



# Past Presidents Offer Counsel

*Another season is upon us. We had better weather in January and February than in March, April and May. We did, however, enjoy a week of "summer" back in April. It was a volatile combination of 80 degrees and the Masters that brought out the flood of "Why don't we look like Augusta?" queries. I really hate Masters week. In any event, cold and rainy have been the buzzwords for the beginning of this year. I hope the latter part of the spring gets better or it will be another very long season.*

*In early April I was fortunate enough to sit down with 15 past presidents at a meeting of the Past Presidents Council. I don't know if it was the lousy weather, the free lunch or my presence, but I was told that this was one of the best-attended meetings in recent years.*

In early April I was fortunate enough to sit down with 15 past presidents at a meeting of the Past Presidents Council. I don't know if it was the lousy weather, the free lunch or my presence, but I was told that this was one of the best-attended meetings in recent years. On my part, it felt very much like a job interview, but with your peers firing off the questions. Suffice to say, each of our past presidents has invested at least several years in running our Association, and they want to see the MAGCS continue to move forward.

Here are some of the comments and suggestions generated at the meeting.

- Secure future meeting sites earlier. Use the entire Arrangements Committee.
- Improve publicity for the annual dinner dance, a fine event only a small number of members enjoy.
- Develop Midwest Turf Clinic agenda earlier in the year.
- Pleased with the employment referrals and the turnaround time with job postings.
- Very pleased with *On Course*. Are not concerned about lack of recognition from the GCSAA. Like seeing Board meeting highlights in *On Course*.
- Encourage membership to apply for the MAGCS Scholarship. Raise the amount of the scholarships in the future.
- Regarding dues, smaller increases more frequently is most palatable.
- Encourage more assistant superintendents to serve on committees.
- Provide annual financial statements to the past presidents.
- Post Board meeting minutes on Web site to keep membership informed.
- Develop a strategic plan.

As you can see, a wide variety of topics came under discussion. The current Board is very dedicated to improving the Association and we have already begun to implement some of the ideas that came from the meeting. I would like to thank Joel Purpur and the entire Past Presidents Council for inviting me to attend this meeting. It was an extremely educational experience . . . and I can't wait to be on the other side of the table.

## **Other News**

Not to steal anyone's thunder, but our own past president Bob Maibusch will be running for secretary/treasurer of the GCSAA. A letter from the MAGCS nominating Bob was sent in late April (thanks to Al Fierst's noodling). Having MAGCS representation on a national level is important. Please remember to lend Bob your support in the upcoming 2003 election.

*(continued on page 32)*



Kevin DeRoo, David Mayzel, Patti Thorsen, Mark Bobb and Mike Bavier.



Rick Wilson, Eli Witt, Dave Kohley and Don Ferreri.



Tim Davis, Ed Fischer, John Lebedevs and Dave Behrman.

On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors has been busy in recent months. The Education Committee is working on finalizing this year's schedule of speakers for monthly meetings and the 50th annual Midwest Turf Clinic. The Golf Committee is entering its busiest time, while the Editorial Committee developed and has

announced the new Fred Opperman Editorial Award. Tim Anderson, the "stats man," came up with numbers and analysis that reveal some interesting trends about our membership. The Long-Range Planning Committee had a productive meeting that resulted in a number of action items. Finally, the Arrangements Committee

is busy trying to secure sites for next year, so don't be shy—step up and offer your course.

I wish that everyone's spring is going well. I hope to see you at Phillips Park in June.



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