

## 2014 Spring PGA Meeting Held at Twin Hills Country Club

### *Dave DiRico, Golf Professional of the Year and Special Award Winners Announced*

Longmeadow, Mass. (March 25, 2014) – The 2014 Connecticut Section PGA Spring Membership Meeting supported by Bouvier Insurance was held at Twin Hills Country Club with 178 attendees learning about the Association, section, and membership.

The meeting kicked off with a special announcement from Tom Baptist, Superintendent for the City of Hartford's Department of Public Works, about the section and City of Hartford entering into a consulting agreement to operate both Goodwin Park and Keney Park Golf Courses. Patrick Aldrich, PGA, was hired to serve as the Golf Properties Consultant to serve the city as its Director of Operations. In addition, a PGA Golf Properties Advisory Committee was created to assist Aldrich. The Committee consists of PGA Professionals Bobby Brown, Tashua Knolls Golf Course; Andrew Ouellet, Taylormade Golf; John Verrengia, Simsbury Farms Golf Club; and Jon Wilson, Golf Center at Lyman Orchards.

The featured guest speaker, Peter Bevacqua, Chief Executive Officer of The PGA of America, provided the meeting attendees with an update and insight on the golf industry, PGA of America initiatives, and future plans of the Association. Bevacqua's enthusiasm left the meeting attendees excited and hopeful for the upcoming golf season.

Sponsors and allied association guests were present to deliver messaging on their perspective businesses for the upcoming golf season. Bouvier Insurance, the PGA Preferred Golf Course Insurance Program, announced that they are now offering insurance coverage for golf shops. Such an announcement is pertinent to golf professionals, as they are preparing their golf shops for the upcoming season.

The section announced the 2014 Special Award winners. The coveted Professional of the Year was awarded to Dave DiRico of Dave DiRico's Golf and Racquet. Congratulations to the following PGA Professionals for their awards: Player Development Award, Kevin Cloud, Golf Center at Lyman Orchards; Merchandiser of the Year Public, Jeff DelRosso, Prospect Driving Range; Assistant Professional of the Year, Aaron Chaffin, Shuttle Meadow Country Club; Merchandiser of the Year Private, Tim Quirk, Longmeadow Country Club; Horton Smith Award, Mike Martin, Clubs To Go (Tashua Knolls Golf Course); Bill Strausbaugh Award, Gary Sassu, Chippanee Golf Course; Youth Player Development Award, George DeVita, Farmington Woods Country Club; Teacher of the Year, Chuck Lasher, PGA Life Member. In addition, Barry Dennis of Kensington, Conn., was named the Golf Sales Representative of the Year. The award winners will be honored at a banquet later this year.

This year marks the 43rd anniversary of the Julius Boros Challenge Cup Matches between the PGA Professionals of the section versus the amateurs of the Connecticut State Golf Association. The matches will take place on May 1, 2014, at New Haven Country Club. Dennis Coscina, PGA Team Captain, announced this year's captain's picks Ed Slattery, Candlewood Valley Country Club, and Paul Barnsley, Race Brook Country Club.