

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: *

Professional Development

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, and has worked with a significant amount of PGA members and aspiring members. In March of 2021 Chris started High Road Golf Management and purchased Mines Golf Club in Grand Rapids.

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). Within the organization he managed 22 PGA members and apprentices. Chris worked with and communicated directly with these individuals to help understand and guide their career paths. Chris works hard on helping with personal and professional development with all former Professionals that he has worked with which now numbers in the 30's. Chris's experience in the industry has led to long term relationships with other PGA Golf Professionals who Chris helps advise on operations, procedures, and career development. During this time period many former employees have gone on to enter careers as PGA Members or move on to other opportunities that the PGA has offered, including: National PGA employee, Head Collegiate Golf Coach, and Head Golf Professionals, National club fitters, Sales representatives within the golf industry, as well as many who have become very successful in other career paths. Chris speaks almost weekly with former employees regarding their current and future career plans and helps advise any Professional that reaches out.

Honesty, loyalty, accountability, putting others ahead of himself, and self-sacrifice are all characteristics the nominee constantly tries to live up to and be an active example of these principles. Chris makes every effort to try to impress upon others he leads the importance of these values. By leading by example and showing others that people can be successful through hard work and sacrifice have always been characteristics practiced by the nominee. Chris has been a positive example of what a PGA Member is as he works with his High School and College golf teams. Chris is the Head Golf Coach for Forest Hills Central's JV Girls Golf Team and is also the Assistant Coach for the 2022 GLIAC Champion Men's Golf team at Davenport University.

Chris was the 2021 Bill Strausbaugh award winner for the Michigan PGA Section and was also 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. In 2020, Chris started as a committee member with the MGCOA to help their organization on their education and planning, helping further the importance of the PGA Member.

Chris was a former Partner/Owner of Thornapple Pointe prior to selling the operation to Watermark Properties and becoming the General Manager of their 7 facilities and working with so many PGA members. Part of the motivation to sell Thornapple to Watermark was the opportunity to help guide and help share the experiences and work with other PGA Members within the organization and beyond. With experience as the chair of the employment committee for 4 years and working closely with Tim Marks, the CareerLinks consultant, reaching out and working with employers and potential employees was very rewarding and eye opening on what we need to do as potential hires and also working with potential employers.

As mentioned above, Chris is both a High School golf coach for girl's golf and an Assistant Coach for the Davenport Men's golf team. Chris uses both avenues to try and create a positive influence and be a positive role model to both demographics. Chris has worked many PGA organized teaching opportunities, including local golf shows, and beginner clinics associated with the PGA Senior Championship. 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. 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.

This form was created inside of PGA HQ and sections - all Google users.

Google Forms