



2025 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CANDIDATES FOR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Name ROB COLLINS

Company Paradise Valley CC

Statement

Reflecting on the night I accepted the 2023 Art Snyder Career Award, I challenged every one of you in that room to simply say “yes” when your community calls. Today, honored by the faith of my fellow board members, I am humbled and energized to say “yes” once more—as your nominee for President of Cactus and Pine.

My journey through Arizona’s golf industry has given me a panoramic view of our challenges and triumphs—and, above all, the critical role Cactus and Pine plays in our collective success. As Chairman of the Arizona Alliance for Golf Water Policy Committee, I’ve had the privilege of presenting our conservation story to the Arizona State Senate Water Committee these past two years. I’ve sat down with our Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman and city leaders across the state to share how golf courses not only thrive but lead the way in sustainability. Through these efforts, we’ve earned the respect of our communities—and shown that every superintendent is at the forefront of environmental stewardship.

Just weeks away, the Arizona Golf House at Papago will stand as a testament to what we can achieve when we unite under one roof. By bringing all of Arizona Golf’s associations together, we’ll be shoulder to shoulder—vibrant, visible, and ready to serve. This is our moment to shine, to demonstrate leadership that is bold yet collaborative, professional yet heartfelt.

If entrusted with the presidency of Cactus and Pine, I will champion open communication, innovative solutions, and unwavering integrity. Together, we’ll amplify our impact, elevate our industry, and continue to set the standard for golf’s future in Arizona. I hope you’ll join me in saying “yes” to this next chapter.

Thank you for your support and your vote.

Rob Collins

Director of Greens & Grounds, Paradise Valley Country Club

2024 Arizona Golf Hall of Fame Inductee

Name ANDREW HITCHCOCK

Company Blackstone CC

Statement

To the Members of the Cactus and Pine GCSA,

It's been over 12 years since I became a member of this Association, and for the past 7 years, I've had the privilege of serving on the Board—including the last 5 years as Secretary, Treasurer, and now Vice President. In that time, I've come to see just how vital the Cactus and Pine is to the golf industry in Arizona. Throughout my service, I've worked hard to help bring the Board together as a unified team—one that collaborates, listens, and puts the best interest of the membership first. That unity is essential as we continue to lead with innovative ideas that engage our members and strengthen golf in our state.

Over the years, I've served on several committees, always with the goal of improving the member experience. I started on the Golf Committee, where one of our initiatives was standardizing event formats and securing a prize pool from the Association for official events. These tournaments are continually evaluated and adjusted based on member feedback, because we want them to be something everyone looks forward to.

From there, I joined the Education Committee under the leadership of Chairman Curtis Tyrrell. I'm proud of what we accomplished together—creating dedicated education events that brought in respected industry leaders from universities like Purdue, Tennessee, NC State, Penn State, and UC Riverside. With the decline of the University of Arizona's turf program, we knew it was our duty to provide top tier continuing education and bring the latest research to our members. During that same time, the Education Committee and several Board members brainstormed a new style of meeting that combined professional development with casual networking. The result was Super & Suds—a mix of education and social gathering that was very well received by the membership. A big thank you goes out to Matt Guilfoil for his service and leadership during that period, helping bring this idea to life.

Serving as an officer on the Executive Committee has been the most challenging role to date, but also the most important. I've tried to be a voice for those in the Association who sometimes go unheard. It's critical that we represent all our members—no matter the size or style of their golf facility. I've focused heavily on understanding and improving our financial strategy to ensure our resources are used wisely and transparently. At a time when costs are rising across the board, even for those of us in the industry, finding creative ways to support our mission has been essential. Initiatives like Rounds 4 Research and, to a lesser extent, football pools have helped generate new revenue while enhancing the member experience and supporting our charitable goals. I am also proud to have initiated and continue to prioritize the Association's relationship with the Arizona FFA. From participating in their career fair and leadership conference to hosting FFA students at a First Green event in preparation for the Turfgrass Science Invitational at the GIS, this connection helps expose future leaders to our industry and reinforces our commitment to its long-term success.

Looking ahead, I would be honored to serve as the next President of the Cactus and Pine. I'll continue working to make our Association one of the premier chapters in the country—offering outstanding educational programs, meaningful golf and social events, and strong advocacy on behalf of our members. I'm also committed to expanding our impact through research support, scholarships, a benevolent fund, and any other initiatives that matter to our membership.

There's still more work to do. If elected, I'll prioritize transparency, open communication, and a leadership style that reflects the voices of all our members. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Andrew Hitchcock
Director of Agronomy
Blackstone Country Club

Directors and Affiliate Candidates Continued On Next Page...

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name SCOTT HEBERT**Company** Rolling Hills/Grass Clippings**Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?**

To share the knowledge and experiences that I have gone through during my career with my local association and fellow greenskeepers. Ownership dynamics, growing environment, and available resources are vastly different in how a course can be managed, I bring a wide range information from all of these aspects that could benefit some of the problems that currently face our industry.

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

Extensive experience in course and grounds preparation for 15+ televised events. I bring an ownership & employee perspective on master planning, program creation, budget management, and fund raising. Managed high-end courses in various climates throughout the USA: Congressional CC, Sahalee CC, Quail Hollow Club, & TPC Scottsdale. Directly overseen \$50MM + in renovation and construction projects. Created Arizona's first fully lit night course, Grass Clippings Rolling Hills

Name JEREMY JONES**Company** Desert Mountain - Cochise**Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?**

I am honored to submit my name for consideration to the Board of Directors of the Cactus & Pine GCSA. Since arriving in Arizona in 2001 from a small town in Oklahoma, I have been proud to call this state home and to be part of its vibrant golf course management community. As a graduate of Oklahoma State University, I entered the turfgrass industry with a passion for excellence and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

Over the years, I have had the privilege of working alongside exceptional mentors who instilled in me the values of leadership, mentorship, and service. I believe strongly in giving back to the profession that has brought me so much pride and fulfillment. If given the opportunity to serve, I will work hard to support the growth and sustainability of golf in Arizona and to help guide and inspire the next generation of superintendents. I am committed to the success of our industry and the continued stewardship of the natural resources we are entrusted with.

Name RYAN STANDIFIRD**Company** Longbow GC**Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?**

I believe that I have the desire and the right attitude to make a difference on the board. I have been in the area long enough and I have learned a lot from my peers and I hope that I can help our membership as much as I was helped when I first arrived. I believe our chapter has a lot to offer and I am the right individual to help with growing our chapter

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

I am currently on two committees with the GCSAA, the education committee and the scholarship committee. I have been on executive boards in Utah long with the education committee for the cactus and pines.

Name **RYAN WILLIAMS**

Company Desert Highlands GC

Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?

I am seeking a position on the Board of Directors for the Cactus & Pine GCSA to give back to an Association that has played a significant role in my personal and professional growth.

I am passionate about representing our industry with integrity and promoting the vital role we play as stewards of natural resources. I believe in advancing our profession through collaboration, education, and advocacy with governing bodies and the broader community.

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

- 9 years on golf course maintenance crews in Illinois and Iowa
- 8 years at Desert Mountain, including work on the Seven Project and 3 years as Superintendent
- 2 years as Superintendent at Palmbrook Country Club
- Currently serving as Senior Manager of Golf Course Maintenance & Amenities at Desert Highlands Golf Club (1.3 years)

I look forward to the opportunity to serve, contribute, and support the continued success of our association and industry.

Name **TJ WINZELER**

Company Corte Bella GC

Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?

I have been a part of this community for far too long without giving back. My children are all grown and now I have ample time to dedicate to the cause

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

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CANDIDATES FOR AFFILIAITE LIAISON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name NICK LUBICH

Company Fertizona

Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?

To help the board with view and opinions from the vendors perspective

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

20 plus years as a C @ P member

Name DYLAN URTON

Company Stotz

Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?

I wish to be elected as a Non-Voting Affiliate member because I am eager to contribute to the growth and development of the business side of the turfgrass industry. As a current employee of a company that works closely with the turf industry every day, I have gained valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities businesses in this field have faced over the years. I'm excited for the opportunity to bring fresh ideas to the table and help support the continued growth of the Cactus and Pine

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

As an Account Manager with Stotz Equipment, the growth and success of the turfgrass industry directly contributes to the sustainability and success of businesses like Stotz Equipment, which rely on a thriving industry to fuel demand for our products and services.

Name STEVE WITTE

Company Silica Services

Why do you wish to be elected as an Affiliate Liaison to the Board of Directors?

Golf has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and I've been fortunate to build a career within an industry I truly love. Being around the game and those who work tirelessly to improve and sustain it has been both inspiring and rewarding.

As an Affiliate Member of the golf industry, I see this opportunity to serve on the Cactus & Pine GCSA Board of Directors as a meaningful way to give back. I look forward to supporting the superintendents and professionals who are the backbone of Arizona's golf community, and to contributing to the continued growth and excellence of the game we all care deeply about.

Please furnish any additional Work Experience & Biographical information that may be helpful:

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