



**PGA**

Kentucky Section

## 2014 KPGA GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

**Name of Nominee:** Steve Shafer, PGA  
**Facility Name:** Hurstbourne Country Club  
**Facility Address:** 9000 Hurstbourne Club Lane  
**Facility Phone Number:** 502-425-0094  
**Nominee E-mail Address:** sshafer@pga.com

1. Please describe the nominee's overall performance as a Golf Professional.

As a PGA Professional, I have been very successful in my career. I have been fortunate to serve the members of Hurstbourne Country Club for the last 16 years, the first 12 as their head golf professional, the last 4 as the Club Manager. I have helped lead the club through some difficult financial times. Through these last few years the club has enjoyed positive cash flow and the ability to reinvest in our facilities. By continuing to reinvest in the facilities, Hurstbourne has been growing its membership and 2013 was one of our best years in recent history.

2. Please briefly describe the nominee's service to the local Section and to the Association.

2013 marked the 12th consecutive year that I served on the KPGA Board of Directors. In my role of Honorary President, I not only continued to serve the Section as an officer, and help provide the board with relevant history and nuances of our associations, but I was also tasked with being co-chairman of the Tournament Committee. Of the many issues we dealt with, the Tournament Committee worked to improve the event schedule by working to spread out the major tournaments throughout the year without conflicting with the many events put on by our family of organizations. Of particular note, I personally took an interest in the Challenge Cup. The Challenge Cup has struggled the last several years with participation, as we often had to go well down the points list to field a team and the prestige to participating in this event seems to have been lost. In an effort to revive this event, I personally reached out to the PGA Professionals at three of Kentucky's premier facilities (Valhalla, Idle Hour and Olde Stone). Thanks to their generosity, I was able to establish a three-year rotation for the Challenge Cup to be held at these facilities.

In addition to serving on the KPGA Board of Directors, I have been serving the KGA-PGA Board of Directors for the last 8 years. Over the years, I have served in all capacities on that board including President and also served as the Executive Director Search Committee Chairman when we hired Steve McMillen.

Lastly, I am the current President of the Kentucky PGA Foundation and have been in that role for the last 4 years. All in all, I have served on the KPGA Foundation Board for the last 8 years. This has

been very rewarding as this Board determines the recipients of grants for growth of the game initiatives across the state.

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's leadership ability.

As a leader in both our Section and at my facility, I always try to keep in mind that there are others following my lead and therefore I strive to always lead by example. In doing so, I try to consider the point of view of others and always look at each side of a situation, problem or solution. I believe it is important to have an opinion and be strong in your convictions, but you have to be open-minded and consider other points of view before coming to your own conclusions. Many times I have gone into a situation thinking there was a certain solution, but then after having good discussions with other leaders realized there may be a better solution. It is my opinion that by showing respect to others and listening to their point of view, they are more prone to considering your ideas and ultimately this leads to having everyone engaged in each and every situation.

4. Please briefly describe how the nominee inspires fellow Golf Professionals.

I try to inspire others through a positive attitude and sense of gratitude for being a PGA Professional. I am proud to be a member and I offer encouragement and assistance to all PGA Professionals. I have had several PGA Professionals from around the Section call me for advice over the years and I welcome and encourage those calls. In the same vein, I am not afraid to pick up the phone and reach out to someone else if I have a question or need some help. I have been inspired by the PGA Professionals who mentored me and offered their help over the years and I simply try to do the same for others!

5. Please briefly describe how the nominee grows the game of golf at the facility, in the community and throughout the Section.

I have tried to be a role model and leader both at Hurstbourne and in the community by consistently promoting our game and all the great values it stands for. At Hurstbourne we have been successful in developing a strong Junior Golf Program with over 75 kids. We also have an active Men's and Ladies Golf Programs. We offer several levels of instruction including clinics and state of the art club fitting and repair. On the Section Level, I have been active on the KPGA Foundation Board in encouraging donations and grant requests to increase the number of growth of the game programs around the state.

6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

Award	Year Received	Section
Golf Professional of the Year	2007	Kentucky
Horton Smith	2005, 2006, 2007	Kentucky