

2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

cpowers@boyne.com

Name of Nominee: *

Casey P Powers

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Boyne Resorts

Year Elected to Membership: *

1995

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for consideration for this award...I am truly humbled.

I have been a PGA Member since 1995 and have been with Boyne Resorts since the spring of 1996. I have enjoyed all parts of the golf/ski world of Boyne Resorts.

I started as an Assistant Professional at Boyne Mountain, was the Director of our National Junior Golf Academy for 3 summers, taught for our Super 5 Golf Schools for 3 more before getting my first Head Professional Position at the Ross Golf Shop in 2005. After one summer at the Highlands, I came back to Boyne Mountain and spent 16 years as the Head Golf Professional and Director of Retail where I oversaw 36 Championship holes and 10 retail outlets at the resort.

This past year, I became the Director of Golf for Boyne Resorts. I now oversee Boyne Golf which consists of 6 resorts, 18 PGA Professionals (8 Head Golf Professionals), 13 Championship Golf Courses, The Boyne Golf Academy, and two private memberships...the Bay Harbor CC and the Country Club of Boyne. Boyne Golf is not a secret in Michigan, and we are starting to reach to a worldwide audience.

I'll try to keep it brief and easy to read so below are just a few details:

Our Company/team's philosophy:

- Boyne Resorts is a Servant Leadership company and I can't agree more!
- o You win with People – Growing a team is critical to success
- o Develop Great People, I'm blessed w/ this after 26 years

Major Tournaments hosted by our Team at Boyne Resorts:

- AJGA – The Highlands and at Sugarloaf
- MI PGA State Pro-Am
- Tournament of Champions
- Multiple GAM events
- Kircher Cup
- Multiple other Am Tour Events

A bit about my career:

- 2022-Present Director of Golf for Boyne Resorts
- 2006-2021 Head Golf Professional at Boyne Mountain
- 2005 Head Professional Ross golf Shop at The Highlands
- 1999-2004 Jr Golf Academy/Super 5 Golf Schools
- 1998 Black Bear GC
- 1996-1998 Boyne Mt
- 1995 Birchwood Farms G&CC
- 1992-1995 Windstar on Naples Bay
- 1992 Hope College Golf Team

About Me:

- I have been married to my wife Jennifer for 13 years
- 2 Kids – my son Griffin (24) and my stepson Patrick (25)
- I am currently the President of the NMPGA Chapter. This is my 7th year on the NMPGA board after serving as the Tournament Director, Secretary and Vice President (All 2 yr terms)
- Boyne City Golf Coach (2001-2017)
- MI PGA Junior Golf Leader Award 2003
- Member of Walloon Community Church
- o Former Youth Small Group Leader
- o Greeter
- o Member of the Praise Band – Bass Guitar

I am a proud PGA Member, and have been for the last 27 years, spending that entire time in our Section. I have been blessed by this game and try to represent our great association at work, at home, and in my community. It is my true pleasure to be able to continue to grow our game, and mentor the next generation of PGA Professionals, to make sure our game is going to be strong in the future.

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Email *

durban@gulllakecc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Dan Urban

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Gull Lake Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2012

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

With an effort to be a well-rounded professional, I have seen success as a player, business owner, and section leader.

*2015 Michigan PGA Champion (3-Time PNC Qualifier)

*2020 Merchandiser of the Year (Private)

*2020-2021 Section Tournament Chair

*2022-2023 Section Secretary

I have worked in the Michigan Section for most of my life. Being raised in the business in Northern Michigan, playing college golf at Grand Valley State University, and spending time in all three chapters in a variety of roles, and currently as the Director of Golf and golf shop owner at Gull Lake Country Club.

While I have much more to do as a professional in my career, I feel that if one can make it through these last few years in the business, one can always make it. With the help of a great golf staff, I owe them much credit in my ability to continue to grow as a professional.

Respectfully,

Dan Urban
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Email *

dougbrody@pga.com

Name of Nominee: *

Doug Brody

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional Of The Year

Facility Employed at: *

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

It is a great honor to be nominated for The Michigan PGA Golf Professional Of The Year. I am just finishing my 25th year as a PGA Head Golf Professional and 30th year in the golf business. Each and every year our staff strives to push the limits to provide the best family golf experience for our members and guests.

A PGA Professional has so many roles and wears many hats. I do my best to wear as many of those hats as possible with professionalism and expertise. Of those many roles I will shine light on the areas I am most proud of in my years as a PGA pro.

Junior Golf Achievements:

* 120 plus Warwick Junior Golfers - 2 Day Jr.School, 8 clinic and play days, junior glow ball.

* Host and manage 2 PGA Junior League Teams - 3 Time State Champs, 10th Season.

* Oversee Motown Cup Junior Interclub Team - League Champions for 7th Straight Season. I take a lead role annually helping organize the overall Interclub schedule and guidelines with the help of Cody Haughton at Red Run GC. This Interclub series includes the following clubs: CC of Detroit, Detroit GC, Birmingham CC, Bloomfield Hills CC, Orchard Lake, Pine Lake, Forest Lake, Oakhurst, Meadowbrook, and Red Run.

* Five College Golf commits this past year and eight All State High School players at Warwick Hills.

* Host of successful Drive, Chip & Putt Local Qualifier - June 2021

* Father of two accomplished Junior Golfers:

Kate Brody age 18 - 2019 National Finalist at Augusta National, 2020 & 2022 Michigan Div 1 High School State Champion. 2022 USGA Girls Junior Am Competitor. Verbal commit to University Of Wisconsin

Tyler Brody age 15 – 2022 National Junior PGA Competitor at Cog Hill in June, 2022 - ranked 3rd in class for Michigan by JGS.

Ladies Golf Achievements:

* Host Pro for Ladies Pink Par Tee & Caddies For A Cause Events - Benefitting Local Breast Cancer Charities. Raising over \$100K annually. 250 golfers participating.

* Execute Ladies 2 Day Invitational with 100 participants.

* Organized 10th Annual 2 Day Ladies Golf Trip which included attending the 2021 Solheim Cup at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio for 20 Warwick ladies. 2022 Ladies Trip for 24 Warwick ladies at Petoskey Bay View in Petoskey, Michigan.

* Execute over 50 organized Ladies events annually.

* Conduct annual Ladies Get Golf Ready series every spring season.

Men's Golf Achievements:

* Execute 4 Day Men's Invitational with 196 players annually.

* Organize and execute 14th Annual 2 Day Road Trip to Michigan Destinations: This year taking 16 members to Hidden River Golf & Casting Club and Boyne Mountain Alpine Course.

* Hosted 7 Overseas Golf Trips to Scotland, Ireland and England with groups of 8-20. This year taking a group of 12 members to Southwest Ireland in May of 2022.

* Execute over 30 organized Men's member events annually.

Other Accomplishments:

- * 2020 & 2021 Finalist for Michigan PGA Section Golf Professional Of The Year.
- * Helped mentor 6 former Assistant Professionals secure Head Professional positions.
- * Lead a very accomplished Professional Staff which includes: Tyler Nunn - Michigan PGA Assistant POY nominee 2021, Darren Husse - Top 10 Michigan PGA Player Of The Year Points 2021, and Jenn Brody - Golf Shop Manager & Teaching Professional and former LPGA Tour Professional.
- * Host Professional of PGA Champions Tour Ally Challenge Presented By McLaren 2018-2022. Oversee all merchandising, driving range and pro am activities for 500 participants.
- * Organize and execute a successful Annual Employee Golf Outing with over 50 employees competing from our entire club staff.
- * Own and operate high volume golf shop - 2 time Michigan PGA Section - Merchandiser Of The Year -Private Facilities in 2014 & 2019.
- Oversee a solid caddy program of 50 caddies, including three current Evans Scholars. Helping promote the Evans Scholar Par Club with the club donating over \$100k in 2022.

Additional Golf Service includes:

- * Participant of PGA Ambassadors & PGA Golf Shop Owners Platform
 - * Annual participant of Michigan Private Club Head Professional Round Table.
 - * Recently selected to be a member of the 2021-2022 Michigan PGA Awards committee.
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If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email *

gm@walloonlakecc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Harry Dixon

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year & Executive of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Walloon Lake Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1998

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Dear Michigan Section Awards Committee,

Thank you for the nomination of PGA Professional of the Year and Executive of the Year! I have been a member of the NMPGA since 1990. I have been a class A member since 1998. I have served on the Northern Chapter and Section Board of Directors.

I am married, my wife's name is Kelly. I was fortunate to marry my high school sweetheart. We just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last month. We have two beautiful daughters, Mallory age 22, who graduated from Central Michigan University, and Haley age 19, who is looking forward to going to Michigan State University next fall.

I am finishing my 35th season at Walloon Lake Country Club, a private club in Petoskey, MI. I started working at Walloon when I was 15 years old in the bag room. After graduating from Petoskey High School, I attended NCMC and studied accounting. At the same time, I became an apprentice in the PGA. I changed career paths and went through PGA Business Schools 1, 2 and 3. I became the Assistant Golf Professional at Walloon at the age of eighteen. I was the Assistant until the age of twenty-three, when I was promoted to Club Manager. I still had responsibilities in the golf operation during the time as Club Manager. At the age of twenty-eight, I was approached by the board president inquiring my interest in becoming the general manager of Walloon Lake Country Club. I told him it was something in which I was extremely interested. At the age of thirty, the club named me General Manager. The position I currently hold today.

My responsibilities include overseeing the club finances, overseeing the golf & grounds operation, the food and beverage operation, tennis/pickleball operation, kid's camp operation and all social events. The club employs up to 95 employees during the season.

I have been through many capital projects at the club. I have been involved in the construction of a new clubhouse, golf shop and maintenance facility, renovations to the clubhouse and golf practice facility. We are currently working on adding to our employee housing needs and adding two modular houses. The club has also decided to add two more pickleball courts for the 2023 season.

During my time as general manager, we have increased membership equity from \$4.2 million to over \$9.0 million. We have been able to increase initiation fees from \$10,000 to \$60,000 and currently have 92 people on our waitlist. Most importantly, the club is debt free.

Something I most proud of is being a part of the Harbor Cup and being a member of Team Harbor. A golf event that puts 12 golf professionals from the local golf courses in Northern Michigan against 12 golf professionals from Boyne USA in a Ryder Cup format. We just completed the 26th playing of the event, my 25th year of playing in the event. Over the 26 years of the event, we have raised a substantial amount of money for the local charities in Northern Michigan. I was told next year we may surpass the \$1,000,000 mark. The golf professionals that have participated in this event over the years have helped changed the lives of many. Another example of the satisfaction you get from being a PGA professional.

It is an honor to be nominated for both of these awards, thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Dixon, PGA
General Manager
Walloon Lake Country Club

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Email *

iziska@americandunesgolfclub.com

Name of Nominee: *

Ian Ziska

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

American Dunes Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2021

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

IAN ZISKA, PGA - GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

I have had the privilege of being mentored by some of the best in the business. During this time, I have better understood what's expected of a quality leader and PGA Professional.

As a PGA Member, I have served as an officer for the Northern Chapter, as the Michigan Section Tournament Chair multiple times, and served on the special awards and tournament committees. I have been honored with section awards, including Junior Golf Leader, Youth Player Development, Merchandiser of the Year for Resort and Public, and the Bill Strausbaugh Award for mentorship.

In addition to my commitments to the PGA, I have had an opportunity to mentor several outstanding future PGA Professionals. Relying on my past experiences to lead by example with high energy, I work tirelessly to create an environment my team wants to be a part of and support.

Using proper communication and involving my team in the process, we work together to showcase our best attributes with the freedom to adapt and improve procedures. I encourage them to be innovative, support one another, and embrace a high level of service. I strive to be supportive, help everyone improve, and turn any weakness into a strength.

I am incredibly passionate about growing the game of golf and involving everyone I encounter in this sport. I have been fortunate to deliver programs that include a youth tournament series, youth and adult player development programs, and an in-school program designed to promote and grow the game of golf. Every program I develop is designed to maximize fun, provide a safe learning environment, and deliver the skills and values players will be able to use for a lifetime.

To support teaching and coaching, playing golf is an essential part of a Golf Professional's job, and it's a true passion of mine. Playing has allowed me to further my career, meet new people, and travel the world. I have been fortunate to compete and win in the Michigan Section, qualify for multiple PGA Professional Championships, and play in the PGA Tour Buick Open.

I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given to gain invaluable experiences from outstanding PGA Professionals and industry leaders. I continue to learn from my mentors and the staff I lead, helping me become a more versatile and cognizant Golf Professional.

Thank you for the opportunity to share. Having the chance to do so for this specific award is rewarding. I am humbled and grateful for the nomination of this special award.

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Email *

matt@railsidegolf.com

Name of Nominee: *

Matt Koets

Award Nominated for: *

2023 Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Railside Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2004

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for the nomination for 2023 Golf Professional of the Year. I would like to thank my wife, Barbara, and my children, Barbara, Grace, and Luke for their love and unwavering support of my career. I would also like to thank the ownership, membership and our team at Railside Golf Club for their support and for the opportunity to serve as the Head Professional.

As a well-rounded golf professional, I excel in the following key areas:

- Leadership
- Mentorship
- Event Management
- Merchandising
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Teaching the Game
- Playing the Game

Contributions to my facility and the Michigan Section:

- I lead a team of nearly 30 golf operations team members including two assistant professionals
- I build a positive environment by being a servant leader to our team
- I empower our assistant professionals to create player development programs to engage our membership
- I grow participation in our golf events each season
- I grow golf shop sales each season
- I have a proven track record of exceeding financial benchmarks and goals each season
- I continually look for ways to engage and better serve our membership
- I build relationships with our members by playing golf with them on a regular basis
- I support the Michigan PGA by participating in events and by serving the members of the Western Chapter on the executive board

Previous Awards:

- Three-time Golf Professional of the Year nominee
 - Two-time Merchandiser of the Year nominee
 - Two-time Bill Strausbaugh nominee
 - PGA Magazine Ambassador Professional
-

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Email *

markleypm@yahoo.com

Name of Nominee: *

Patrick Markley

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Barton Hills

Year Elected to Membership: *

1996

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Deadline: October 21, 2022

Name of Nominee: Patrick Markley – Barton Hills Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: 1996

Award Nominated for: Golf Professional of the Year Award - 2023

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

As a proud PGA member for over twenty-seven years, I have spent nineteen years in the Michigan Section. Currently, I have finished my tenth season as the Head Professional at Barton Hills Country Club and will soon transition to become a General Manager in my home state of Minnesota. Prior to Barton Hills, I was the Head Golf Professional and Director of Operations at Flint Golf Club for six years (2007-2012). My early membership years began as a PGA Assistant Professional at Kalamazoo Country Club in 1996 and 1997. Over my tenure as a Golf Professional, I have worked at ten different facilities in four different PGA sections. My service record includes serving on the Special Awards Committee for both the Michigan and Minnesota PGA Sections. I served as Chairman of this committee for the 2022 awards cycle. Early in my career I served on the Assistant's Board and was named the 2000 Assistant Professional of the Year in Minnesota. Over fourteen years ago, I started a small Michigan Head Professional round table group that has grown to more than twenty-five professionals. In this group we share ideas about merchandising, staffing, event management, and overall golf operations to add value to our clubs and staff, plus continue to assist in the Professional development of my peers. My network with professionals in and out of Michigan remains strong and I am happy to assist and advance others with their overall career in golf. Throughout my tenure as a Head Professional in Michigan, I have hosted and conducted (12) Eastern Chapter Pro Am's, (7) MIPGA Section events, (10) USGA Qualifiers, (4) State GAM Championships, (18) Ann Arbor High School Boys and Girls Invitational's, (2) Fuller Cup Championships where my playing record is 2-2, numerous regional junior events plus countless charitable organizational outings. Each year, I host and remain present for over 92-member related events, 9-10 Charity Outings, one GAM Championship, one Eastern Chapter MIPGA event, 12-14 PGA Junior League matches and two High School Invitational events. For most of my tenure at Barton Hills, I have captained two PGA Junior League teams plus three Regional All Star teams. For several years, I served on an advisory committee for PGA Magazine to help other fellow golf professionals who own or look to own their golf shops. For many who know me they would attest that I am happy to assist Golf Professionals and various associations in every way possible. Several professionals who have worked with me are now leading other Golf Operations as Head Professionals, General Managers and leaders in various golf related sales positions. Over the course of my career, I have written best practice articles for PGA Magazine and spoke at regional events among my fellow peers. My service to my club, our Association and to my fellow professionals continues to drive my passion for golf and this business and I am honored to be considered for this award from my peers in the Michigan Section PGA.

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Email *

sbrady@oakland-hills.com

Name of Nominee: *

Steve Brady

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Oakland Hills Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1892

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

I have been fortunate enough to have been a member of the Michigan Section PGA for the past 36 years, and am most certainly honored to be nominated for this award. During this time, I have also had the honor of working for and alongside some of the most well-known and respected PGA professionals in the business; Pat Croswell, Tom Doozan, John Traub, Mark Wilson and Tom Stewart just to name a few. For most of my professional career, I've had the opportunity to play tournament golf at the highest level and learn from some of the greatest players and teachers in the game. Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom Lehman, Lee Janzen, John Daly, and Payne Stewart are some of the gentlemen I have had the opportunity to play with and learn from over the years.

After graduating from college, I spent 6 seasons as an assistant professional at Bay Valley Resort, then traveled to work and play tournament golf in the offseason. Tom Doozan was the Head Golf Professional at Apollo Beach Golf and Sea Club during those winter months and I will always be thankful for his mentorship. His knowledge of the game, and his willingness to pass along his gift, is something I still try to share with PGM interns, assistant professionals, golf shop staff and fellow PGA members.

I spent 6 years as an assistant professional under John Traub at Detroit Golf Club. John's honest, and very direct approach to the golf business was not always warm and fuzzy, but hard work and dedication will never go out of style. I try to pass along to young PGA professionals, that it can be one of the most rewarding careers out there, but there will be some sacrifice as well.

For the past 25 years, I have been Blessed to be a PGA professional at Oakland Hills Country Club. Longtime Head Professional Pat Croswell hired me in 1997 as an assistant, and when Pat retired in 2016, I was named to take his place. Pat was the consummate professional. Member service was his top priority. Hard work, attention to detail, go above and beyond were his beliefs. I use Pat as an example to all PGA professionals/Associates/PGA Students I meet.

I have helped countless former assistants, co-workers and interns secure employment at PGA facilities throughout the country. While on the other hand, I have also mentored some former employees to possibly seek employment "outside" of the traditional golf facility. Many of those have gone on to successful careers outside of golf in both the public and private sector.

Over the years, I have been asked to speak to numerous civic and non-golf community organizations. Birmingham Senior Men's Club, Detroit Athletic Club, USGA Amateur Community Outreach, Men's Golf Fellowship just to name a few.

This is for sure an honor to be nominated for this award. However, there are many other PGA professionals who sometimes don't get the recognition they deserve. It's many times "those professionals" who you can truly learn the most from.

- Host Professional 2016 USGA US Amateur Championship
- 2022 Senior Organization Honoree (For Outstanding Past Service to the Section, Chapter, Senior Organization and Ongoing Service to Golf)
- Responsible for bringing Michigan PGA Pro-Pro Championship to OHCC 2016
- Responsible for bringing Drive/Chip and Putt Regional to OHCC 2019-2020
- Michigan PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit Committee and Presenter
- Honorary Chairman 2019 Michigan Amateur Championship
- Hosted PGA Magazine Merchandiser's Round Table Breakfast
- Works with PGM programs to secure yearly internships
- OHCC Golf Shop AGM Platinum Award Winner 2015-2021
- Member OHCC South Course Master Plan Committee 2016-2020 (Gil Hanse)
- Saginaw Valley State University Athletic Hall of Fame, Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, Michigan PGA Hall of Fame
- Featured Instructor Golf Channel's Golf Academy Live 2004

- Featured Instructor Golf Channel's "The Turn" 2008
- Fox Sports Detroit Color Commentator 2004 Ryder Cup
- Raised over \$12,000 for the Folds of Honor (Golf Clinic) 2018
- Titleist Leadership Advisory Staff Prominent Fitter
- TaylorMade Rising Star Northeast Region 2019
- Speaker Men's Golf Fellowship Dinners
- CYO Boys Basketball Coach
- Summer Music Theater Volunteer
- Pontiac Soup Kitchen Volunteer

PGA Teacher of the Year 2015 Michigan PGA
PGA Player of the Year 1995 Michigan PGA
PGA Hall of Fame 2013 Michigan PGA
Senior Organization Honoree Award 2022 Michigan PGA

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Email *

glennpulice@comcast.net

Name of Nominee: *

Glenn A. Pulice

Award Nominated for: *

Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

Royal Oak Golf Center

Year Elected to Membership: *

1987

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Previous Awards Won

- MPGA Assistant of the year, 1995
- MPGA Distinguished Service, 2020
- MPGA Professional Development, 2021
- GAM Club Services Representative of Year, 2021

Midnight Golf Program (MGP): Director of Golf, 2006 to Present

- Instructor, 2004 to Present
- Mentored 2 Midnight Golf Graduates through PGA/PGM and are now PGA Members
- Created MPGA / PGA Scholarship (over 40 scholarships awarded to date)
- Created MPGA / Frank Pulice Memorial Scholarship (8 scholarships awarded to date)

Golf Community Involvement

- Ferris State University PGM Alumni Association
 - Charter Member
 - Past President
- Committee Member: MPGA Growth of Game (2018 to present)
- Committee Member: GAM Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee, 2020 to Present
- Partnered with Jack Seltzer (MGHOF Member) to nominate John A. Molenda to MGHOF
 - First time ballot winner: Inducted posthumously 10-16-22

Royal Oak Golf Center: General Manager 2013 to Present

- Managed \$1.4M expansion, 2017
 - 23 new covered tees & new event building
- Managed \$.8M expansion, 2022
 - 12 covered tees & renovation of range building
- Grew Annual Range balls hit from 5.7M to 10.6M
- Grew HS/College teams as host practice facility to over 30
- Coach PGA Jr. team without a golf course since 2019
- State leader in GAM Youth on Course facility usage
- With Todd Smith, created PGA Recruiting event, 2022
- Incubated Detroit High School Golf Teams at Royal Oak Golf Center
 - Currently 8 teams after 7+ years of no HS Golf in Detroit
- Created donations program for Detroit HS Teams and Midnight Golf
 - 250+ sets and related golf equipment
 - Matched a \$5,000 range ball donation to equal \$12,500

Non-Golf Community Involvement

- Board Member: Urban League of Detroit 6 years
- Vice-President/Board Member: Chateaufort Place Cooperative, Detroit 3 years
- Parish Council, St. John's Armenian Church 2 years

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Email *

dbell@americandunesgolfclub.com

Name of Nominee: *

Doug Bell

Award Nominated for: *

2023 Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: *

American Dunes Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1991

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. *

Thank you for the consideration and honor of this award. Over my 31 years as a Member of the PGA and the 5 years prior as intern in the Ferris State program I have always tried hard to represent the brand of the PGA in an honorable way. Having worked at facilities in Texas, Alabama, Maine and Florida, I learned and observed from many great PGA Professionals. Settling back in Michigan in the 90's it has been home since. Working my career at Public Facilities most of my career, it has been wonderful to see and work in the tourism side of Michigan and see how Golf is a major player in this economy.

I have been very fortunate to be "hands on" involved with the construction of 3 course now in the state. My time at Eldorado Golf Club in Cadillac was my first exposure to construction as I was a key part of the construction team prior to converting to golf operations and setting up the inside golf operation and staffing.

4 years later accepting the opportunity to run Manistee National G & R in Manistee, we built the second of the 2 courses on site I was fortunate again to be in a construction mindset for one course while the operation of the original course was underway. During this time at Manistee National I included learning the hotel business inside and out and became the General Manager. This is where I learned more about tourism and working with other facilities both north and south in our state, and how critical those relationships are to run a successful operation.

20 years at Manistee National and I was again approached to move south the Grand Haven for the opportunity to head up the construction and development of the course, the team, and assist in the mission plan at American Dunes.

Teaching, playing, golf operations and service to our customers and community are all facets of our jobs as a PGA Professional and are listed as criteria in this award.

My early career I was an instructor with the Golf Digest Schools and feel that I am a competent and knowledgeable teacher of the game who can relate well to students and help them.

I played more in my younger days and supported the Northern Chapters and Section events as time allowed.

PGA Section and Chapter support
 Past Northern Chapter Tournament Chair
 Past Northern Chapter President
 Past Northern Chapter Vice President
 Past at Large Board Member for Section as Chapter President
 15- year member of Section Special Awards Committee (3 as committee chairman)
 Host of 36-hole Northern Chapter Pro-Am for 20 consecutive years at two different facilities
 Hosted Section Tournaments on two occasions at Manistee National
 Section Professional Volunteer at PGA Champ and Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills
 Current Western Chapter Member

Staff support and mentoring

Over my career I have had the fortune to hire and train many great individuals striving to be PGA members and advance to their own positions.

I have hired and employed on my team over 15 PGA Professionals over this time and influenced 12 more to enter the PGA PGM Program at Ferris State, all graduating and 9 still currently in the PGA.

Currently at American Dunes we have a staff member who has entered the PGA Associate Training Program and another entering in the Spring.

Countless more individuals in the Hotel and food operations I have operated and many of these have now moved on to terrific careers.

Using the Special Awards Criteria describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award: *

Community Support
 Bear Lake GC (1st Head Professional position)
 • Bear Lake Lions Club Member

Eldorado Golf Club (Cadillac)

- Member of the Cadillac CVB Tourism board to assist growth of golf in tourism mix
- Member of "Golf Cadillac" Marketing board
- Initiated the development of C.A.J.G.A (Cadillac Area Junior Golf Assn) junior tour
 - o 501 c3 that promoted junior tour opportunity to high school players

Manistee National G & R (Manistee)

- Manistee County CVB Tourism Board for 20 years promoting tourism in Manistee County
 - o 4 years as chairman
- United Way of Manistee County Board for 15 years
 - o Annual fundraising chairman for 2 years
- Creator and 20-year member of "Golf Manistee" Tourism Council
 - o Managing member 18 years
- Member of the Manistee County Airport Authority for 6 years
 - o Chairman of Authority 3 years
- Member of America's Summer Golf Capital Marketing Group 7 years

American Dunes GC (Grand Haven)

- Fold of Honor Michigan Chapter Board Member (4 years current, 1 year while at Manistee)

Past Section Awards honored to have received

- 2005 Michigan Section Merchandiser of the Year Resort Category
- 2017 Michigan Section Patriot Award
- 2020 Michigan Section Patriot Award
- 2022 Michigan Section Patriot Award

My current position at American Dunes allows me to speak to our community as well as others around the state and the nation in regard to The Folds of Honor Foundation, the PGA of America and to the golf industry being a leader when it comes to support of our military members and veterans and charitable fundraising.

Looking back over my years in the PGA, I can say it has been fun, fast, and forward thinking. I have tried to present a positive attitude to my customers, members, and staff while striving for the goals of the ownership.

I have been blessed to work at one facility for 20 years and help shape and mold its future, and at the same time I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to move through 4 Michigan facilities as a Head Professional or GM in my career, learn and grow at each and assist my team of PGA Staff to also grow and move on in their careers.

I am fortunate to have been exposed to construction opportunities and to have been in charge of three facilities in Michigan in their "dirt to grass" development. To initiate programs at each and have these plans remain long into the future is certainly a point of pride that I will always have.

Thank you again, for your consideration of this prestigious award.

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