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Fulfilling an obligation as chairman of the Past Presidents Council, I find myself slaving over a hot computer for the MAGCS once again. Writing as a past president of the MAGCS is strange in that I tend to think of myself as younger than I really am and not a "past" anything. "I remember when" is becoming more common in my everyday thinking. I remember when I was one of the youngest guys at the MAGCS monthly meetings, sponging as much knowledge as I could from the seasoned veterans; now I don't know half of the younger crowd. I remember going to my first Chicagoland salary meeting and hearing Bruce Sering say he made a figure many times that of my salary. Big deal, I got my meals at work for only half price! Although my "remember whens" may be increasing, I am not yet to the point where I can't remember what a "remember when" was. Try saying that five times fast.


So what does the Past Presidents Council do? No, we don't just sit around the table and moan about everything ... not the whole time, anyway. Once a

year, it is a goal of the Past Presidents Council to get the MAGCS past presidents together and review the operations of our Association. The agenda typically covers topics suggested by past presidents, MAGCS directors and MAGCS members. We have a lot to cover, and these meetings have historically been lengthy. A big "thank you" to the devoted past presidents who have participated. After the meeting concludes, a summary is prepared and immediately rushed . . . okay, sent off later to the meeting participants requesting corrections. Once finalized, the summary is again rushed, or sent, to the MAGCS president for review and dissemination. Over the past few years, the MAGCS presidents have been kind enough to allow me the opportunity to per-

sonally review the Past Presidents Council's report with the Board of Directors. It continues to be very encouraging how favorably received by the Board our recommendations have been and how often ideas of the Past Presidents Council undergo implementation.

Our Association is great because the people within the Association make it work. Association operations may be better during some times than others, but with any large organization, constant change and evolution are needed. The Nominating Committee perseveres in the important and difficult job of finding strong individuals willing to serve as MAGCS directors and in that role, keep the Association running smoothly and advancing. Even more impor-

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Director's Column

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tant is that we seek individuals who, once elected, maintain their drive and commitment for the good of the Association. Being an MAGCS director entails a lot of extra work, but it is very rewarding and directors learn a great deal, with results that have value and meaning in everyday life. As past presidents, too, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute with our ideas. We realize, however, that good ideas are only great if realized, and that depends on dedicated people to see them through. Please give serious thought at our annual elections—our Association depends on it. 

Godspeed, Bruce Borland

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a penny, but he never hesitated when he had the opportunity to buy a boat just to have something the entire family could do together. It was at these moments when Bruce was truly his happiest.

“Kate, his children and his entire family have suffered an immeasurable loss. But because Bruce had a marvelous and enviable way of making all of us feel a part of his family, we all have suffered a loss. But we are all better people for having known Bruce Borland and we thank him for touching all our lives. He will always be a part of us, and will forever hold a special place in our hearts and memories.”

Friends have set up a memorial fund to benefit Bruce Borland's children. Contact the First Union National Bank, 2000 PGA Boulevard, Suite 2200 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, 33410.



Do It With Someone . . .

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job and saying, “We did that.” You and your crew will look at the golf course in a new light, viewing areas on the course and remembering when certain projects were completed.

By doing the work in-house, you can start and stop the process as needs change, allowing greater flexibility in trying to meet the needs of the golfers. You have the ability to work when the conditions improve after bad weather. An hour or two at the end of the day can make a difference when added up. Then, you possess the intimate knowledge of the golf course and its underground utilities. Your crew will know where all the wet spots are after a rainstorm. You have already established a relationship with the local suppliers and can usually get materials in a timely fashion. By tackling the project yourself, you may be able to realize substantial savings for the facility, depending on how much is calculated as operating expenses and what is budgeted as capital expense.

A possible downside to doing the work in-house is that the timeframe for the project may be prolonged beyond expectations. You may not have a large enough staff or the specialized equipment needed to complete the work in a timely fashion. The possibility exists that you may not be up-to-date on the latest and greatest construction techniques that would make the project go smoothly. Unknown variables that you did not budget for may increase the cost of the job. One of the foremost issues to consider: the condition of the rest of the golf course may suffer while you and your crew are concentrating on the renovation. Members may be unhappy with the disruption

from the construction and will not tolerate less-than-perfect conditions on the rest of the golf course. This can cause lots of stress! Communication is vital here as you strive to keep everyone informed of progress and field any complaints. In some cases, having someone else responsible for the final result may be more beneficial. Sometimes it is not wise to be remembered as “the guy who built that ***** pot bunker on #6.”

Clearly, many positives and negatives accompany each scenario. Any project requires your careful thought as you determine the best and most economic way to complete the work. Doing the work in-house can be very rewarding, but also very stressful. Using a golf course contractor can assure getting the work done in a minimal amount of time, but may cost more than doing the work in-house. Sometimes combining in-house efforts with a contractor's expertise makes sense; you can use a contractor for some portions and utilize your crews to do the work for which they are best suited. In some instances, postponing renovations to a later date when more funds will be available is necessary. However, with careful planning and good weather, everyone's renovations should go as smooth as silk.

Right! 