

2026 Bill Strausbaugh Award Candidate Bio Form

Please submit this form no later than **Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:00pm.**

Email *

hockey2005@tds.net

Name of Nominee: *

Dean Kolstad

Facility Employed at: *

Gull Lake View Golf Resort

Year Elected to Membership: *

2001

Please describe your involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA of America Professionals and Associates and illustrate the significant impact on their careers in 250 words or less: *

Throughout the years as first, a PGA golf professional, running Bedford Valley, and now Director of golf at the resort, we have had numerous young people come through our facilities. Interns from various PGM programs, college kids who are thinking about getting into the golf business who were in college for the purpose of getting a degree in a different field. One thing I am most proud of is we started thinking outside the box when it became difficult to find interns that were in the business already, I contacted a professor at Western Michigan University who ran the business sports management program, and he structured the program a little differently for the kids where if they came and worked at one of our facilities they would gain credit towards their degree. Throughout the years we have had some pretty good young people come in and work at all the different departments of our business, not only the pro shops, but the marketing department, the villa office and restaurants as well. A couple have moved on into Head PGA golf professionals at other facilities, one works in the golf business as a launch monitor sales rep, we have one that I hired as an assistant that now runs our Bedford valley course as a PGA professional, and another one that runs our Gull Lake View facility as an apprentice who will go to level 2 this winter. And even better yet we have 3 more that have passed playing ability test that will start program this winter. And of course the biggest one as far as mentoring is being the President of the Michigan PGA section, when people think of mentoring they think it's an older person mentoring a younger person, but I have had the honor of passing on information about operations and business to all ages in the business.

Please describe the characteristics you possess relative to your overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character. How have you furthered the values representative of the Association and the golf profession? *250 words or less: *

I think having worked for the same family for 31 years, and coming up on my 35 wedding anniversary says a lot about the person I am. Someone who will not be outworked, I like to lead by example, and wouldn't ask any employee to do a task I already haven't done. Honest, not afraid to give an opinion, and a good listener.

Please describe your level of service to your chapter, the Michigan Section and/or to the PGA of America in the area of employment and club relations in 250 words or less: *

Dean has gone through all the positions at the Chapter level, and the Section level. In that time always trying to do the best for the PGA member, but also realizing some decisions can't always go that way. Being able to discuss and talk about different situations that have come up whether it be in a meeting or a one on one conversation, was something that I felt I was good at without having things blow up. I think having worked at my job for 31 years I was brought up in the old school way of thinking, how many hours you worked was a badge of honor, but I have learned through some of our young people and watching the way the golf business has changed with work/life/balance being a priority and a talking point when I was on the Section board and at the national level has allowed me to see work in a different light.

Please describe the influence you've had on PGA Professionals, facilities, and employers in regard to employment in 250 words or less: *

The first one that comes to mind is hosting I believe the first event that GAM or the Michigan section held after covid, at Stoatin Brae following the state guidelines and talking with people in other places in the country allowed us to host that event safely, which then led to hosting the state junior tournament for boys and girls at Bedford Valley. Fortunately we didn't miss a beat at Gull Lake View regarding these type of tournaments.. It led to a bunch of phone calls and emails from fellow golf professionals asking what we did, and the procedures we followed. Hosting the MGCA event at Gull Lake Views various courses over the years I have had a chance to speak with various owners and operators some of which at the time did not have a PGA golf professional on staff, I think through discussions and the hard work of Todd Smith are career consultant we managed to create a few more jobs because of it.

Please describe your contributions to building the image of the game of golf, PGA Professionals and the Association in 250 words or less.

The biggest one, and the one I am most proud of was getting our Section golf professionals to get trained for the HOPE program, because of this it has increased the number of programs offered throughout the state which in turn has allowed more veterans to get involved in the game of golf. The hockey game which was the first of it's kind has raised a lot of money towards funding that initiative, was something George Bowman and myself initiated, as well as birdies for REACH program which will take place this fall, something that other Sections have done in past years. Hosting the Michigan senior open, the PGA boys and girls championships for the past 20 years as well as various high school invitationals, jamborees, and various GAM events, has shown that Gull Lake View is a leader in growing the game of golf.

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

Michigan Section:

Patriot award 2019, 2024

Golf Executive of the year 2023

Golf professional of the year 2021

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