



A "Rookie" Reflects

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the other rookie board member (John Gurke being my comrade in this category). For the year 2000, I have been charged with chairing the Membership Committee and the Environmental Committee. Currently, I am enjoying my eleventh year as a golf course superintendent. Kemper Sports Management employs me. My responsibilities are to oversee the six Chicago Park District golf courses, including Marquette Park and Columbus Park. This relationship has been excellent for myself as well as for my courses, which have flourished.

In my short tenure on the Board of Directors, I have been surprised by the amount of dedication, work and commitment displayed by my fellow Board members. The rewards for working so hard are few, yet extremely gratifying.

During my 11-year career to date, I have noted one common factor with the revolving calendar: change. The courses have evolved; we started with asphalt tees, mowing wall-to-wall with a gang mower, no irrigation systems and no bunkers. Today, we offer golfers grass tees, use lightweight fairway mowers and have some irrigation systems in place. We've instituted (but these routines are not perfect yet) regularly scheduled maintenance practices such as fertilization; weed, disease and insect control; and staff training and discipline. My personal reward is that I can look at my facilities with a great amount of pride. I have a unique perspective on where conditions have been. I also take opportunities to speak with my customers. They will agree that we provide a quality product for a good price.

In my short tenure on the Board of Directors, I have been surprised by the amount of dedication, work and commitment displayed by my fellow Board members. The rewards for working so hard are few, yet extremely gratifying. They are the same rewards I have reaped during my 11 years at Marquette Park Golf Course; you get to see a job accomplished properly and be proud of yourself.

I challenge you, the members of the MAGCS, to be as active in this organization as possible, as there is strength in our numbers. The rewards may seem to be few, but don't be fooled—over time, you will see results and relish the sense of accomplishment. 