

# ***Midwest Deaf Golfers Association***

## **Fall Newsletter**

Highlights of the 2007 MDGA  
Tournament:

The 60<sup>th</sup> annual MDGA tournament was held at Springfield, Ill July 30 through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 98 golfers signed up for the tournament...60 in regular division and 38 in senior division.

Monday morning eight state teams vied in the newly formed state scramble tournament. Illinois team ran over the other states and won with a score of 58, 14 under par.

The other golfers not on the state teams took in practice rounds on the course during the day.

The delegates from each state met in the afternoon and discussed several issues. Such report is found elsewhere in this issue.

The general meeting was held in the evening at the hotel.



General meeting of the MDGA well attended by attentive golfers

Newly registered in the MDGA were twelve golfers. They are:

Ken Anderson of Illinois  
Scott Bailey of Texas  
Sam Culbertson of Illinois  
Jim Danielson of Illinois  
Bob Hickey of Maryland  
Bill Kluchnik of Manitoba  
Billy Mauldin of Wisconsin  
George McCarley of Kansas  
Andrew Stranz of Illinois  
Stanley Sudol of Texas  
Kelly Turner of Missouri  
Justin Van Valey of Illinois

Tuesday was the first round and the weather cooperated wonderfully. The lowest score on Tuesday was 75 shot by John Rush of Colorado and Curtis Blankenburg of Illinois.

In the afternoon golfers were participating in a putting contest. Dick Townsend of Michigan managed to squeeze through for the top spot by beating Michael Lewis of Wisconsin.

Wednesday found us golfing again with the same ideal weather...the lowest scores on Wednesday was 66 shot by John Rush of Colorado. This is a new record for MDGA.

Another star on Wednesday was Wilbur Sawhill who shot a score equivalent to his age, 87. He sure managed to do it occasionally as he also shot his age 86, last year at Michigan, and 83 four years ago at Indiana.



Wilbur Sawhill of Iowa posing with John Rush of Colorado

.That afternoon found 10 top golfers competing in the shootout. Mark Nagy of Illinois clinched the top spot by beating John Rush on the final hole. A write up of the shootout will be found in the Spring newsletter.

Thursday the golfers were separated into several flights and each flight competed for a low score and a trophy for each flight.

That evening we celebrated the end of the 2007 tournament with a banquet enjoyed by all.



Concluding the 2007 MDGA/MDLGA tournaments with delicious banquet dinner

Highlight of the banquet was the initiation of the Hall of Famers wearing identical polo shirts identifying HOF.

The newly initiated HOF members were Douglas Schnoor of Minnesota and Patrick Sweeney of Ohio. They were given HOF shirts and awards by HOF Chairperson Edwin Carlson of Wisc.

## 2007 Chairperson's Column

“Thumbs-up” to Central Illinois Deaf Golfers Association for hosting the 60<sup>th</sup> annual MDGA and MDLGA tournaments at The Rail and The Oaks Golf courses this past summer. I personally was more than thrilled with the success of the tournaments and that 100 men played at The Rail Golf Course.

“Thumbs-up” to my wonderful committee for their help in planning this big event and making it a success. Many thanks to Janice Birchall, Mark Nagy, Tom Chance, Marion Dramin, Curtis Blankenburg, Jim Danielson, Jim Todd, and David Nesmith.

“Thumbs-up” to the golfers who brought home their championship trophies. Yet, this tournament was not about winning championships ... it was a great time for all golfers to come and join in the great fellowship, win, or lose! Everyone went home a “thumbs-up” winner!

“Thumbs-up” to 31 sponsors and advertisers who generously made contributions...monetary or materialistic.

Last, but not the least, “thumbs-up” to the Iowa committee in planning the tournament next year! I am always looking forward to another MDGA “homecoming”.

MDGA-ly and “thumbs-up”  
Bob Dramin  
2007 MDGA Tournament Chairperson

## *Minutes of Delegate meeting*

Present:

President: Darrell Hovinen

Vice President: Jim Todd

Secretary: Jim Potter

\Treasurer: Bob Dramin

Trustees: Tim Anderson, David Buntin, Mark Venz

Past President: Dale Johnson

Delegates:

Illinois: Bill Curtis, Charles Peckham

Indiana: Greg Gantt, Mark Gessinger

Iowa: Robert Lawson, Stephen Coppock

Michigan: Karl Gruetzner, Hubert Ruessman

Minnesota: Gary Cook, Fred Sund

Wisconsin: John Kaleta, Joseph Otis

The President called the Delegate meeting to order at 2:29 pm on July 30. The meeting was held in the tent on the grounds of The Rails golf course.

President reported on these issues:

- a) USDGA...Plans to have 2011 tourney one week before or after regional tournament. Open discussion was conducted.
- b) Iowa 2008 tournament request to have one day earlier in the same week due to state fair.
- c) Hall of Fame chairperson... Points for runner up. Referred to HOF committee.
- d) 1991 tourney championship was tied between Rush and Roberts. No playoff due to weather. Should be recognized as co-champions. Delegates agreed to this concept.
- e) MDLGA \$2000 prize fund demand by the ladies.  
Prize fund should be based on percentage attendance by men and ladies.  
It was moved to cease giving prize fund to ladies. Amended to be effective in 2008. Both amendment and motion PASSED.
- f) Any state bidding for 2012?

Delegate minutes accepted with revision to reflect that only the secretary's salary be removed (not the treasurer's) on account of not acting on the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jim Todd moved to distribute the third day prize among all golfers. PASSED
  - a. Bob Dramin amended to limit to 2/3 cutoff. FAILED.

2. Ed Carlson moved to start tradition of awarding HOF shirts to new HOF members every year effective with this year. PASSED
3. Joseph Otis moved to have a dress code for the MDGA banquet (pants and shirt) to be effective 2008. PASSED
4. Bill Curtis moved to award two night lodging to the Vice President. PASSED

The five motions will be presented to the general meeting in the evening for action \.  
The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jim Potter, Secretary

### ***2007 MDGA GENERAL MEETING***

President Darrell Hovinen called the 2007 MDGA meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. The meeting was held at the hotel headquarters in Springfield, Illinois on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Pledge to the flag was conducted by Secretary Jim Potter.

Respects were given to members who had passed away since the 2006 tournament with a silent prayer. They were:

- Ralph McLaughlin of Missouri
- Al VanNevel of Illinois
- Ronald Hovinen of Michigan
- Bill Davis of Illinois.

Introductions of new members were given individually.  
Introduction of Mike Finneran (25 years in absentia)

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- a) Need to vote for new vice president, treasurer and a trustee
- b) Delegate meeting briefings with five motions to be presented in new business

Minutes of 2006 general meeting was accepted with a correction on the suspension of secretary's salary only (not the treasurer's salary).

Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$7076.27 was presented and accepted as given.

#### **HISTORIAN REPORT:**

John Dyreson, Historian

- a) Thanked Teri-Lyn Calhoun, the MDGA webmaster for excellent work.
- b) Recognized Wilbur Sawhill 50<sup>th</sup> attendance
- c) Recognized Art Gendreau on his 54<sup>th</sup> attendance

- d) Recognized the attendees with number of tournaments:  
Guy Kelly (46), Fred Sund (38), John Dyreson (38), Pat Cleveland (38),  
Joe Otis (30), Dale Johnson (25), Bob Graf (25), Lewis Fowler (25)

e) 112 golfers had been deceased

**HOST CHAIRPERSON REPORT:**

100 golfers with two withdrawals as of this moment.

**FUTURE HOST CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT:**

Robert Lawson (2008) reported on the committee proceedings and plans. The tournament will be at Copper Creek Course.

Wallace Riege (2009) reported plans to have 2009 tournament at Whispering Springs in Fond Du Lac, Wis.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Motion to allow ladies play in MDGA. Dropped

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Delegate motions

- 1) Motion to have 2008 MDGA tournament held one day earlier than usual (Monday through Wednesday) PASSED
- 2) Motion to award Vice President two night lodging. FAILED
- 3) Motion to have dress code at MDGA/MDLGA banquet to be effective in 2008. PASSED
- 4) Motion to cease sharing prize fund with the ladies in MDLGA.
  - a. Dale Johnson made an amendment to distribute based on head count. PASSED
  - b. John Kaleta amended that if MDLGA refused this arrangement, we then cease giving them the share of the prize fund. PASSED

Open to general meeting

- 5) Daniel Blessing moved that we allow golf shirts with no collar. PASSED
- 6) Al Rozman moved that we add Senior Shoot out. FAILED

**ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS:**

Elected were:

Jim Todd, Vice President (reelected)

Bob Dramer, Treasurer (reelected)

Mark Nagy, three-year Trustee

Bid for 2012: Champaign, Illinois

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jim Potter, Secretary

*Different awards were given at the banquet by Chairperson Bob Dramin.*



John Rush of Colorado, Champion of Championship Flight



Darrell Hovinen of Michigan, runnerup in Championship Flight



John Rush with William Berg Award and .....Award.



Bob Dramin and John Rush with Medalist award



Marek Kaminski of Indiana, Champion of First Flight



Christopher Burhart of Ohio, Champion of Second Flight



Tim Anderson of Minnesota, Champion of Third Flight



Bob Graf of Wisconsin, Champion of Senior Championship Flight



Lewis Fowler of Kentucky, Champion of Senior First flight



Ronald Deschler of Michigan, Champion of Senior Second Flight



Top state team (four best ball golfers format) Illinois (Bob Dramin, Justin Van Valey, Curtis Blankenburg and Mark Nagy)



Terry Buchholz of Maryland, the most improved golfer and also the top net score in the regular division



Carlos Martinez of Illinois receiving Sullivan award for top net score (gross minus Handicap) in the Senior division



Mark Nagy of Illinois, Shootout Champion



Dick Townsend of Michigan, Putting Champion



MDGA Hall of Famers with newly initiatees Patrick Sweeney and Douglas Schnoor in their new HOF shirts. Left to right: Front row: John Dyreson, WI; Jim Potter, MN; Edwin Carlson, WI; Doug Schnoor, MN. Second row: Pete Wahl, AZ; Pat Cleveland, WI; Wilbur Sawhill, IA; Guy Kelly, WI; Art Gendreau, MN; Fred Sund, MN. Back row: Pat Sweeney, OH; Lewis Fowler, KY; Wally Reige, WI; Darrell Hovinen, MI; Joe Otis, WI; Dale Johnson, MN; Bob Graf, WI