

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 *

kyle@kalamazoocc.com

Name of Nominee: *

Kyle Horton

Award Nominated for: *

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: *

Kalamazoo Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

2009

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

I have been a member of the Michigan Section for 14 years, 4 of which as the Director of Golf at Kalamazoo Country Club. However, my first 5 years in the Section I worked seasonally between Michigan and Florida. During that time, I was fortunate to work under some fantastic PGA Professionals most notably being Dick Stewart and each day I strive to mentor fellow professionals as he did for me.

Upon becoming Director of Golf at Kalamazoo Country Club in 2019 it became my goal and mission to carry on Dick's legacy of being one of the greatest mentors in the MIPGA history (moving 26 assistant professionals on to Head Professional jobs). My focus day in and day out is to make every member of the team better in any and every way possible. This begins with having a sincere focus to spend time with each Professional, going over their goals and desires, and working with them to achieve them in an efficient and effective manner. That said, mentoring is much more than just setting forth a plan of objectives, its taking advantage of opportunities to impact a fellow professional's life and career whether it's on the golf course for a round of golf, at a staff party, or over a beer or two.

During my time at Kalamazoo Country Club over the past 4 years I am proud to say that we have had 9 PGA/PGM interns from various universities around the country most notably being Ferris State University, Florida Golf Coast University, and Trine University. Engaging with students at both the Ferris State Career Fair as well as taking time at the PGA Show in Orlando to visit the University booths has paid dividends in being able to impact many young professional's lives.

Mentoring for me also comes in the form of serving the Michigan Section PGA by being a part of the WMPGA Board of Directors over the past 7 years, going through the chairs and becoming President in the fall of 2021. This opportunity has allowed me to work with fellow PGA Professionals on the Board discussing Section & Chapter issues as well as lead roundtable discussions on best practices at their respective clubs.

I am also proud of former assistants and staff members that have moved on to promoted roles in the industry. These promotions range from Sales Managers and Pediatricians to a First Officer for Delta Airlines. Specific to the golf industry, I'm honored to recognize the following prior assistants and their promotions within the industry. Ty Bouwens - 1st Assistant at Lost Dunes Golf Club, Cody Sinkler - Director of Operations at The Park West Palm, and Brett Prell - Lead Assistant at Tippecanoe Lake Country Club.

The Michigan PGA is a fantastic organization, one that I am proud to be a part of with so many other great PGA Professionals. Thank you for the honor of being considered for this award.

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