



**PGA**

Northern Texas Section



# ASSISTANTS NEWSLETTER

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## *Seek Mentorship and Become a Student for Life*

"Every man I meet is my master in some point, and in that I learn from him."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Most of you reading this article are like me. Young professionals, learning to navigate the choppy waters presented in the professional world. Some may be seasoned Class A professionals, while others may have just recently enrolled in the PGA PGM program. Regardless of your position, title, education, or age, I am confident we all can agree on this one topic. To reach the aspirations and goals we have set out for our careers and families, we must actively seek mentors. We must find people that will test and challenge our abilities and beliefs. Seeking a mentor's advice could prevent you from making unnecessary fumbles. It can also evoke opportunities that could impact our lives for the better.

Finding a trustworthy mentor does not have to be a difficult task. They can be found all around us. The older neighbor you see as you walk your dog in the evenings. Your longtime friend who lives on the other side of town. An office colleague who holds the position you strive for. The author of an inspirational book. Our access to strong mentors stretches much farther than the confines of an organizational hierarchy. When we open our minds to the resources life presents us, mentors are closer than we realize.

In my experience (which, to be honest, is very little), the best mentors around are those who treat every moment in life as an opportunity to learn. They go boldly into rooms where they know the least and gravitate towards situations they know little about. Ryan Holiday explains in *Ego Is The Enemy* that, "An amateur is defensive. The professional finds learning (and even, occasionally, being shown up) to be enjoyable; they like being challenged and humbled, and engage in education as an ongoing and endless process." These individuals are comfortable in uncomfortable situations because they more than likely put themselves in that situation, knowing the potential beneficial ramifications that could unfold.

Every journey will have its stumbles and falls, but one way to become surefooted is to adopt the help of others. We do this by seeking out mentors. To do so we must open our minds to the people and situations we come across. Train yourself to become aware and always stay curious. Others have walked the same footsteps you and I are walking at this moment in our lives. They have made the same mistakes and experienced the same successes we have. Trust them, learn from them, and most importantly, take the time to spread your knowledge to the mentee who will knock on your door soon.

This process is a cycle, and we all need to ready ourselves for the moment to become the mentor. I will leave you with a philosophy Frank Shamrock uses to train his fighters: Plus, minus, and equal. "Each fighter, to become great, needs to have someone better that they can learn from, someone lesser whom they can teach, and someone equal that they can challenge themselves against."



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