

SPECIAL AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Hall of Fame

Established in 2003, the Midwest Section PGA Hall of Fame recognizes extraordinary careers by paying tribute to those individuals who have served the Section in an exemplary manner, set standards for promoting the game, acknowledged as an outstanding player or teacher of the game, and/or have contributed in a special way to growth and heritage of the Section.

PGA Golf Professional of the Year

Presented annually since 1974, this award honors the working PGA member whose total contributions to the game best exemplify the complete PGA Professional. Special emphasis is placed on performance and achievement over the past five years in the following criteria: overall performance as a PGA Professional at his or her facility; service to the Midwest Section and the Association; leadership ability; image and ability to inspire fellow PGA Professionals and apprentices; and promotion of golf.

PGA Associate / Assistant of the Year

This award honors a Midwest Section PGA Associate or Assistant whose total contributions to the game best illustrate the proficiency necessary to be considered an imminent leader of the Section and outstanding professional. A strong emphasis is placed on performance and achievement the past twelve months in the following criteria: overall performance as an Associate or Assistant at his/her facility, participation in Section tournaments, involvement in Section Growth of the Game initiatives, attendance at Section and District meetings, and contributions to the Midwest Section PGA Foundation - volunteer and/or monetarily.

PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year Award

Presented annually since 1987, this award is based on the PGA Professional's overall performance in teaching. It includes unusual, innovative and special teaching programs the honoree has initiated or played a key role in implementing; articles published in books and magazines; as well as outstanding golfers the PGA Professional has instructed.

PGA Youth Player Development Award

Presented annually since 1989, this award recognizes a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf and who reflects the ideals of those who work with youth. Ongoing work by this PGA Professional includes involvement in the promotion and development of junior golf at the club level, in addition to support for national junior golf programs. The interest, concern and ability to provide opportunities and experience for juniors to learn and play golf are qualities of a successful junior golf leader.

PGA Professional Development Award

Presented annually since 1977, this award is designed to identify a PGA Professional and give special recognition for outstanding and continuing contributions to professional education. A seven-time U.S. Ryder Cup Team member and two-time masters Champion, Smith was PGA President from 1952 - 54. He devoted much of his time to improving educational programs. Smith died in 1963.

Midwest Section PGA Jon E. Jacobson Award

The Jon E. Jacobson award is presented annually to a member of the Section Board of Directors. The award is presented in recognition of outstanding service and leadership to the Section. The overall performances as a member of the Board of Directors, and image as a professional are some of the criteria considered for this award.

Bill Strausbaugh Award

The Bill Strausbaugh Award was established in 1979, and is presented to a PGA Golf Professional who, by their day-to-day efforts, has distinguished themselves in mentoring their fellow PGA Golf Professionals in improving their employment situations and through service to the section, association, and the community.

Strausbaugh, a PGA member since 1947 who also served on the PGA Board of directors for three years, created The PGA's Career Services (now known as Employment Services) Department. The department counsels PGA members seeking employment, better job opportunities and improved working arrangements in their present positions. Strausbaugh died in 1999.

Player Development Award

The Player Development Award recognizes a leading PGA Professional for extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development. The award considers a PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment at the Section and National levels, and the impact at the members' own facility.

PGA Merchandisers of the Year

The PGA Merchandiser of the Year Award recognizes those PGA Professionals who demonstrate excellence as businessmen or businesswomen and merchandisers in the promotion of the game at private, public, or resort facilities.

Sales Representative of the Year Award

Presented annually since 2002, this award recognizes a Sales Representative who excels in customer service, knowledge of product, and commitment to PGA Professionals and the Section. This award winner must stand out in business ethics and integrity.

Club Fitter of the Year Award

The Club Fitter of the Year Award was established in 1996, and is presented to a PGA Professional who stands out in the science of club fitting. This Professional must have a proven background in certified club fitting, knowledge of product, and committed to the teaching aspects of club fitting and the values of.

Midwest Junior Student-Athlete Award

The Student-athlete award is given annually to a student-athlete or athletes who have excelled in five areas of character: athletics, sportsmanship, leadership, citizenship and community outreach. Additionally, each student-athlete must have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher to be considered.

The Patriot Award

The "PGA Patriot Award" bestows special recognition on a PGA Golf Professional, who personifies patriotism through the game of golf and demonstrates unwavering commitment and dedication to the men and women who have valiantly served and protected the United States of America

Deacon Palmer Award

The "Deacon Palmer Award" bestows special recognition on a PGA Golf Professional who personally displays outstanding integrity, character and leadership, in the effort to overcome a major obstacle in their life. This individual is an unsung hero/heroine at their facility and in their community, who serves to inspire, empower and assist others, both inside and outside of the game.