



Assistants' Board Nominees



Dario Alvarez Apprentice Professional - Affiliate

My name is Dario Alvarez and I am very pleased and honoured to have joined the PGA of Alberta last August as an Apprentice Professional. I believe my unique experience and background would be useful to help the Association grow and to fulfill its vision of advancing the careers of its members. That is why I submit my name for your consideration.

I am passionate about golf, communications, social responsibility and making a positive contribution to society. I believe in leading by example and that is why my wife and I founded Double Circle Golf. A company dedicated to creating original products utilizing the highest level of workmanship while giving back. Our handcrafted products are made by elderly artisans that have few employment opportunities.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to do business in more than 25 countries worldwide which has allowed me to gain a unique global perspective and a local focus. I studied Law but I veered off a legal career once I realized that Entrepreneurship and Communications were more creative and engaging. I hold a BA and a BA Honours from the University of Calgary as well as a Master's Degree in Communications from the University of Alberta. I reside in Calgary with my wife, two daughters, and our golden retriever dog named Oro.



Chad Feener Apprentice Professional - Leduc GC

As a young Golf Professional, I have a passion for the growth of the game. I have lots to learn, and feel if I want to grow as a Golf Professional, I need to gain experience and surround myself with the best in the industry. I feel being part of this team will help me achieve that.

I have a passion for teaching and junior golf. I was recently an awards finalist for Junior Leader of the Year in 2019, and have been successfully growing the junior program at my facility. Achieving this award along with Teacher of the Year are two goals I hope to achieve. I've opened my very own golf academy and work closely with the Future Links team.

I currently hold the Head Golf Professional title at the Leduc Golf Club, and manage Golf Operations. I hold this title with pride, and hope to achieve and complete my Class A requirements in the next 8-14 months. I have a team of 12 that I manage through out the golf season, and also manage the F&B in the off season which is home to a golf simulator. I'm proud to be an Alberta Golf Professional, and grateful to be employed 12 months per year.

I feel I've achieved a lot in my short 3-year golf career, and am grateful for the opportunity the Leduc Golf Club has provided me. Being the best in the industry requires determination, persistence and team work. It would be an honour to be a member of the Assistants' Board.



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Shane Garbutt

Apprentice Professional - Glendale G&CC

My name is Shane Garbutt, from the moment I was a kid I've always wanted to make golf my profession. Since having the honour of joining the PGA of Alberta, I have learned quite a lot about an industry that I've been striving to become a part of. Since joining last year I have had the ability to sit on two committees and I look forward to one day hopefully sitting on the Board of Directors. My next step as a Golf Professional is completing my marketing degree (at NAIT currently with 1 year remaining) and becoming a voice with influential say in the overall future of our great organization.



Greg Johnson

Class A Professional - Inglewood G&CC

I am going into my 2nd year as an Associate Professional at Inglewood G&CC and now in my 12th year of being a Golf Professional with the PGA of Alberta. Over that course of time I have seen many faces come and go from the industry and I am genuinely concerned about the longevity of Golf Professionals within the industry. Our developing pro's need a positive voice to stand up for them and make their concerns heard. It would be an honour to represent my peer group and help to ensure that all Golf Professionals have career stability so that they aren't forced to leave and find work in other industries. I've been very lucky over these 12 years to have had the PGA support and aid in my development with tournaments, educational seminars and other events (Golf Shows, Spring Seminars, etc.) and would like to now support the Association in making these events as successful as possible for my fellow pros!



Matt Kirlin

Apprentice Professional - Lynx Ridge GC

I have been a member of the PGA since 2015. My first year I was the Assistant Professional at The Links of GlenEagles in Cochrane, AB. Since 2016 I have been at Lynx Ridge and am now the Director of Golf. I've stayed involved in the Association through playing as many events as possible, hosting events at my golf course and attending the buying shows and seminars. I look forward to having more time to be involved in the years to come. I would like the opportunity to be on the Assistants' Board as I feel it is important to be involved and share what I have learned in this industry. I also feel that I can provide some innovative ideas and insight for the Association and our members.



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Michael McEachern

Apprentice Professional - Country Hills GC

My name is Michael McEachern and I am going into my 3rd year as a member of the PGA of Alberta. I have been very active within our organization since becoming a Professional, having been involved with the Promotions and Communications committee, volunteering with the PGA of Alberta, and being one of the top ranking Apprentice Professionals in the 2019 TOP 100 program. I would love to be elected to the Assistants' Board, as it would allow me to build a stronger relationship with other Assistant Professionals, and help guide change within our industry.



John McKiernan

Apprentice Professional - HeatherGlen GC

I am heading into my 4th year as the Assistant Professional at HeatherGlen Golf Club, with additional golf industry work experience reaching back to 2008. Active participation in PGA of Alberta tournaments, as well as volunteer work with the Maple Leaf Junior Tour when available. Joining and participating on the Assistants' Board of Directors will help with my career goals and make a difference within the Association. Career goals include achieving my Class "A" status by the end of 2021, increasing my teaching portfolio, and making my way into a Head Professional position.



Michael Nutt

Apprentice Professional - Kananaskis Country GC

My name is Michael Nutt and I am heading into my 3rd year being an Associate in this wonderful industry. I have had the pleasure of working at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge and currently with the Kananaskis Country Golf Course. I absolutely love our industry and want to be apart of it for life. Being still young in this industry, I would love to be apart of the Assistants' Board of Directors. I have had the pleasure and continuing pleasure to work with Bob Paley and Chris Cooke at Kananaskis. Learning from these two gentleman have made me want to do more for this industry.



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Tyler Pecman

Class A Professional - Highlands GC

I am a graduate of the Niagara Professional Golf Management Program. I have been a Member of the PGA of Canada since 2009, a PGA of Alberta Member since 2011 and a Class A Member since 2013. I have had the privilege to work at a handful of courses (Deer Creek GC, Lakeridge Links GC, Coppinwood GC, Carstairs GC and Highlands GC) throughout my career gaining a copious amount of knowledge and wisdom from some of the best Professionals in our industry. I'm driven to succeed in business by my passion for not only the game of golf but the business of the sport. I always strive to do my best and never back down from a challenge. I believe our Association is the best in the country and it is our responsibility as members to continue the growth and longevity of our Association. I have participated in numerous events within the PGA of Alberta and now would like to broaden my involvement and give back by becoming a member of the Assistants' Board. When the time presents itself please don't hesitate to cast a ballot for Tyler Pecman!



Bryn Quickstad

Apprentice Professional - Windermere G&CC

My name is Bryn Quickstad and I am a 5th year pro at the Windermere Golf & Country Club. Golf has always been a passion of mine and this Association has given me the ability to interact with people who share that same passion. I am seeking election to the Assistants' Board of Directors so that I can be involved and give back to the industry. Outside of golf I enjoy almost all sports and play a couple instruments. I am very organized and an effective communicator, which I believe will help me to contribute positively to the Board. Thank you for your consideration.



Taylor Van Tighem

Class A Professional - Royal Mayfair GC

I am a graduate of Grant MacEwan University and hold a Professional Golf Management Diploma as well as a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. I have been a member of the PGA of Alberta since 2010 and received my Class A status in 2013. I started my career in the industry at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge Golf Club where I worked for 6 years. I was also very fortunate to spend 3 years as an Associate Professional at the Calgary Golf & Country Club. Currently I am an Associate Professional and Golf Shop Manager at the Royal Mayfair Golf Club in Edmonton. I have a strong passion for the industry and feel that with the experience I have gained throughout my career I would be a valuable addition to the Assistants' Board. I look forward to the opportunity to give back to the Association and thank all the members for their consideration.



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Chris Ward

Apprentice Professional - Edmonton Petroleum G&CC

I am going into my sixth season at the EPGCC and in my role at the EPGCC I am our lead merchandiser and buyer for our members and guests. I strive to provide the best selection available for their purchasing needs. I also do plenty of teaching through my WardoGolf brand and have spent more time educating myself on how to become a better coach, I have attended consecutive Arizona Teaching Summits and have also achieved my level 1 TPI Certification. I believe that through this constant improvement I can become one of the go to coaches in my area, this season I will have the opportunity to coach the St.FX High School Golf Academy and further develop my ability to teach and develop junior golfers. I also do plenty of club fittings and have spent time this off-season touring the manufacturing facilities to learn more about the brands I fit my members and guests into. One of my other roles at the EPGCC is to come up with creative ideas to increase participation in events and provide the highest levels of customers service on a daily basis.

Last season I dedicated more time to getting involved with the Association. I played in 5 events, volunteered with the PGA on Wheels 3 times, and finished in the top 25 in professional development points. In my four short years as a part of the PGA of Alberta, I have been recognized as a finalist for the Apprentice Professional Assistant of the Year twice. I am running for the Board to further involve myself in the Association and to further my development as a proud PGA of Alberta member.



Stephen Yanitski

Class A Professional - Valley Ridge GC

I am entering my 5th full season as a PGA Professional, having gained Class A status in Spring 2019. In my time with the Association, I have spent quality time at three different facilities, leaving me with lasting relationships and different perspectives about the roles of individuals and facilities in our corner of the industry. In this time I have also expanded my involvement in the community, volunteering with the PGA of Alberta teaching lessons at the Consumer Show, and with my role as a post-secondary team golf coach. I am hoping to bring an alternative and fresh outlook to the Assistants' Board of Directors with my experiences at different facility types, in different locations (both Edmonton and Calgary), and with my background in the education field (graduated in 2015 with BPE and BEd degrees). In these ways, I hope to offer new ideas to better serve our Association members and product we offer to the community, while also reinforcing the many things that are already being done well.

I believe in recent years our Association has been a leader in growth, transparency, and member satisfaction; I would like to be a part of continuing and building off of the work done by those before me on the Board and committees.