to ask for help or for money. But unfortunately, the money for each year's national and regional tournament hotel and golf course fees does not exactly grow on trees. Although deadlines make it a must that I make calls to you right away on this, Nothing will be mailed to your most gift capable friends until you at least see the content of our first mailing, and our closing solicitation letter as well. Our intent is three planned mailings.

First, you will soon receive by email the language, the content, of a brand new USBGA try-fold brochure that our Board of Directors has fashioned. It is language only, not the try-fold brochure itself. It's the language created with considerable professional help, the help of our website designer, Suzie Schulenberg, and her writer, Chuck Whiting, the man who helped us so successfully with press releases in recent weeks. On purpose, this content is not set in stone, and so will be sent to you for comments. Thus, your try-fold tweaks and suggestions will be sincerely welcomed prior to printing and prior to Introductory mailing number one.

Mailing Number One: Yes. It's introductory in nature, and will include our new try-fold, scheduled to go out to your most capable friends in late October.

Mailing Number Two will offer a re-print of our recent Golf World Magazine article, along with an edited DVD of player interviews videotaped on the course in New York. Mailing will also announce our upcoming quarterly newsletter.

Mailing Number Three, however, will make the Ask, giving people the feeling that they are indeed an elite group of only 250 personal friends, which we are approaching for a critically important transition donation. It's in this way, that we will

then have the opportunity to focus on the corporate world for a more sustaining source of future funding.

Lastly, it should be noted, that the above is not our only fund raising strategy. Regional Tournament Directors, Dick Pomo and Ty Thompson, both raised several thousands of dollars for this past year's competitions, and will undoubtedly do so again for the upcoming year.

Additionally, Ted Fass, our New York National Championship Director, is again hard at work going after major corporate contributors. And lastly, our part time Administrative Assistant, college student Annie Worthman, is helping identify both corporate and private foundation grant opportunities, such as the details of a CVS Caremark grant request just submitted.

True. We are hoping to get help from a variety of outside sources. But if you will allow me to twist an old saying: The responsibility on this starts at home. I will be calling yours in the next few days. Thank you for your preparation in advance.

PS. Name, home Address and Email Address will be all that is needed for each of your four or five qualified prospects.

Sincerely,

David Meador, 615 385-0784 Cell: 520-401-5516

Well, that's it for this issue of the newsletter. Take care because we care.

Joan Dietz  
Communication Chairperson

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