

On Board: Q & A with a member of your BOD

What did serving on the MGCSA Board of Directors mean to you?

Jeff Ishe, Executive Director-Property and Sports Operations GVG&CC

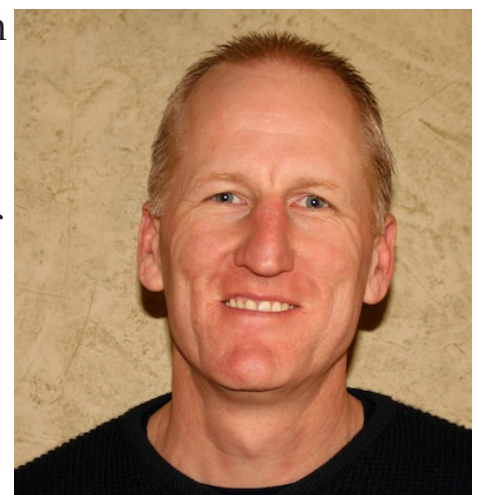


My four years on the MGCSA BOD has been very rewarding. Among other things, it has allowed me to gain a much better understanding of how our association functions, its finances, the importance of our relationship with the University of Minnesota and the value that we receive by maintaining our membership. I was able to chair or co-chair a few committees and have a larger appreciation for those who volunteer their time on behalf of our association. Serving on the BOD has also allowed me to build relationships with other superintendents that I

otherwise may not have. Assisting with the transition between Executive Directors has improved the day to day oversight of the MGCSA, given us a clearer direction and a much improved presence in the St. Paul political scene. I am proud to have served on the BOD and will do so again in a few years. Right now, the demands of my position combined with very active children, has forced me to scale back my involvement at the board level. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the BOD.

Brian Brown, Superintendent at Chisago Lakes Golf Club

What did serving on the MGCSA Board of Directors mean to me? For me, serving on the Board of Directors for the past 5 years was a way to give of my time to an industry that I am passionate about. I truly believe in the objective of the association. “To advance the art and science of Golf Course Management, to collect and disseminate among member Superintendents practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession.”



While on the board I felt my position was to represent the smaller budget courses, newer superintendents to the profession, and outstate courses. These are the superintendents that tend to get less involved with the Association yet probably need the resources more.

One of the things that I will miss most about being on the board is the information that is discussed about the industry during board meetings. I have been quite surprised about all of the possible governmental regulations that are discussed. Paul Eckholm, CGCS does a great job and spends a lot of time researching introduced bills in the legislature. Superintendents get frustrated by some of the laws that pass but they would be surprised at how many more regulations are in bills that do not pass.

The MGCSA has had to change over the past few years. Where once the association concentrated on “practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses,” it now has to focus more on protecting and “promoting the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession.” This focus has brought the need for Jack MacKenzie, CGCS to be our Executive Director. I didn’t know Jack very well before he was hired and frankly I was a little concerned about what his high energy was going to bring to the position. But I can tell you that we are so very fortunate to have Jack as the Executive Director of the MGCSA. Jack is a terrific representative for us on the government affairs side and can speak directly for superintendents. He already has represented us in the Minnesota Legislative offices and nationally regarding water use rights. The MGCSA has not forgotten its role with providing the practical solutions to problems but is teaming up with the U of M TROE Center and allied MN Green Expo. These additional resources bring accredited research and expertise to our members. Recently the board has brought a request to the membership to increase funding for the TROE Center. These additional research funds will be directed at specific research that will benefit the MGCSA members.

Thank all of you for letting me serve as a Director and Secretary on the MGCSA

Matt McKinnon, The Legacy Courses at Cragun’s



Serving on the MGCSA Board of Directors has been a great experience. I started in 2005 and since then I have had a chance to meet and work with many dedicated members of the MGCSA. When I started it was a big eye opener for me as I did not know what it takes to run and organize an association like the MGCSA. For me it was a lot of travel time more than anything but the working with new people, trying to make a difference and networking really made it worth while. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the MGCSA Board of Directors.