



January 8, 2021

Hello Nathan and Section Award Committee Members,

Thank you very much for giving your time and energy in this selection process. Your support is well appreciated and noted.

I'm honored and humbled by the fact that Jon Moore, PGA, would nominate me for the Bill Strausbaugh Award. It is a privilege to even be mentioned as a candidate for this award. There are so many deserving professionals and I hope they too have been nominated and are inspired and excited about being a contender for this honor.

One of the qualifications of this award is service to our association. This past August I reached a mile stone in my career, forty years as a golf professional, thirty six as a member of this association of ours. Many many moons ago I started getting involved with the section affairs. First it was with junior golf in the early 80's and then morphed into tournament committees to employment committees and even just like you, the awards committee. All the way through chairs on the board as well as our section foundation board and finally back to being the current co-membership chairman. When I started getting involved in the section, and as I made my way through my PGA life, I had many Professionals say that getting involved will be very rewarding and the blessings that follow your hard work will be never ending. They were so right. So I say to you, thanks for your service on this awards committee and don't stop here.

Another attribute to this award is helping fellow PGA Professionals improve their employment situation. As I have went through my many years in the business, I have had the pleasure and honor to do what I could for professionals around our section as well as the many golf professionals that I have had the pleasure to work with. There are quite a few professionals that I have been very instrumental in getting them their current jobs through relationships that I have with fellow professionals, owners and members of clubs that I have known for years. My most important duty and concern is to take care of the staff that currently exists at Happy Hollow Club and I believe I have done that to the best of my ability by giving them the optimum opportunity to succeed in getting them what they need to do their jobs at the highest level. I work very hard to get my staff more benefits and bigger increases in their salaries because they deserve it and work very hard to earn it.

Bill Strausbaugh was a dedicated man and very involved in his community. I try my best in sharing his sentiments and doing what I can in this arena. Through the opportunities that I have been given to work within the section as a board member, committee member and a foundation board member, my good fortune and blessings has allowed me to do what I can for people in need. My involvement in my church community allows me to work with middle school boys to become better at life by sharing the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is with a humbled heart that I share these words with this committee. It is not my style, as it isn't with many of our fellow professionals, to talk about the things we do to help others in life.

Thanks for your time and Happy New Year to you!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Antonio, PGA
Director of Golf
Happy Hollow Club