

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 *

cmsob2@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: *

Chris Sobieck

Award Nominated for: *

Executive of the year

Facility Employed at: *

Mines Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

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

The nominee was elected to membership November 1997, has been a PGA Member for 25 years. In March of 2021 Chris started High Road Golf Management and purchased Mines Golf Club in Grand Rapids.

Since taking over ownership of the Mines, Chris has made significant changes to the operation including: The addition of a liquor license, increased hours of operation, new cart fleet with GPS, and several course renovations and improvements. The changes, along with the increased popularity of golf, have resulted in a very robust operation with a significant revenue increase from prior years. Rounds have increased over 15,000 since 2020 and revenue has nearly doubled. In addition to the mentioned changes, a new restaurant and banquet facilities is currently in the planning stages and expected to open in early 2024, as well as an expanded practice facility with three par 3 holes and short game area that is expected to open in the summer of 2023.

For five years prior to the Mines, the nominee was the General Manager of Watermark Properties (now RedWater) which had 7 golf facilities (4 private, 2 daily fee, and 1 semi-private). Chris was also one of the owners of Thornapple Pointe where he served as General Manager from 2001 until the sale of the club to Watermark Properties in 2017.

Chris was the 2021 Bill Strausbaugh award winner for the Michigan PGA Section, was a two-time Director of the Michigan Section and served as the employment chairman (2013-2016), and now currently serves as a Board Member with the Michigan Golf Course Association.

Because golf has meant so much and been such a positive influence in his life, Chris has increased his focus on growing the game and developing the next generation of golfers and potential PGA Members. Chris is both a High School golf coach for girl's golf (6 years) and an Assistant Coach for the 2022 GLIAC Champion Davenport Universities Men's golf team (4 years). Chris uses both avenues to try and create a positive influence and be a positive role model to both demographics. Chris also developed both ladies and junior programs at several facilities leading to growth and awareness of golf and its caretakers the PGA Professional. In 2020, Chris also started a non-profit charitable corporation designed around raising funds through golf events which has raised over \$20,000 donated to various local charities.. With the Purchase of the Mines in early 2021, Chris has partnered with the West Michigan Chapter of the First Tee and has started a new Junior Program at the Mines. This year Chris and his wife volunteered for the Drive, Chip, and Putt sub-regional that was hosted at the Mines. Growing the game and exposing as many new players to the game is one of the featured goals for Chris at the Mines.

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