

President's Message

BY RODNEY MULLER



Serving on the GCSANC Board: Is it for you?

With the Presidential Election coming Nov 6th, the Democratic and Republican candidates are getting their messages out to the public. Each party vets its best candidate to run for office through debates and election campaigns, finally endorsing its best candidate to become President of The United States. That's not the case with the GCSANC Board of Directors... we leave Super Pac funding and mud slinging to the professionals; all that is needed here is good old fashioned "want-to."

I remember when I received the call from Barbara Mikel. I was on break at a DPR meeting when she inquired if I was interested in serving on the Board of Directors. I always knew that I would serve my local chapter one-day, I just didn't know when that would happen. Questions arose in my mind such as, "Do I have time to commit to the position? Will my employer see it as a value-add to my position and not view it as taking time away from my paying job? Do enough of my peers know whom I am to vote me into the position?" After all, who isn't afraid of failure? I told Barbara that I would think about it and get back to her.

After assessing the time requirements and getting the blessing from my General Manager, Regional Superintendent and Regional Manager, I decided that it was, indeed time. My nomination was made for the Board, I submitted my candidate statement and I ran unopposed. You know that scene in the movie when people standing shoulder-to-shoulder in a line and someone asks for a volunteer for a deadly assignment? Then everyone but one guy takes a step backwards. It wasn't exactly like that scenario... but close. I was uncertain about what to expect and what specific skill set I could bring to the Association, but none-the-less I volunteered.

I knew I was joining a great group of strong leaders and they would guide me in the right direction if I appeared to lose my compass. What I didn't realize is how much I would grow as a Superintendent while serving our chapter. I have networked with industry people and superintendents that I would have never had access to if not for serving on the BODs. I was subjected to difficult decision-making concerning our industry and association business. I served on committees to help program education for our members to strengthen their skills as Superintendents. This



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valuable exposure has opened the door to further my professional development and respect as a golf course superintendent.

Some of the skills you will take away with you while volunteering in your association are:

- planning and organizational skills;
- problem solving in a team environment; and
- setting and achieving goals.

If you have been thinking about serving on the GCSANC Board, please give me or any other Board member a call. We would be happy to answer questions about getting you involved with the process. If you are unsure about the time commitment to the board, committee work is also another way to get involved. Test the water, so-to-speak. You don't have to jump in headfirst. Without committee members many of our educational events would not happen. Being a committee member is an excellent way to serve your local GCSA to see if it's for you.

—Rodney Muller



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