



# There's Room For You Around The Piano

*My family spent some time at my folks' house for the holidays. At my age, I'm very fortunate to still have both my mom and dad in pretty good health, but truth be told, it's beginning to be apparent that time is taking its toll. They're moving around a little bit slower and the medicine chest is now two drawers chock full of medications and dietary supplements. Nevertheless, one of our holiday traditions is to gather around and sing Christmas carols while my mom plays the piano. Mom plays pretty well, but she doesn't practice so there are a few clinkers, and the rest of us will never make it on "Star Search" or "American Idol" with our singing voices, but you know, we sound awesome when we sing those carols. Or at least we think so, and really that's all that matters.*

*The strength of this Association has always been its membership's willingness to step up and put a little of themselves into the mix. If we are going to keep moving forward and growing, we absolutely need this spirit to continue.*

I'm the greybeard on your MAGCS Board of Directors (BOD). Consistent with so much that I've done, I got a late start on the leadership track. Married at 30, superintendent at 36, fathered my last child at 40, elected to your BOD at 43, I'm hopeful of finding the time to take my certification exam this year at 50. I'm your living and breathing example of "it's never too late to get started." This year, I'm your vice president, fondly referred to as "the junk drawer" of the MAGCS. If something comes up that doesn't fit into one of the standing committees, (and the president doesn't want to do it), it usually becomes the business of the VP. That, along with handing out three scholarships and handling the job referrals, comprises the VP's job and that's okay. It sure beats being secretary/treasurer—that was real work!

I've been on the BOD long enough to have been associated with some very talented people, men of profound intelligence, great leaders and gifted organizers. Just being around some of these people has enriched me and taught me valuable lessons that have aided me both professionally and personally. By the same token, many of us Board members have been able to succeed in managing this Association by (1) not falling behind and (2) using common sense—two attributes ALL golf course superintendents must have. My point is, you don't have to be a genius or a great leader of men to contribute—just look at your current BOD (sorry guys – it's not personal).

The MAGCS is simply the best "club" I've been a part of. Nowhere else have I been blessed with lasting relationships that have returned so much for the time invested. The strength of this Association has always been its membership's willingness to step up and put a little of themselves into the mix. If we are going to keep moving forward and growing, we absolutely need this spirit to continue. Please consider hosting a golf meeting or participating on a committee. If you don't know how to get started, just give me a call and we'll chat.

God has granted everyone a different set of tools to accomplish their life's work. You've got something we need. There is always room for you to join the chorus around the piano—you know we sound awesome. 