

# Distinguished Service Award

## Charles in Charge

*No one has done more for Met Area club professionals over the last 30 years than Charlie Robson of the Met PGA, and his efforts have earned him the MGA's 2003 Distinguished Service Award*

**C**HARLIE ROBSON, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE Metropolitan PGA, has been a champion of club professionals throughout his career and one of few individuals whose contributions to his profession go so far above and beyond what is required of him, that he is widely regarded as one of the true servants of the game.

Raised on Long Island and educated at Washington & Lee University in Virginia, Robson began his career with the Met PGA in 1972 after a brief stint as a golf professional at Plandome Country Club on Long Island. Sensitive to the issues facing local professionals, Robson immediately began working to establish hiring guidelines for clubs to help ensure better job security for club professionals, as well as better benefits and compensation. With fairness, patience and good business sense, he transformed a fledgling association of 250 members into a powerful organization of more than 700, with an annual budget of \$3 million. More importantly, he has been the driving force in establishing the Met PGA's "identity" as one of the most respected PGA sections in the country.

Along the way, Robson also expanded the section's tournament schedule from 20 events a year to more than 125 days of competition, with purses in excess of \$100,000, including the prestigious New York State Open, the Women's Metropolitan Open, the Treiber Memorial and the Met PGA Head Professional Championship, to name a few. He also started the Met PGA Merchandise Show to further promote


relationships between sales representatives, manufacturers, and club professionals.

Additionally, Robson has helped golf professionals enhance their standing in the golf community by developing innovative educational programs designed to help them become better players, administrators, and entrepreneurs.

Perhaps his greatest contributions, however, have come in the area of junior golf. He established the Met PGA Junior Golf Association and Junior Tour, now one of the foremost junior programs in the country, and, in 1988, the "Golf In Schools" program, which served as a model for many other inner-city golf programs. He also was deeply involved in bringing The First Tee of Metropolitan New York to Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx, in 2001. Today, Mosholu is home to one of the most successful and prolific teaching and educational junior training centers in the country.

At home, Robson has been equally involved with youth sports programs, finding time to coach basketball, lacrosse, and soccer for

his three children, as well as teach pre-Cana classes with his wife in their hometown of Garden City, NY.

Suburban Golf's "Man of the Year" in 1991, and recipient of the Met GCSA's John Reid Award in 1998, Robson was recently named one of *Newsday's* "Top 10 Most Influential People in Golf." Few people in the history of the Met Area have had such a lasting impact on the game, and the MGA is proud to present Charles L. Robson with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. 



Robson manages his busy schedule from the Met PGA headquarters in Elmsford, New York.