

2006 Excellence in Club Management Award Winners Announced

McMahon Group, Inc., the St. Louis-based consulting firm, has announced the 2006 recipients of its Excellence in Club Management Award program. The program, established in 1997, is being co-sponsored again this year by *Club & Resort Business*.

This year's winners will be presented with their awards in ceremonies at their clubs over the next few months, and an annual Awards breakfast will be held in conjunction with the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) World Conference, Feb. 22-24 in Anaheim, Calif.

In-depth articles detailing the achievements that led to the selections of this year's honorees will appear in upcoming issues of *Club & Resort Business*.



The annual awards are selected through nominations submitted on behalf of qualified candidates by other parties. Award recipients are selected solely on the basis of their achievements at the club they currently manage; lifetime achievements are not considered. Judging is conducted by a Selection Committee comprised of a peer group of club managers. McMahon Group, and *Club & Resort Business*, are not involved in the selection of award recipients, confining their roles to sponsorship, administrative assistance, and publicity.

The list of judges, complete winner bios and more details about the Awards, can be found at www.mcmahongroup.com or www.clubandresortbusiness.com



Winner 2006 Rising Star

Frank H. Benzakour, CCM
Clubhouse Manager
Bonnie Briar Country Club
Larchmont, N.Y.



Since arriving at Bonnie Briar in 2002, membership has increased from 142 to 338; F&B sales have grown by more than 45 percent; and the facility's

wine club, under his influence, has gone from a small tasting to a lavish, five-course dinner that sells out monthly.

Winner

Country/Golf Clubs with 600 or More Full-Privilege Members

Michael J. McCarthy, COO
COO/General Manager
BallenIsles Country Club, Inc.
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.



McCarthy, who began his club career in 1987 at Lake Mohawk (N.J.) CC, has led BallenIsles to recognition as one of the Top Five Residential

Communities in America for its excellence in services to membership, quality of club facilities, heritage and enlightened leadership. Michael was also named USTA Facility Manager of the Year in 2003 and honored in 2005 by the Club Leaders Forum as a "Top Gun in Club Management."

Winner

Country/Golf Clubs with Less than 600 Full-Privilege Members

Rick Sussman, CCM
General Manager
Sharon Heights G&CC
Menlo Park, Calif.



Sussman came to Sharon Heights from Mission Viejo (Calif.) CC in 2004 after an extensive search was conducted. Previously, he was a Vice

President for Club Corp.

Sharon Heights was named as a Platinum Club of America for the first time in 2006, and Sussman has just been nominated for the Board of Directors of the San Francisco & Northern California Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America.

Winner

City, Athletic or Specialty (Non-Golf) Club of All Types

Brian G. Walshe, CCM, CHA
General Manager
Metropolitan Club
San Francisco, Calif.



Walshe has been General Manager since 2000 after leaving Burlingame Country Club in Hillsborough, Calif., where he

served as Clubhouse Manager from 1994 to 2000.

A past chapter treasurer of CMAA, he currently serves as a director of Northern California's Club Managers Scholarship Foundation and the University of San Francisco's Hospitality Advisory Board.