

The Heart of America GCSA is formed to promote the welfare of the game of golf, the professional image and well-being of individual members and to unite industry professionals in the area.

Since 1933



Heart of America Chapter

**GCSAA**

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

# Heart Beat

June 2022

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 11** – S&R Tournament  
Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate

**November 2** – Annual Meeting  
180 Room

**November 7** – Battle of the Heart  
Tournament  
Milburn Country Club

**December 19-20** – Common  
Ground Education Conference  
Olathe Conference Center

**December 19** – Past President  
Happy Hour  
Johnny's Tavern

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER !](#)**

## SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH TOURNAMENT



**Monday, July 11, 2022**  
**Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate**

7:30am – Check In

9:00am – Shotgun

At the Turn - Lunch

1:30pm – LIVE Auction, Hors d' oeuvres,  
Awards and Scholarship Presentations

4 person scramble

**\$900 per team; \$250 for singles**

*(includes: Golf, Cart, Lunch, Hors d' oeuvres, Skins Game, DeChambeau Hole, Hole in One Hole, and One Mulligan per player)*

**Host Superintendent:**  
**Jacob Rockhold, CGCS**

### SUPERINTENDENTS

You are encouraged to form a club team with colleagues, members and valued customers from your facility.

### BRING CASH

(2 Opportunities)

50/50 Pot – Registration Desk (\$1 per ticket)

Half to Winner; Half to S&R Fund

50/50 Pot – Hole #14/Closet to the Pin (\$10 per player)

Half to Winner; Half to KSU Turf Club

### REGISTER AT:

<https://web.hagcsa.org/events/S-R-TOURNAMENT-4065/details>

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## Title Sponsors



# President's Message



**Dear Heart Members,**

I always enjoy looking at my Facebook Memories page on a daily basis, whether it's watching my son grow up, living vicariously through my younger years, or seeing record breaking or very random experiences on the golf course, anywhere from extreme weather conditions, flooding, and fun past events. So, I think to myself, what will happen in 2022 that will make me enjoy looking back on.



We have already made some great memories with First Green events in 2022! Thank you to all the hosts, volunteers, and vendors support that came out to support our three hosted events this Spring. Everyone involved looked like they were having a great time! I look forward to getting more events on the calendar. If you would like any information on hosting an event or if you haven't been asked to volunteer for an event and would like to help, please contact me directly.

A huge goal of 2022 was to get over half of HAGCSA member courses to fill out their Facility BMP Manual by the end of the year. Sandy Queen has begun this initiative and is willing to help any facility complete this task. HAGCSA has been provided grant money to accomplish this task. Do not be afraid to contact us if you need help completing your course's manual.

I enjoyed seeing everyone that made it to the Joint Event with Kansas GCSA in Manhattan, Kansas. Our relationship with nearby Chapters will always be important with joint support for GCSAA. Thank you to Mark McKain and his crew for providing a great day of golf!

Don't forget to sign up for the 2022 HAGCSA Scholarship and Research Tournament hosted by Jacob Rockhold, Superintendent, at Nicklaus Golf Club at Lionsgate on July 11. We will see you there!

Thank you,  
**Jonathan Bennett**  
President

## Enhancing Communications – “OPT IN”

As a way to enhance our communication with members, we are introducing an optional text messaging program. Participants will receive key information about happenings at the association, deadline reminders, and possibly a survey or two.

The program is completely optional and you may opt out at any time.

**TEXT  
HAGCSA  
to 71441**  
to sign up for Heart of America  
GCSA mobile alerts.

Heart of America Chapter  
**GCSAA**  
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Mobile

# Wee One Foundation 2022 Event: A Wonderful Success Thanks to Many of You

You can never say thank you too much. If there is a common thread that is in each letter that the Wee One Foundation receives from the gift recipients, that is it. The MoKan Committee and the Wee One Board of Directors echoes these sentiments, because your generosity makes the Foundation's work possible. Last month, the MoKan Committee conducted their annual golf outing fund raiser for the Wee one Foundation. It was a smashing success, raising over \$14,000. With each event there are a lot of moving parts and many people to thank for their role in contributing to the overall success of it.

First, thanks to the members of the Heart of America and the Board of Directors for continuing to support the Wee one Foundation and keeping the golf outing in their yearly schedule.

Thanks to Brien Agler and Staley Farms for hosting the event this year. It's a great central location for members to get to and the staff always knocks it out of the park.

Thanks to all the sponsors of the event: Bayer, GC-SAA, Reinders, Midwest Section/PGA, Van Wall Golf and Sports Turf, Helena, ISTRC, Midwest Turf, Inc., PBI-Gordon, Haines and Associates Construction Co, Terra Ally, Bradbury Family, Falcon Lakes Golf Club, Kansas Golf and Turf, Milburn Country Club, Oaks Golf and Redexim Turf Products.

Thanks to all the donors of items for the auction. It's very generous of you to donate each year without question.

Thanks to all those who bid on the items. We know many of the items are things you'll purchase anyhow. It still takes effort to set aside some monies in your budget, to make it to the meeting and partake in the

event (especially those who finished playing this year!)

Thank you to the MoKan Committee members: John O'Leary, Scott Wilcox, Cody Sander, Matt Hemphill, Bryan Ruder, Grant Sherwood, Tyler Koch, and Duane Sander. Duane Sander and his team continue



to be the catalyst driving the fund raising event and it is clear that John O'Leary from John Deere leads this group with outstanding fund raising skills. Without these people doing the leg work, this event would not happen.



When MoKan first started this event, it was done in the memory of Mark Pierce. Mark was the first recipient

in the area of a Wee one gift in 2013. Shortly thereafter a committee was formed to support the Wee One Foundation. Since then, the group has conducted this event six times and, with the proceeds from this year, it will eclipse the \$40,000 mark generated for the Wee One. The Foundation will surpass \$1.9M in gifts by the end of this month and most likely eclipse the \$2M mark by the end of 2022. More importantly, it's helped over 160 individuals and families through some tough times.



When we explain that the mission of the Wee One is to help those who suffer because of catastrophic medical hardship, people shift their thinking that we only help pay medical bills.

**Continued on next page**

## Wee One Foundation

Continued from page 3

While we do help pay medical expenses, the money that is gifted is often used for other things that are indirectly related, travel, childcare, loss of income from wages, medical devices and medication. There are a lot of hidden costs that creep up and can cause stress when people are trying to heal and navigate our fragmented healthcare system. The Wee One Foundation helps people focus on their healing, and just as important, it lets them know there is a whole industry behind them willing to help.

That's where Wee One Foundation, because of you, has made an impact in their lives and continues to do so today. Thank you for helping your fellow superintendents and staff members. If you or anybody you know in the industry, needs the help of Wee One Foundation, don't hesitate to reach out.

Story by: Luke Cella and Sandy Queen



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# Heritage Park Golf Course and Ethan Shamet Host a First Green Event

**O**n Wednesday, April 27th, the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association sponsored its second “First Green” event held at Heritage Park GC. Golf Course Superintendent, Ethan Shamet, hosted Merriam Park Elementary School and the sixth grade were treated to a well-organized event showing how STEM education could be used in golf course maintenance.

## There were five stations set up for the Class

**Math:** Students worked on using stimpeters to calculate green speeds by Mike Maas, Sandy Queen and HPGC crew member Jared Morris. President of the HAGCSA, Jonathan Bennett, took the kids



through a complex process of calculating the cost and amount of materials that would be needed to build a green. They also learned how to use tape measures (this was more of a challenge

than I had anticipated) and calculate square footage of irregular shapes and the definition of “Pie” (Pi) not the kind you eat.

**Water Conservation/Soils:** This station was run by Dr. Jack Fry of K-State fame, along with one of his key staff, Dani McFadden, so the kids were treated to outstanding professionals that were truly experts. I am sure they learned more than they had expected.

**Golf/Putting:** As you would guess, this is the kids #1 favorite station. School and learning are great, but golf is just FUN. This station was run by Golf Professional Rob Wilkin and HPGC crew member Marc Shinn. I am not sure if anyone made a hold-in-one, but I did hear a lot of yelling from that station.

**Cool Tools and What We Do:** This station was led by Matt Gourlay, Jeff White and the HPGC assistant Drew Murphy. Here they got to see all of our specialty tools; soil probes, moisture meters, cup changers, firmness measuring tools (the thumper) and most important, divot tools and how to repair a ball mark. There was also a demonstration on how and why cups are changed, tee markers moved, divots filled etc.



**Equipment:** Ethan had much of his equipment set out so the kids could see what we use to maintain the golf course. Students got to sit on and have details explained on how and why each piece of equipment is used. This section was manned by Andy Klein, Richard Shumate, James Kennedy, with help by Darrel Silver and Alex McLoughlin of HPGC.



The First Green Program was a real success and one that we all need to embrace at our golf courses. In my 48 years in the golf business, I have not seen a more effective way to get students and teachers out onto our golf courses. When non-golfers get a chance to get out on the golf course and learn and understand what we do, they easily become advocates for what golf means to the communities and the environment.

I would like to acknowledge the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for their support of the program and Mike Maas, Reinders, Inc., and Wes Kleffner, Bayer Environmental Science for their donation of pizza and drinks for students and volunteers.

# Joint Meeting With the Kansas and Heart of America GCSA at Manhattan Country Club

The tradition of a combined meeting between the Heart of America GCSA and the Kansas GCSA continued May 4, 2022, when close to 80 players came to meet, have some education and play some golf. The executive director for KGCSA, Christy Dipman, staffed the registration table and welcomed everyone. Our host course superintendent, Mark McKan, had the golf course in good shape and showed off his seeded zoysia fairways (Zenith) and I must say they were really good. I think many of the superintendents learned a lot about how good the seeded option of Zenith zoysia could be.



The meeting started off with a presentation from Dr. Jack Fry, PH.D., Dr. Steve Keely, Dr. Dale Bremer, Dr. Megan Kennelly and Dr. Ross Braun all K-State staff. There was talk about the declining numbers of turf students in college programs at K-State and across the country. Attendees were encouraged to attend the field day this year as we return



to a more normal schedule after the Covid pandemic.

After the talk, we had a great lunch and then Nic Younger, President of the Kansas Superintendents, announced pairings and teams for the competition. The format was a two-person shamble with teams from Kansas and the Heart competing for bragging rights. The forecast was for a 100 percent chance of rain so we wanted to get started ASAP. The good news is once we started, we were only off the course, due to lightning, for about 15 minutes. Once we went back out, the rain held off.



I don't have the list of all the winners, but I do know that Jeff White and Jonathan Bennett were big winners and several other teams from the Heart won prizes. The bottom line is the Heart of America GCSA beat the Kansas supers. There's always next year!



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**Member Profile**

# Between the Tees With Wayne Scofield Wolf Creek

- **Briefly tell us about your family and where you are from?**

*I was born in Manhattan, Kansas and lived in California from age 5 until 23. I have one older brother and four half sisters and one half brother - all older than me.*

- **What are your hobbies and things you like to do away from work?**

*I enjoy playing golf and hanging out with friends. I also like doing home improvement projects. I'm really into old cars, mainly muscle cars and going to drag and drive events.*

- **How and why did you choose to get into the golf course equipment maintenance business?**

*I worked for John Deere for many years, worked for Toro for a few years also. It was just a natural fit to work for a golf course. I have a good skill set for all the different things that have to be fixed.*

- **Tell us about your education, where else you've worked and how long you've been in your current position.**

*I started out as an automotive mechanic going to school at WYO Tech. I worked in the automotive field for about 10 years before switching to equipment. I spent 10 years at John Deere and three at Toro dealerships. Now I have been working on golf courses for about five years.*

- **If you could build a new maintenance building, what would you like included that you wish you had now?**

*A good, separate work space with a grinding room and an indoor wash pad with a hot, pressure washer.*

- **What would be your dream job? Why?**

*A quality control rep. for a global company - traveling to various locations.*

- **What is one thing you wish you had more time to do?**

*I wish I had more time to travel and see new places. I also wish I had more time to spend with my brother.*



- **If you could travel anywhere on vacation, where would it be?**

*I would go to see Europe. I have been to 37 states and would like to finish that list also.*

- **Favorite adult beverage, college sport/team and pro team?**

*I don't really watch sports. If I were to a drink it would be Crown and Coke.*

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# First Green Event at Sykes/Lady Overland Park

**O**n Thursday, April 21, 2022 the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association hosted the first "First Green" event in the area. Host Golf Course Superintendents included Doug Melchior, Tom Storey and Marc Szablewski. Prince of Peace Catholic school from Olathe, Kansas had sixty 6th graders in attendance.



Queen, CGCS, Randy Robinson, GCSAA, Tom Storey and Larry Kruse, Sykes/Lady Overland Park Golf Club and Leann Cooper GCSAA.

A special thanks to Ken Harding from Windfield Solutions for sponsoring lunch for all the kids and volunteers.

Volunteers were Tanner Fox and Spencer Roberts, CGCS Shadow Glen Golf Club, Mark Newton, CGCS Professional Turf Products, Marc Szablewski and Matt Baslee, St. Andrew's Golf Club, Gianna Augustine (Coach G), PGA Teaching Pro, Sandy

STEM education and learning stations included use of the stimp meter, different soils and turfgrass types used on golf courses, how and why cups are cut, a putting station, water quality and use of natural resources along with an equipment station. The kids were excited to visit a golf course and see what "golf course maintenance" is all about.

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# Sunflower Hills Golf Course Hosts Third First Green Event

On May 10th. Jonathan Bennett, Golf Course Superintendent at Sunflower Hill's, our President of the HAGCSA hosted the First Green event. The event was held at the First Tee six hole facility and was the perfect place for the students.

The class was a sixth grade group of kids from the Piper Middle School. They were great and we had a good time. This class had been working in advance on the golf course visit in preparation for the First Green event. In class they were working on designing a golf course and green and also had worked on the math portion of the event. It's still fun to watch the kids working on math problems as a small group but the most fun is watching them trying to use a measuring tape that has both US and Metric measurements on each side of the tape. The good news is they only ruined one tape!

In addition to the math, the other stations were Bug's, Water Quality, Tools used to maintain the course and the favorite, putting!

Special thanks to Matt Giese and Syngenta for not only helping arrange the school, helping Jonathan run the event but also for providing all the volunteers with shirts and hats.



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# Record Breaking Total for Turfgrass Research

The Rounds4Research auction raised a record-breaking \$482,000 for turfgrass research. The auction sold 1,361 rounds of golf worldwide, including 56 courses from HAGCSA for over \$16,000, making it the most successful in the program's history. HAGCSA helped contribute an extra \$6,500 more than the 2021 auction. Golf courses in Kansas and Missouri have significantly increased our participation in the auction, Thank you to the following facilities who donated rounds in these states.

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8500 Santa Fe Drive  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
913-484-9250  
[tom.storey@opkans.org](mailto:tom.storey@opkans.org)  
Class A • Term Expires: 2022

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

**Spencer Roberts, CGCS**  
Shadow Glen, The Country Club  
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Olathe, KS 66061  
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[spencer@shadowglen.org](mailto:spencer@shadowglen.org)  
Class A • Term Expires: 2022

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Ethan Shamet (Membership, Historical, Awards & Necrology & Slate of Officers)**

Heritage Park Golf Course  
16492 Hallett Street  
Olathe, KS 66062  
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[ethan.shamet@ocogov.org](mailto:ethan.shamet@ocogov.org)  
Class A • Term Expires: 2022

### DIRECTORS

**James Kennedy (Chairman: S&R Tournament)**  
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[jamesk@ironhorsegolf.com](mailto:jamesk@ironhorsegolf.com)  
Class A • Term Expires: 2023

**Matt Gourlay, CGCS, MG (Chairman: Rounds 4 Research)**

Colbert Hills Golf Course  
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Manhattan, KS 66503  
785-313-2893  
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Class A • Term Expires: 2022

**Taylor Olson (Chairman: Programs & Tournaments)**

Canyon Farm Golf Club  
18145 W. 87<sup>th</sup> Street Parkway  
Lenexa, KS 66219  
816-228-3333  
[taylor.olson@greatlifegolf.com](mailto:taylor.olson@greatlifegolf.com)  
Class B • Term Expires: 2023

**Darin Pearson (Chairman: Education)**

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P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
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Class A • Term Expires: 2022

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Class A • Term Expires: 2023

**Aaron Stansbury (Chairman: Assistant Program)**

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14011 Hollingsworth Rd.  
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620-515-4566  
[aaronstansbury28@gmail.com](mailto:aaronstansbury28@gmail.com)  
Class C • Term Expires: 2022

### SPECIAL DIRECTORS

**Josh Douglas (Chairman: Battle of the Heart Tournament)**

Milburn Country Club  
7501 W. 69<sup>th</sup> Street  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-558-9215  
[joshdqls1@gmail.com](mailto:joshdqls1@gmail.com)  
Class C • Term Expires: 2022

**Mark Price (Chairman: Equipment Managers Program)**

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913-963-6764  
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Class EM • Term Expires: 2022

**Matt Delventhal (Co-Chairman: Fall Out Tournament)**

SiteOne Landscape Supply  
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Class AF • Term Expires: 2022

**Richard Shumate (Affiliate Liaison and Co-Chairman Fall Out Tournament)**

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Class AF • Term Expires: 2022

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**Mike Maas**

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Class AF

### CHAPTER DELEGATE

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Class A

### GCSAA DIRECTOR

**Jeff White, CGCS**

Indian Hills Country Club  
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Mission Hills, KS 66208  
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Class A

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & STAFF

**Sandy Queen, CGCS**

Profitable Golf LLC.  
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**Kim Weitzel**

Western Equipment Dealers Association  
10010 N. Ambassador Dr.  
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816-561-5323 • cell/913-558-6376  
[kweitzel@westernmeda.com](mailto:kweitzel@westernmeda.com)

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**Dual Membership Requirement:**

**All Class A and Class B membership** applicants must submit an application for membership or evidence of membership with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA Membership #) and must maintain that membership thereafter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ GCSAA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Club or Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive your mailings at home.

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## JOB INFORMATION: LIST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST

DATES EMPLOYED		EMPLOYER NAME & CITY/STATE	TITLE
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____

I hereby make application for membership in the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attach herewith my dues for the current year. If accepted, I agree to uphold the by-laws of this Association and subscribe to the following code of ethics. To the end that confidence and respect may be enjoyed by members of our Association, the code of ethics is promulgated and observation of its provisions required.

- Every member shall take pride in his/her work and regard it as a profession in which all members strive to maintain its good name.
- Realizing that the best asset that a member can have is thorough knowledge of his/her business, he/she shall constantly try to improve his/her knowledge and effectiveness by freely exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members and take advantage of all opportunities for improvement.
- He/she shall endeavor to maintain courteous relations with his/her employer and his/her associates and endeavor to have his/her employees take pride in doing their work well.
- In accomplishing his/her own and the Association's best interest, observance of the following suggestions are recommended.
  - **Seeking Employment:** 1. Seek counsel of local associations when applying for a position in a new district; 2. Recommend only qualified GCSAA members; 3. Ascertain the wage scale in the district in which you are seeking employment, then uphold that talk with the person who last held or now holds the position of Golf Course Superintendent.
  - **Visiting:** 1. Announce your HAGCSA or GCSAA membership when visiting; 2. Always contact the Superintendent of the course you are visiting; 3. Honor requests for technical help from golf courses only when channeled through the Superintendent of the course making the request.

**Communication Consent:** I agree to receive notices, advertisements, announcements, brochures, and other information from Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents of America via facsimile, telephone or e-mail. I further agree that my express permission to fax, telephone or e-mail me such notices and other information will continue and have no date of expiration, unless a written request is received indicating a change in permission.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):**

Superintendents/\$150 - Assistant Superintendents/\$80 - Supplier/\$150 - Facility/\$50 - Associate Employee/\$25 - Equipment Manager/\$25 - Student/\$25

**Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association**

P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264 • 816-561-5323 • www.hagcsa.org • kwetizel@westerneda.com

OFFICE USE: Board Approval Database/Spreadsheet Database/Weblink Welcome Email/Website Password Roster Listing Roster Link Process Payment



# Vendor Directory



## Advanced Turf Solutions

Jeff Olsen  
314-280-3416

## Aquatrols

Dan McCann  
210-854-1130

## Bayer Environmental Science

Wes Kleffner  
913-205-5381

## PBI Gordon

Heath Schesser  
913-626-5463

## Professional Turf Products

Brad Gray  
913-915-6783

## Reinders

Mike Maas  
913-217-0650

## Syngenta

Paul Carlson  
314-308-0330

## Turfwerks

Brian Freeman  
913-530-3903

## Urban Tree Specialists

Bret Cleveland  
816-214-8327

## Williams Lawn Seed

Josh Williams  
816-682-8794

## Winfield United

Ken Harding  
785-521-8006

*2022 Heartbeat Advertisers*



**REPORT CHANGES**

- > Have you **CHANGED** jobs?
- > Have you **CHANGED** your phone number?
- > Have you **CHANGED** your email address?

Report all changes to your association office so we can stay connected.

To Make Changes, Contact:  
Kim Weitzel, Executive Director  
816-561-5323; [kweitzel@westernmeda.com](mailto:kweitzel@westernmeda.com)



Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association  
P.O. Box 419264  
Kansas City, MO 64141

June 2022