

Albert J. Fenstomoher, PGA
Mount Vernon Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia

Al was born in Sykesville, Pennsylvania on June 22, 1939 to Myrl and Cleo Fenstomoher (he has one sister, Nancy). He grew up in Akron, Ohio and began playing golf at the age of 10. Al attended St. Vincent/St. Mary, a private Catholic high school, on a football scholarship. He excelled in sports and was dubbed "the Golden Arm" because of his strong and accurate passing ability. Al worked during the summer months of high school at St. Mary's Country Club in Pennsylvania, where his Uncle Joe was a Golf Professional. Joe showed him the ins and outs while working at various courses in Akron including a stint as a caddy at Firestone Country Club. After high school, he attended Akron University for two years and then went on to graduate from American University with a bachelor's degree in Police Administration. Al continued to play golf while serving in the Marine Corps from 1957 through 1965 (active and reserve), and in 1963 joined the Washington-Metropolitan Police Force. In 1970, with friend and fellow police officer Bob Denell, he started the annual HEROES (Honor Every Responsible Officer's Exemplary Service) Golf Tournament. This charitable organization supports the education of widows/widowers/children of police officers slain in the line of duty. Al served as the golf coordinator for this tournament for 25 years, continuing his support today. After 13 years of dedicated service, Al was medically retired from injuries received while serving on the police force. It was then that he decided to pursue a career in the golf industry. Al's first golf-related job was in 1976 when he worked for Larry Gray at Brandywine Country Club in Maryland. When Larry left, Al took over as Head Golf Professional for two years. In 1977, he entered the PGA Apprentice Program while working at Oxon Run Golf Course in Washington, DC.

Al's active participation in the Section's junior golf programs began when he was an Apprentice. Since that time he has been a regular instructor in the Paul Berry's Neediest Kids clinics, the Kemper Open Junior Clinic, has taught golf in Maryland's public elementary and high schools, has helped conduct numerous junior camps and clinics throughout the Section, and at the University of North Carolina Golf Camp. Continually demonstrating selfless service, Al has even run golf schools for fellow professionals.

He was elected to PGA membership in 1980. At that time he was working under Phil Hutton, Head PGA Professional at Henson Creek Golf Course. In 1981, Al accepted a position at Hogan Driving Range as an instructor and Assistant PGA Professional under Head PGA Professional Larry Hogan. In 1983, he accepted a position as Head PGA Professional at the Naval Ordnance Station Golf Club in Indian Head, Maryland. In 1984, Al returned to Hogan Driving Range where he worked until it closed in 1986. From 1986 until 1992 he was an Assistant PGA Professional at various facilities, including East Potomac Golf Course, Lake Arbor Golf Course, Henson Creek Golf Course, and Port America Country Club (also known as Tantallon). Al also had his own golf club repair business during this time. In 1992, he accepted an assistant's position at Fort Belvoir Golf Facility and in 1994 was elevated to Head PGA Professional at the South facility where he worked until 2003. Since 2003, Al has been the Assistant PGA Professional and junior golf leader at Mount Vernon Country Club.

Al's patience and his ability to make instruction entertaining for all ages are considered his personal trademarks by many of his peers. The combination of his love of golf and his genuine interest in people sets the stage for positive learning experiences about the fundamentals of the game. It is truly heartwarming to observe Al teach and see the incredible influence he has with the junior golfers at the many clinics in which he participates. From their exposure to his image as a PGA Professional, his strong leadership, and his ability to make learning fun, Al's protégés have a desire to advance their knowledge and reach for higher levels in the industry.

Being very conscientious of his responsibility to his profession and to continuously develop and improve his leadership skills, Al welcomes every opportunity to expand his professional development. His quest for self-improvement is demonstrated by him being named to the PGA's prestigious President's Society in 1991. PGA President's Society members are recognized by their peers for their high ideals and standards of service. Only ten percent of all PGA members nationwide achieved this select honor in 1991. In 1998, because of Al's loyal service and enthusiastic contributions to the MAPGA, Section President Chuck Bassler, PGA selected Al as his President's Award recipient. Since 2003, Al has taken over the Dennis O'Leary Class for Kids Program. Al travels all over the Section picking up old clubs, cutting them down, and providing them to facilities for their junior programs. In May 2008, Al was honored with the Chairman's Award (for volunteerism) from the Paul Barry Neediest Kids Foundation for over 21 years of helping the kids.

The MAPGA salutes Al Fenstomoher for his dedication, commitment, and perseverance toward excellence in everything he undertakes! Al and Barbara, his wife of 22 years, reside in Temple Hills, Maryland. Together they have four children, Ricky, Kristin, Erin and Todd, and seven grandchildren, Kelly, Ty, Jewel, Christopher, Maddie, Ruben, and Kaitlyn.