

2026 Golf Executive of the Year Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later than **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5pm.**

Email *

cmsob2@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: *

Chris Sobieck

Facility Employed at: *

Mines Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Number of years in your Executive Management position (50 word limit): *

5 years in current position, 25 overall years in Exec Management.

Please describe your overall performance as an Executive Golf Professional in 250 words or less.

Purchased Mines Golf Club in 2021 after spending 5 years as the General Manager of Golf and Sports for RedWater, and 13 years as a minority partner and General Manager of Thornapple Pointe. In our 5 years at the Mines we have been focused on growth, with the addition of a short course (The Pit), adding the 230 seat Gypsum Grill Restaurant and 250 seat Gypsum Event Center. Revenue has increased each year and has more than quadrupled since acquiring the property. Currently adding a new range winter facility to include 11 Toptracer bays and 4 combo simulator bays with food and beverage service. With growth comes additional opportunities for our team. We have grown employees from 2 PGA Professionals and 45 total employees to 5 PGA golf Professionals and 115 seasonal and full time employees. Mines Golf Club has been recognized as a top 100 under \$100 facility in the United States and is currently ranked as the number 8 public facility by Michigan Golf Architecture Society. We currently host 8 High School teams and GRCC Men's Golf Team, and are a popular First Tee of West Michigan site and host of the West Michigan Amateur. We also host an annual meeting of golf operators from our area each fall at the Mines.

Describe your service to the local Section and Association (250 word limit): *

2 time At Large Director for Michigan PGA 2013-2016. Also served as employment chairman from 2013-2016. Current executive board member for MGCA. During career have participated as a multi-time instructor at West Michigan Golf Show, Michigan Section instruction at Whirlpool, and Drive, Chip, and Putt Regionals.

Describe your leadership ability and how you inspire other golf professionals (250 word limit): *

Our success is based on building a strong team and working together to accomplish a common goal. I believe strongly in the empowerment of our employees and training and trusting our team. There is nothing I would ask our team to do that I myself haven't done, or would be willing to do. We work as a team with high expectations of our performance internally, and what we expect that leads to the enjoyment of our guests and meeting our expectations for what our guests should experience at our facility. Being nominated for an award like this is attributed not to a single individual but a collective effort of a strong team. I have been fortunate to have won the Bill Strausbaugh award, and have focused my career on helping others through golf, which has been so kind to me and my family. I have had the ultimate pleasure to have hired, led, and worked with over 40 PGA Professionals, many of whom who have won section awards, or have gone on to coaching, or leading Professionals within the industry. And while I have played a part in their development, they have led the way in my development.

Describe how you support leadership and growth of the game initiatives within the industry, community and the Section (250 word limit): *

I am currently the head coach at GRCC after serving 8 years as a High School coach and 5 years as an assistant coach at Davenport University. We are the home of the Kosta Ramirez Golf Academy, We are a key site for the West Michigan First Tee program, and we have many annual growth of the game programs for ladies, veterans, and kids at our facility. We have been a regional host of Drive, Chip, and Putt. We believe strongly in the development of future golfers and giving opportunity to emerging players. We largely added our short course (The Pit) to expand opportunities for all of the emerging groups of golfers as a low stress option for development. We strongly support High School and collegiate golf. Our range expansion is going to give us year round opportunities to serve all skill level of golfers and will feature a community 4 bay room for team/group development. Mines Golf Club has been a multi-year recipient of multiple PGA Growth of the game grants and we focus on player development.

List any other PGA Section or National Awards you've received and the year(s) you received them (50 word limit): *

2021 Bill Strausbaugh award Winner - Michigan PGA

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