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Letter for 2024 Assistant's Board Position

Being an assistant in the Metropolitan Section is a badge of honor. We are home of the best clubs and players in this section, and I am happy to be a part of such an incredible organization that has the most respect from others in the Country. Playing and being active in these events is a vital role in our jobs that more Assistants should be participating in. The perception by most is that playing in these events is to go out and try and win an event to make some money and call it an off day. I believe most golf professionals are deterred from playing because either their game isn't up to a "winning" caliber or that they don't want to give up a much needed day off. It is a hard task to accommodate and please all parties of the "players" and "non-players." I have learned that the most valuable take away isn't a paycheck but the relationships that you develop with others. You can see and hear how other clubs operate which could be extremely valuable to improve not only your club operation but your job.

As an assistant we have each other to lean on for help. Being an Assistant Golf Professional is a unique job that differs from club to club but we have each other to bounce ideas off of and vent to. I was a part of the table last year that proposed the idea of having an assistants group chat. Much like the Head Golf Professionals who are close, they have texts going all of the time with what their clubs do in certain situations. That is extremely valuable knowledge to have at your fingertips when needed to aid you.

I would like to propose having more "town hall meetings." These meetings would not take place on a Monday for those that value their day off and time away from the club. We could possibly host a more informal meeting after work hours wearing golf clothes at a club or rent a room at an off campus establishment. It would be more of a social event as such that I had at

Coastal Carolina PGM and we would call them "Socials". The Board would have an itinerary with topics to get conversation started. My key thing is participation and how do we get more people involved. I know plenty of Assistants who don't play and have no intentions of starting to. If you can't shoot a number in a tournament there isn't much incentive to participate. We are all resources for each other and need to start using it better. We had a similar meeting after a tournament at Woodway 2 years ago. It got to the topic of the financial benefits of not having Debit Cards and using Credit Cards. These topics don't need to be just about Golf and the jobs that we have but daily life benefits. In my opinion having a mandatory meeting in order to play golf will deter people from participating. As of right now the sign ups 3 weeks in advance has a total count of 32 participants. I believe the mandatory meeting and then playing golf is a deterrent. If we had a social event where there was no golf and was a little bit more informal, then participation for people who don't want to play will rise. Getting better clubs to host events is definitely a way to drum up more participation. But what happens when those clubs say no or are only willing to do it for one season and not the next. Longevity of the continued success and growth of the Assistants sector is what the focus should be on.

My Main Points:

- Enhancing communication and collaboration amongst each other. We are the best section comprised of the best Assistants in the Country. I value the section's reputation and are valuable resources to one another.
- The perception of being involved means participating in a tournament where there are concerns about one's skill level or sacrificing leisure time which leads to low participation. There needs to be other functions to get Assistants together to speak upon issues / concerns.