

Allen F. Wronowski, PGA
Hillendale Country Club, Phoenix, Maryland

Currently serving as District 10 Director on The PGA Board of Directors, Allen Wronowski has a distinguished record of service to The PGA and to the MAPGA. His service started with active involvement in section governance soon after being elected to membership in 1981. From 1983 - 1988 he served the Assistant's Committee in capacities of Treasurer, Vice President, President and Tournament Chair. In 1984, Allen was named MAPGA's Assistant Golf Professional of the Year. He has served on the MAPGA Board of Directors since 1996, holding the offices of Secretary, Vice President, President and currently Honorary President. Over the past 18 years, Allen has been an active member or chair of numerous section committees, including Special Awards, Rules, Scholarship, Membership, National Golf Month and MAPGA/March of Dimes Golf Marathon (1987-1988). On the national level, Allen represented the MAPGA as a delegate to the PGA Annual Meeting from 1995 – 2000, in addition to his role as PGA District 10 Director to which he was elected in 2000 and installed in 2001.

Allen was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1954. Neither his father nor his mother, Fred and Evelyn Wronowski, were golfers. Allen was introduced to the game in Gym Class at Patapsco Senior High School, and later taught his father to play. In the early 1970's Allen took lessons from PGA Master Professional Coleman Plecker, who was and continues to be a great inspiration to Allen in his golf career. Allen attended Essex Community College, Towson State University and Western Maryland College. In 1974, he was captain of the golf team at Essex. He also worked part time as a substitute teacher at the college, assisting in the instruction of golf classes. In addition to his school and substitute teaching, Allen worked the cart area at Rocky Point GC under Head PGA Professional John Lazell. Lazell offered Allen the opportunity to work for him as an Assistant in 1975, and Allen stayed in that position until 1979. During the winter months, Allen worked for the Recreation and Parks Department, giving Golf Instructional seminars at three area schools. At Lazell's insistence, Allen applied for the Assistant Professional position at Hillendale CC, and out of 92 applicants, was selected for the position. He worked under Legend of Golf, PGA Professional Bill Clarke. The training, as well as the freedom to try new ideas and to be creative, Allen received under Clarke has been invaluable to him in his career.

In 1990, when Bill Clarke retired, Allen was selected to be the new Head PGA Professional at Hillendale CC. Also in 1990, Gail Chase joined Allen's staff. Her impact was immediate and tremendous. Allen and Gail became good friends, and three years later they were married. Allen says Gail is his inspiration, and she remains very active in the golf shop at Hillendale. In addition to his service to the section, Allen's merchandising skills have earned his shop numerous awards. In 1997, he was named Marketing Professional of the Year by the Mid-Atlantic Salesman's Association, and in 1998 was selected as the MAPGA Merchandiser of the Year (private category). In 1999, Allen received the section's highest honor, the prestigious Golf Professional of the Year Award.

Allen has served as an advisor to the MAPGA Employment and Club Relations Committee and is currently serving his second year on the National Employment Committee. He was involved in the research and subsequent development of a new Section staff position, Director of Employment and Club Relations, and has been involved with numerous employment seminars and cracker barrels. He has also conducted seminars on hiring and the duties of PGA professionals for club managers in the Baltimore area. The great majority of Allen's involvement in the employment arena however, is behind the scenes. He always makes himself available to members, apprentices and employers who may be looking for assistance, guidance, advice and maybe a different perspective on a given topic. During his two years as MAPGA President, he initiated an MAPGA program where he attempted to contact all professionals who had lost their jobs, offering his assistance, and informing them that The PGA would be there to help them in any way possible.

As do so many others, Allen holds Bill Strausbaugh's legacy in the highest regard and constantly strives to honor that legacy in his efforts to promote and enhance employment opportunities for the PGA

professional. Mr. Strausbaugh would be very proud, as we are, of Allen's dedication and service, and we salute him as our 2002 Bill Strausbaugh Award winner.