



# With All Due Respect

*If you attended the MAGCS Annual Meeting during the Medinah clinic, you heard that I am stepping down as chairman of the Past Presidents Council. Ed Braunsky has agreed to take the reins, which should guarantee a smooth transition as well as a laugh or two. I was not able to attend many golf events last year, mainly due to two elbow surgeries followed by a torn rotator cuff. On the bright side, my surgery punch card is almost full. One more operation and I get a free knee! Eddie Braunsky has been able to be more involved recently and I am sure he will provide strong leadership.*

On that note, what are the skills of good leaders? Remembering back to a January Arrowhead meeting, a speaker on the topic of leadership had us think of someone that we respected as a leader. We were instructed to reflect on the personal qualities of that individual. What sets leaders apart from others? The qualities these people possess as role models and mentors are what we should strive to attain ourselves.

We have all dealt with people whose minds are already made up, adamant about what they want and unwilling to hear others' opinions. This can be frustrating, especially when their ideas are seriously flawed. Good leaders have good listening skills. They will always listen to what you have to say. There is also much to emulate about how they react to the ideas of others. Good leaders react in a respectful manner, whether or not they agree with a particular comment. A big difference exists between reacting with "I disagree" and "That is a stupid idea." Talking down to others in a disrespectful fashion does not promote productive brainstorming, and destroys confidence and self-esteem. We should extend the same respect to coworkers and colleagues as well.

Really, respect should be the operating principle in all interactions. That said, remember that the MAGCS is a large association and is "big business" with the majority of work and planning performed on a volunteer basis. Even with committed individuals doing their best for the Association, there are bound to be instances where details fall between the cracks. How do we as members react? Please keep in mind, that when giving constructive criticism, it is best to be positive. It is not always what we say, but how we say it. Be respectful of others!

The Past Presidents Council is a forum for past leaders to help guide the Association. The Council gets together once a year and reviews the operations and activities of the Association in a positive atmosphere. Eddie Braunsky is organizing this year's meeting and will be looking for comments and suggestions from the membership as far as topics of discussion. If you have any ideas that you believe will help our Association or enhance our activity schedule, please forward Ed or myself the message. I look forward to enhancing my involvement next year, and hopefully you will take a more active role, too!



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