



# PGA

Michigan Section

## BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: W. Douglas Bell \_\_\_\_\_

Year Elected to Membership: 1991 \_\_\_\_\_

Award Nominated for: Bill Stausbaugh \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

In my time as a PGA Professional I have been fortunate to hire and have some influence on many good people, many of which were then and still are PGA Professionals and many that were not then and are not now, but are successful in their chosen occupations. Being a graduate from Ferris State, and working many years in close proximity to the University I have had many occasions to go back and speak or assist with the program. I have employed several interns over my years and enjoyed the opportunity to mentor them and possibly pass on some knowledge I have gained from others. Several of my assistants have gone on to quality positions in the PGA and are assets to our organization. From Casey Wade who was an early hire and is now at a high end public facility in Houston to Ian Ziska who is in our own section at Katke GC at Ferris State. These two are great examples of some of the fine professionals that I have had an opportunity to work with and guide in their early working years. Without knowing exact numbers, I believe I have had approximately 15 assistants or professionals leave my employ to move on to good PGA Professional positions around the country.

My contribution to the Michigan Section has been respectable and a humbling experience. Historically I have held the positions in the Northern Chapter of the Michigan PGA of tournament director and president. When president this also had the seat as a board member on the Section board. Most recently I have been a member of the special awards committee for several years. I have assisted whenever possible and whenever it did not affect my facility. From assisting at golf shows in teaching bays, to Ryder cup volunteering and other events I have always tried to be available if called upon. Most recently I have become as involved as I can with The Folds of Honor and doing my part to raise funds and awareness among the public and other PGA Members

My contribution to my places of employment is not mine to judge per say, but entering my 19<sup>th</sup> year at my current position as General Manager and Director of Golf I feel I have been a valuable asset in many areas that have created success. Most important to me and to the basis of this award is the team I have built of good, service oriented employee's year after year. The letters and notes I receive from our guests and clients are numerous and rewarding. To hear our guest's mention as their first comment or compliment that they were treated so well from our Inn to our bag staff and from our grille to our golfs hop is very rewarding. These comments and notes go on to mention the conditions of the courses or the nice hotel rooms and good meals, but so many start with the comments about the staff that it is very rewarding.

Beyond building this team to service our guests and members, we have built a solid teaching program over the years and touched many junior golfers who are now avid players in their communities and support their local courses. We have presented our teaching programs and our overall golf operations in a positive manner with a goal to make ourselves accessible to players of all abilities. From fun leagues to competitive tournaments, from memorable weddings to quality business meetings, our facility has seen 7 years of solid growth. One particular point of pride is a weekly golf show that I have that airs on 3 stations once a week. The show runs anywhere from 30-45 minutes in the 8am hour and we have been doing it now for 16 years. We touch on the Local events, instructional

availability, junior golf and charity golf outings that are being held at all the local courses. Always promoting the PGA staff at the other courses and trying to build that PGA image. We also touch on the PGA and LPGA tours and try to bring the National Picture of golf to a local down to earth feeling in our area.

Community wise I have been a member of our local Visitor's Bureau board for 18 years, serving as its president on 2 occasions. I have been a board member of our Local United Way for the past 8 years and held the position of campaign chairmen for 2 years. Our local airport which serves our community and beyond with scheduled airline service daily as well as an active general aviation base is run by an Authority which I have been a member of for the past 3 years. Active in fundraising for many more efforts I have always felt that doing what you can for the people you live with and live around is an important part of being in a community and a part of it.

In past years I have been fortunate to be recognized as the Michigan Section Resort Merchandiser of the Year and most recently as the recipient of The Patriot Award in the Michigan Section in 2017

It is an honor to have been nominated for this award.

Sincerely,

W. Douglas Bell