



Fellow Michigan PGA Members:

My name is Bob Bales and I'm running for PGA of America Director to represent District 5, including Michigan, Northern Ohio, and Southern Ohio. As your voice on the national board, I'll advocate for your interests and ensure our industry remains strong.

I was introduced to golf by my father when I was 9 years old, but didn't play regularly until my early teens. I started working at the local club loading/cleaning members' clubs as well as taking care of carts for Dan Mills, PGA. From there I moved to the grounds crew for more hours and a higher wage. I went to school in a turf grass program eventually getting a superintendent's job.

The next phase of my career in golf involved owning a golf cart leasing business as well as building a golf course. I then took another superintendent's job and when the non-PGA pro left, I told the owner I could run the golf operation. At the encouragement of Dick Stewart, PGA and Glenn Zylstra, PGA I entered the PGA apprentice program as a non-member head professional acquiring full membership in November of 1995.

Since becoming a PGA member I have worked as the GM at a small member-owned private club, a sales rep for a golf cart company, owned a course, and served as GM for a course owned by Dean Marks, PGA. Shortly after becoming a member I became involved in governance. Starting in the Western Chapter I served as the Sponsor Chair and eventually held each of the officer positions. As Chapter President serving on the Section Board my desire to serve the membership grew and I successfully ran as an at-large director. I became the Section Secretary in 2016 ascending to President in 2020.

Being the Section President during COVID was a challenge and in some ways I felt cheated. But I also learned new ways to operate and am very proud of how the Michigan Section pivoted and was a leader in getting golf back open and operating under the restrictions placed upon the industry.

In many ways golf is at a crossroads, with the post COVID growth. Uncertainty at the top level of competitive golf and decisions made in the near future have the potential to affect our industry and jobs in profound ways. I believe the PGA of America needs to be a leader in the industry and not wait to react to outside influences. We need to embrace new avenues for people to experience golf and position ourselves as the leaders in all aspects of the game. As your voice I pledge to keep the needs of the membership as the number one consideration when issues are discussed.

On a personal note, I am currently the GM/Head Professional at Angels Crossing Golf Club in Vicksburg, MI. My wife Cheri and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary on December 31, 2024. We parent 4 boys, all of whom play golf to varying degrees. Each of the boys has worked in the golf industry either for me or independently. We also have 2 grandsons aged 5 years and 21 months.

I respectfully ask for your vote on October 21 for PGA of America District 5 Director.

Bob Bales, PGA