I wonder how you would define success? Webster’s dictionary defines success as, the attainment of wealth, favor or eminence. Some synonymous words for success are, prosper, thrive and flourish. The Latin root word for succeed means “to go up.” I suppose that is where we get the phrase “to go up” the ladder. I think we all want to be successful in life. The difference may be on how we define success.

After being elected President of the MGCSA, I went home to a waiting family. Stephanie, my wife, was very happy for me so she told Sam, my son, to call me Mr. President. I will never forget his reply. He said, "No, just call him daddy.” Kids are so honest and often have the right perspective. Sam’s response is one of the ways I define success. No matter how the day went at work, if my children run to greet me and call me daddy, then I know that I have been a success.

I know what will make me a success as President of the MGCSA. It is a supportive membership at Somerset Country Club that allows me to volunteer my time. It is a supportive staff that may have to do an extra job or two on the golf course. It is a loving wife and family at home who are patient when I put in long hours. It is an active MGCSA membership that comes out and supports events. And most of all, it is being surrounded by a group of sharp individuals at board meetings who care about the association. As you can see, for something to be successful it has to be a collective effort by a group of people.

Here is a list of things I think the board tries to succeed in for its membership:

- Arrange places for our golf outings; put together banquets so we can honor people and get together in a casual setting; bring in the best educators from around the country; have an award-winning periodical that keeps you informed on issues; having a Research Committee that supports programs to benefit how we can best do our job, and raise money for scholarships so someone can go to school and become successful.

Other definitions for success are “to turn out well” and “to attain a desired end.” The Board of Directors wants things to turn out well for its members. The desired end is to serve you as best we can. We will do things to the best of our ability. Sometimes things will work out great and other times we might make mistakes. However, at the end of the day if we are called a loving daddy or mommy, or brother, or daughter, or more importantly a friend, then we (and you) have been successful.

Thank you members for making the MGCSA a very successful organization. Your camaraderie is invaluable.

I hope you prosper, thrive and flourish this golf season and in the season of life.

Best regards,

James