



# Communicate; Cultivate; Participate!

*I would like to thank President DeRoo and the Board of Directors for my appointment as the MAGCS class C advisor. In my humble opinion, the recent addition of a class C advisory position to the Board of Directors is an important ingredient for the Association's successful future. A strong association will have experienced young members eager and ready for the challenge of participating in association leadership. It is our hope that this position will create greater class C and D participation with our Association and its events. The success of this position, however, relies heavily on the continued support of the entire membership. Class A and B members can ensure the success of this endeavor in several ways: by communicating your experience as a committee or Board member; by acting as a resource; and by supporting participation in the Association by fellow MAGCS members at your facility.*

*The real benefit of membership in the Association comes from active participation and involvement. Passive membership fails to reap the rewards the Association offers: networking, information-sharing, support and friendship.*

Communication of personal past experience with the Board and committees provides guidance and direction to the potential future leader. As anyone who works with the Board or a committee will tell you, it is important to have an understanding of the process: its functions and limitations. Oftentimes, new Board or committee members will revisit topics that have been discussed previously. Communication serves to make the Board and committees productive and efficient by limiting redundant or repetitive conversation. Learning the valuable lessons from past mistakes and accomplishments is only possible when communication is effective. Communication can also provide insights into some of the more obscure aspects of group leadership, such as politics and negotiation. Sharing of past Board and committee experience (good and bad) creates yet another unique learning opportunity.

What does it mean to be a resource? We can be resources ourselves for a variety of needs to numerous individuals. Most fathers and mothers are available resources for cash and car rides to their children. Superintendents are valuable resources to their staffs for knowledge and skill in maintaining turf-grass, but they can also serve as a resource on many non-turf issues. I constantly bombard my boss with my ideas and proposals. We can talk in an informal manner, examining the nuances of situations without combative or judgmental undertones. I have a deep appreciation for our relationship and use him as a resource to receive feedback. Frequently, we may discuss points of view that are not our own but are worth discussing because they need to be addressed or prepared for. Human nature makes it difficult to hear the things that you don't want to hear, but it is understood that our conversations sometimes are based on principle and not on personality. I also use my available resources to "test the water." Ideas may need to be reworded to communicate them effectively. Understanding how the things I say are interpreted is important in order to

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avoid my audience mistaking my motive. Using my available resources, I can limit the amount of times I make an absolute fool of myself by saying ridiculous things. Note that I can't totally eliminate being a donkey, I said reduce.

Participation in our Association is a rewarding experience. I am fortunate to have been given the opportunity to play a part in the Association in the past through committee work and attending functions. Participation has led to informative conversations, educational experiences and best of all, friendships. I am proud to belong to the Midwest and to be associated with so many talented and interesting professionals. My resource list has grown as a result, which directly benefits the workplace. My participation was made possible by the support of my facility. Without the support of the superintendent and club, the rewards of my belonging to the Association would not exist. Realizing that the

stressful times of midsummer make attending all functions difficult, some flexibility ensures deriving the benefits of membership in the Association. The real benefit of membership in the Association comes from active participation and involvement. Passive membership fails to reap the rewards the Association offers: networking, information-sharing, support and friendship. If you agree that our Association is beneficial to the profession, do you fully support the active involvement of all MAGCS members at your facility? Are you missing some of the benefits of membership by not participating yourself?

I am grateful to all the members in every class who have volunteered their time and/or money to the Midwest. Those individuals in some capacity have made the Association stronger and have allowed myself and fellow members the opportunity to continually develop ourselves professionally. Thanks to the associate members and their continued support

of our events and wonderful publication, to the honorary members and their tremendous efforts supporting our profession, and to the life members—my respect and admiration for your accomplishments. From time to time I would encourage everyone to revisit the mission of the MAGCS, which can be found in the second part of Article I of the By-laws (page one in the membership directory). With the purpose of the Association in mind, it is easy to support the efforts of those interested in participating. Here's to a successful golf and golf management season—fore!



## DO YOU EVER HAVE TO GROW GRASS IN A HURRY?

- ‡ Is it tough to keep enough grass on your practice tee?
- ‡ A week after a repair do your divots look like grass or sand?
- ‡ How do your fairways hold up under heavy use?
- ‡ How does your turf endure very dry conditions?

Use compost to help solve your turf problems.

- ‡ Compost has 25%+ organic content
- ‡ Compost is Rich in essential micronutrients
- ‡ Compost contains active families of beneficial microbes
- ‡ Compost retains 10 to 15 times its weight in water



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