

Thank you to my fellow PGA members for this nomination. I am honored to be nominated for this prestigious award alongside the other candidates, Brent Kish and Bryan Harris. To be a part of such esteemed company is both humbling and gratifying. I look forward to representing my family, my employer, and my fellow professionals in the Western Chapter throughout this process.

A brief background- The path that led me to this point in my professional career started back in the seventh grade. After learning the game from my Father, I became a caddie at Blythefield Country Club in Belmont, Michigan. Just a mile from my childhood home. I worked my way through the ranks of the caddie program at the club. Eventually, I graduated to a bag room position working directly with the PGA Professional Staff led by Michigan PGA Hall of Fame member Buddy Whitten. It was during these formidable years that I developed a strong interest in becoming a Golf Professional. I was fortunate to meet and work alongside Gary Smithson, one of the Assistant Golf Professionals, at Blythefield Country Club. Gary quickly became a mentor and the relationship he fostered with me was a big influence in my career. After graduating from Ferris State University in 2001, Gary hired me as an Assistant Golf Professional at Thousand Oaks Golf Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan. To this day, I sincerely appreciate Gary's friendship and mentorship. After four years at Thousand Oaks, I became the Head Golf Professional at Macatawa Legends Golf and Country Club, near Holland, Michigan. I served in that capacity for nearly five years. While the club enjoyed many successes, it also endured many hardships and closed for several months while sorting through financial and ownership changes. This transition led me to an assistant's position at Railside Golf Club, back near Grand Rapids, Michigan. I served in that role for five years, assuming the reigns as the Head Golf Professional four years ago. I am very blessed to work for great owners and work alongside an extremely talented management team. The membership is welcoming and friendly and I look forward to great success for many years to come.

The game of golf has given me so much more than I ever imagined. A few career highlights include my involvement with the Western Chapter over the last decade. I will assume the role of President in a few short weeks and I look forward to working alongside our board to positively impact our fellow golf professionals in the chapter. I am creating a strong culture at Railside Golf Club that fosters and encourages mentorship evidenced by many former employees who have moved into amazing careers not only in the golf industry, but outside of it as well. I am also actively involved in programming associated with PGA Magazine which include networking, travel, and idea-sharing. But the most gratifying is how the game of golf has allowed me to support my wife and children. It is rare that one can work in an occupation that allows both a passion to be supported, but also a family. And for that, I am truly thankful and grateful for all that the game has blessed me with.

Thank you again for the nomination and your consideration for this award and I wish the other candidates all the very best.