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Like many of you, it was enriching to attend the GCSAA Conference. The networking and educational opportunities were many, and the trade show contained all of the equipment and supplies that we could ever need to do our jobs. As you read this, hopefully, we have all been filled with that renewed enthusiasm for another season that I feel after every GCSAA Conference (the warm weather doesn't hurt either).

I must admit that I thought the assignment of Education Chairman might be a little boring when Past-President Cross handed me that task over a year ago. Today, I am tickled to have the assignment for a second year. There is nothing boring about learning and expanding your mind, and I think the MAGCS offers a great deal to its members in terms of educational opportunities.

The Education Committee consists of Dan Albaugh, Tim Anderson, Kerry Blatteau, Tom Brodeur, Gary Hearn and Dr. Randy Kane. Dan and Tom are new to the committee, while the others have all served on this committee before. To date, we have met once and have a solid game plan together for the upcoming monthly meetings. We will meet again before the season warms up to finalize plans and start talking about the Midwest Clinic. As always, we welcome your input (an article for *On Course* is considered input too!).

In addition to the education at monthly meetings, we have several other irons in the fire. The GCSAA regional seminars were top-notch at Oak Brook Hills. I chose the Bahamas over Tommy Witt's new seminar, "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Superintendent," but I have heard several positive comments. Steps have already been taken to make sure these seminars, traditionally held in January, don't conflict with the Mid-Am dates next year. The MAGCS isn't the only group offering worthwhile education.

Seven Bridges was the site for a retirement planning seminar recently. We actually had to stop the question-and-answer session at the end because we were running into the lunch hour. (Imagine that!) As you read this, the Spanish seminar and the upcoming seminars for our equipment technicians will be history. I hope several of you or your

staff members found time to attend. Remember that sending employees (aside from being educational) can be a real moral booster. We are only as good as our staff is.

We have another idea or two in mind that may evolve into an educational session before the season gets rolling, but I won't stick my neck out that far at the moment. Finally, the "Ask the Expert" column will again appear in *On Course* beginning in April.

Shifting gears back to the GCSAA Conference for a moment, I would like to thank all of the vendors who have generously donated funds for the Hospitality Suite. The level of support again set records and exceeded our expectations. I'm wearing the party hat for the second time, and I think everyone enjoyed this year's Hospitality Suite. We were in a much larger room; and

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Chronology of Olympia Fields C.C....
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to be a superintendent of some fame in the Atlanta area. Warnecke was a fifteen-year grounds employee and may have been married to Fred Kruger's daughter. The grounds budget was \$48,000, and the crew numbered 48 men. Fairways were cut every other day, with the sicklebar mower used for roughs. One tractor was equipped with headlights for night spraying. Eight power mowers and seven hand mowers were used for cutting greens and tees. Fungicide treatments were applied bi-weekly. Arsenate of lead was used for grub control.

December 7, 1941

Pearl Harbor was attacked; the United States was at war!

The War Years
1942

The first controlled nuclear reaction occurred in a laboratory under the grandstands at Amos Alanzo Stagg Field at the University of Chicago.

1943

Olympia Fields Country Club was in poor financial conditions. The club could not pay off its reorganized debt. Membership was down due to the war. Many people considered playing golf unpatriotic. There was a golf ball shortage due to the rationing of rubber. Old golf balls were collected and remanufactured. The USGA began an advertising campaign to promote golf as a patriotic activity to keep people physically fit...as long as a horse-drawn vehicle or public transportation was used to get to the golf course. Pierce Vandercook, Pete Vandercook's father, became a member of the Olympia Fields Country Club Green Committee. Of the original 500 charter members, only 21 were left after 33 years. Club officials decided to sell off about half of the club's property, leaving two courses. The fourth course, now the North Course,

remained intact. The No.1 course (South) was modified using some of the holes of No.2 and No.3 courses.

1944

The club was in the process of reorganizing. The original plan for rerouting the South Course was altered. Holes 1 and 18 of the No.2 course became 8 and 9 of the South Course. Holes 5 and 6 of the No.1 course were abandoned; and No.7, a short par 4, became a 200 yard par 3. Number 1 and 18 of the No.3 course became the practice range. Members raised \$300,000 to save the club.

June 6, 1944

D-Day. The Allies landed at Normandy. ■

Director's Column

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due to the terrific support, we had an expanded menu. Thanks again to the vendors who made this possible.

In closing, I hope everyone has enjoyed the "off season" and prepared themselves for the upcoming golf year. I know being a more active member of the MAGCS has made my job more rewarding, and I encourage anyone interested to become more involved. A few Ed Braunsky jokes is a small price to pay for all that the MAGCS has to offer. ■



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