

BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA member who has distinguished himself/herself in the field of Employment/Club Relations, causing dramatic improvement in employment conditions in the MAPGA.

JOHN STAVELY - MAPGA Staff (former) Director of Employment & Club Relations

“Extremely adept at bringing out the best in those around him and somehow, some way he always seems to lift and encourage his fellow members toward maximizing their careers”. These words were used to nominate John Stavelly for this distinct recognition, and they accurately describe the man and the profound impact his efforts have had on the MAPGA, it’s members and their facilities.

One of five siblings and the only boy, John was born on Groundhog’s Day near Washington DC. John attended the University of Maryland where he graduated with a degree in General Studies. Influenced by such notable PGA Professionals as Carl Rasnic and Fred Funk, John declared his professional status and entered the PGA apprentice program in 1986. His first job as a professional was as an assistant at Prospect Bay Country Club. He went from there to the Suburban Club in 1990. He accepted the Head Golf Professional position at Swan Point Yacht & Country Club, one of the Top Ten ranked facilities in the region, in 1991. In 1994 he was appointed the General Manager, responsible for supervising the golf, maintenance, and food & beverage operations, as well as the club’s marina and tennis facilities.

A PGA member since 1989, John has served on the Employment/Club Relations Committee since 1988. When the opportunity arose in April of 1996 to become the Section’s full time Director of Employment & Club Relations, he took the position to motivate his fellow professionals with “you can do it” and “here’s how” messages. An excellent public speaker, John has delivered numerous seminars and discussions on “*Maximizing Your Career*” and “*Resume and Interview Techniques*”. His winning character, insightful advice and counsel have benefited hundreds of members and apprentices, influenced an increase in compensation at more than two dozen facilities and lead to the formation of strategic alliances with the Club Managers Association of America and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

A student of how to enhance the human potential, it is John’s goal to become a Master Communicator and conduct seminars accentuating the positive in people as well as improving PGA members' understanding of the golf marketplace and how to compete in a dynamic environment. John now resides in St. Augustine with his wife Cindy and their children, where he has launched a consulting business that helps facilities reach their service and operational goals. His interests beyond golf include reading, cooking and fishing.