

2025 Bill Strausbaugh Award Candidate Bio Form

Email:

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Name of Nominee:

David Kendall, PGA

Facility Employed at:

Washtenaw Golf Club

Kendall Academy of Golf/Miles of Golf

Year Elected to Membership:

1981

Please describe your involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA of America Professionals and Associates and illustrate the significant impact on their careers.

Doug Bell came to Cadillac Country Club as a caddie when he was in eighth grade. By the time he was a Junior in High School he became the leader of the Bag Room and was capable of covering the Pro Shop when needed. As a Senior in High School he asked about pursuing a career in golf through the PGM Program at FSU. Cadillac is about 40 miles from FSU, in Big Rapids. Doug graduated from FSU and had great internship experiences. After graduation, Doug came back to Cadillac Country Club as my Assistant Professional. During that time, Doug recruited his 12 year old Nephew, Ian Ziska, to do odd jobs around the Pro Shop. Ian climbed the ladder at the ProShop just like Doug did, ten years later. Ian also decided he wanted to pursue a career in golf and graduated from FSU with a PGM Business Degree.

Both Doug Bell, PGA and Ian Ziska, PGA have both had wonderful careers in golf. Both became Chapter Presidents and Section Board Members. Today, Doug is the General Manager of American Dunes Golf Club, Grand Haven, Michigan, and Ian the Head Golf Professional. Doug has been honored by the Michigan PGA with a number of Special Awards, most recently Golf Professional of the Year, in 2023. He has also been honored with 3 Patriot Awards and a Merchandiser of the Year Award. Ian Ziska has been honored by the Michigan Section with 8 Merchandiser of the Year Awards to 2 locations, a Bill Strausbaugh Award, and a Patriot Award. In 2023, Ian was honored by the PGA of America with the Merchandiser of the Year - Public Award. I refer to Doug and Ian as the kid Brothers I never had.

Please describe the characteristics you possess relative to your overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character and furthered the values representative of the PGA.

I was a young Professional, who was responsible for paying my golf staff, I was very hands on. I would open the Shop and pull carts and then become the starter. My Assistant would usually watch the Shop and my Bag Person would watch the Bag Room. We would all work closely together. Each person was vital to our success, but ultimately I was responsible for all. All had responsibilities and were accountable. My job was to make sure each knew what their responsibilities were and to constantly remind them, in a positive way. I learned that constant reminder is how good habits are created. Constant encouragement helps to build confidence. I expected that all of us would be judged accordingly to the worst things did. That means our worst attribute needs to be very good. Our goal would be to do our best every day to figure out how to make our best contribution to the Team. Being a good example every day and expecting others to do their best every day builds confidence in those who follow your example.

At Kendall Academy, I encouraged our Coaches to do their best, in their own way, to make their students better, to learn from both their fellow Coaches and their student's experiences, help their students to be the best problem solver possible. Being an outstanding problem solver breeds confidence for both the student and the Coach.

As a Golf Course Owner, my job is to remove the obstacles to success for our management. We must depend on and empower our leaders to lead, provide guidance and encouragement when appropriate.

I have had hundreds of relationships with developing players and young employees. The feedback I have received most often is that they learned a great deal about golf in our time together, but were surprised that they learned at least as much about life and its lessons.

Please describe your level of Service to your Chapter, the Michigan Section and/or to the PGA of America.

Western Chapter Michigan PGA

- Policy Board 1981

Northern Chapter Michigan PGA

- Junior Golf Chairman 1982 - 83
- Chapter Secretary 1984 - 85
- Chapter Tournament Chairman 1986 - 87
- Chapter President 1988 - 89
- Chapter President 1994 - 95

Michigan Section PGA

- Education Committee Chairman
- Special Awards Chairman
- Tournament Committee Member 1998 - 2001
- Tournament Committee Chairman 2002 - 03
- Member Section Board of Directors 23 years
- Section Secretary 2004 - 05
- Section Vice President 2006 - 07
- Section President 2008 - 09
- Section Honorary President 2010 - 11

Michigan PGA Seniors Organization

- Secretary 2007 - 08
- Vice President 2009 - 10
- President 2011 - 12

PGA of America

- Tournament Committee Task Force
- Winter Program Tournament Committee
- Tournament Committee 2008 - 12

Please describe the influence you've had on PGA Professionals and/or Facility operators in regard to employment.

Because I feel uncomfortable judging my affect on others, I asked some of our KA Coaches and a former Assistant for their thoughts:

Kendall Academy Owner, Patrick Wilkes-Krier, PGA

Trusting me to continue the work with the Kendall Academy is something I take very seriously. You have also helped me to fall more deeply in love with golf than I ever have been. I love watching you teach, listening to you teach, and to see and hear how it energizes you to share your joy for the game. Seeing how much you love golf validates the feelings I have. You have taught me how to enjoy sharing that with my students. You have single handedly changed the course of my life and I will honor that every day. I love golf. I love teaching golf. I love playing golf. I love thinking about golf. I love that you have given me an opportunity to pursue that at Kendall Academy.

Kendall Academy Coach, Ryan Lenahan, PGA

When I think of a leader in the game of golf, I think of Dave Kendall. He inspires others to be great, be themselves, and leads by example. He exemplifies the principles he teaches. His professionalism, work ethic, and integrity serve as a model for others to follow.

Watching Dave Kendall exhibit his teaching with honor, integrity, and passion is something that has inspired me, personally, and will be a model figure I hope to someday day become. Dave has earned a reputation as a leader who not only elevates the game of golf, but fosters a culture of excellence and inspiration amongst his peers. His ability to overcome the toughest of challenges inspires everyone around him to develop his determined mindset.

Mike Sullivan, PGA, Michigan Section, Iowa Section

You have been inspiring people your whole life. I can't even begin to tell you what you have meant to Dana and I.

John Karcher, PGA Associate, Kendall Academy Coach

The way in which Dave taught the golf swing and the way he treated people have been the main inspirations for how I teach. Without Dave's mentorship I don't think I would have had the confidence to make a career in teaching golf.

List any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them.

- Michigan PGA Golf Professional of the Year 1991 & 2006
- Michigan PGA Teacher of the Year 2000 & 2004
- Michigan PGA Senior Player of the Year 2007
- Michigan PGA Professional Development Award 2010
- Michigan PGA Hall of Fame 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Kendall, PGA