



# Friendship by Committee

*Where did you make your friends? I'll bet you know where you made your foes. As I think about my friends in life, most were made through association. My childhood friends lived on or near the same block. We all went to the same school, oftentimes traversing through alleys together to get to our destination faster. We emulated our sporting heroes with the changing seasons, made up rules to our own games, and always argued that we had last wraps when there was a chance to tie, or begged for 10 more minutes when the street lights began to flicker.*

We shared similar challenges and trials throughout our early lives. We defined each other and ourselves through unrehearsed reactions to different tests. As we grew older and our environments changed, so did our friendships. New friends were made in high school, on sporting teams and on dormitory floors in college. We found friends through new interactions and associations.

As we grow older, the cycle continues. I am fortunate that I have many friends in my life. I continue to meet new people, but as I grow older, the opportunities to make somebody's acquaintance decrease. My commitments have changed from my own to my family's. Gatherings with old friends have given way to five-minute cell-phone calls, and I certainly don't need to mention the constraints of my professional life as we head into summer.

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However, I will mention the profession I have chosen. Why is the weather always a topic of conversation among complete strangers? Because it is a phenomenon everyone experiences; it is a commonality. Think about our chosen profession. Most of us share personal qualities; we like what we do, we enjoy the outdoors, we are self-starters, organized and driven. We experience similar problems and find many different solutions. There is an inherent camaraderie prevalent throughout our Association. The question is: how do you share that camaraderie? The answer is: through friendship. The place to make new acquaintances and friends is through our Association. The MAGCS offers each member many opportunities to meet new people.

Our Association offers one forum in particular where membership has a chance to work closely with others and a chance to make new friends. Committees are that place. We currently have 12 committees:

- Scholarship
- Education
- Public Relations
- Employment
- Membership
- Editorial
- Arrangements
- Environmental
- By-Laws/Nominating
- Golf
- Long-Range Planning
- Benevolence

By joining a committee, a member enjoys the opportunity to meet other members a few more times throughout the year beyond our monthly meetings. Most of each committee's work is accomplished during our slow season; moreover, the more committee members we have, the less daunting the responsibilities each individual must commit to accomplish.

*(continued on page 38)*

In the past, committee sign-up sheets were placed on a table at our annual Midwest Turf Clinic at Medinah. Members of the Association could put their names on a list under each respective committee where they wished to serve. Soon after, the committee chairperson would contact those on his list.

During this, my first term on the Board, I was appointed chairperson of several committees. No one had signed up for any of my commit-

tees, and I don't think I was the deterrent, however, that is always a possibility. After many harassing phone calls, numerous bar tabs appropriated and several bouts of arm-twisting, I was able to find help. To the members of my committees, thank you now; to every member of the Association, I urge you to help out by signing up for a committee. If you yourself cannot do it, make it a requirement of your assistant. There are many committees to choose from, and I'm sure one will fit your fancy.

Call up the current chairperson of each and look into several to find a fit. I know I will never turn down help or the opportunity to make a new friend.



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