



# An Education Ruminations

*How ironic—both of my parents are schoolteachers and here I am, the chairperson of the Education Committee. It is very exciting to serve on the Board during this historic time, as we all reflect on how the Midwest Association has evolved over the past 75 years.*

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Personally, I have been involved with the Association for only 15 years, but my relationship with golf goes back much further. It's a proven fact that the impressionable years occur very early, at five or six years of age. I have to give credit to my father for his desire to be a great golfer; he had the drive and was an excellent athlete, so he decided to work his summers on a golf course to hone his skills. So needless to say, at the young age of five I spent many days on that golf course hanging out with the crew and the owner/superintendent—Mr. Dale Rathbun of Kappa G.C. near Bloomington, Illinois. As you do the math, you see that I have been around golf courses for 38 years, but at the age of 22 I knew what I really wanted to do—fly jets. But I settled for a career on the golf course instead.

Let's flash forward to 2001 and give a lot of kudos to the MAGCS. This is a very powerful organization that comprises a great number of gifted and talented superintendents; our golf courses are top-notch and highly acclaimed throughout the United States; we have superintendents who do internal research and are willing to share it with other superintendents; *On Course* magazine is getting better all the time with color photography and advertisements and outstanding articles; and the Board of Directors is striving for very high standards, bringing all of us more value in our membership.

This is my first year on the Board of Directors, but I have served four years on committees—three years on the Education Committee under President Brian Bossert and Secretary/Treasurer Kevin DeRoo, who have been great role models for what I hope is my success in booking some excellent educators. The Committee and I have been cranking out ideas for the upcoming year—ideas for monthly meetings, Midwest Turf Clinic, NCTE, GCSAA seminars and MAGCS seminars.

First, a rundown of the monthly meetings. June's speaker will be Dr. Joe Vargas from Michigan State, July will feature Rich Kozlowski on college funding (529 plans) and August's headliner will hopefully be

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while the SBC Senior Open runs July 16-23. If you'd like to share your time and expertise in exchange for a great experience, call Gregg at 847-540-7209.

Mechanic wanted: McHenry Country Club is looking for a full-time mechanic to start ASAP. Benefits include insurance, meals, 401(k) and uniforms. Salary commensurate with experience level. Contact Bob Lively at 815-385-0635, or at rbl35@juno.com

Irrigation technician wanted: Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in Channahon is accepting applications for this position. Salary range is \$23,000 to \$26,000 and includes a benefit package. Interested parties contact Chuck Anfield at 815-467-1665.

- Strive for self-improvement through constant self-evaluation.
- Enthusiasm, fairness, moral and physical courage are the four most important aspects of leadership.
- The essence of leadership is integrity, loyalty, caring for your people and doing the honorable thing.
- Have consideration of others.
- Food is very important.
- Showmanship is a vital technique of leadership.
- Never be satisfied; how can it be done better? Strive to do small things well.
- Don't over-inspect or over-supervise.
- The harder they work, the more they brag.
- Keep troops informed; tell them what, how and why. It builds confidence.
- Maintain discipline and command respect.
- Give encouragement. Be diplomatic.
- The ability to speak and write well are two essential tools.
- There is a salient difference between profanity and obscenity.
- Yelling distracts from your dignity; take it aside.
- Stay calm and show little emotion in distress.
- Don't cry to staff. Be a resolute island in all the insanity.
- An organization does well only those things the boss checks.
- Stay ahead of your boss. Your boss is always right.
- Discuss and argue your point of view until a decision is made and then support the whole decision heartedly.
- Learn it right and you'll do it right the rest of your life. Learn it wrong and you'll spend the rest of your life learning how to do it right.
- Morale is a state of mind. It is steadfastness, courage, hope, confidence, zeal, determination and loyalty.

Esprit de corps . . . 

somebody from Purdue University. I would like to run some seminars that are funded by the MAGCS: Spanish classes in the fall and a CPR class with training on defibrillators in the spring. Next January (2002), we'll be able to partake of two GCSAA seminars, one on drainage and the other on lake and aquatic management. We had a really good turnout for the March session and would like to repeat this next year.

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Also, we are working on compiling a "Midwest Family Tree." Brad Anderson of Midlane C.C. brought this idea, originally conceived by Mr. Bob Williams, to my attention. You should already have received the flyers on this particular topic. The form is pretty self-explanatory; the top section is rather easy and focuses on your club, the bottom section will require you to do some digging. Ask members and long-time employees for information on past superintendents. Try to get accurate dates and spelling of names. Then mail or fax these forms to George Minnis, Brad

Anderson or myself. We will compile the forms, sort them and put them into some kind of binder. Every seven to ten years, we'll update the list. If you have any questions, please feel free to call any of us mentioned above.

I certainly hope you all come to at least one monthly meeting to enjoy the gorgeous golf course, the great food and spirits, and the lovely beverage ladies; may the educational speakers get your undivided attention, too! If anybody has any ideas for education programs or wants to speak at a monthly meeting, please contact me. Enjoy your season! 