



The Clique

When I was just starting my career, I was asked to run for the Board of MAGCS. At that time, I felt there was no way I was going to give up my free time. After all, I reasoned, I have a family and a job to which I must commit my time. I also felt that I could never sit on the Board, or even a committee for that matter, because I was not part of the "clique." I did not agree with what was then happening with the MAGCS. I had my own opinions about some of the decisions that were being made, but it has always been my belief—either put up or shut up. I decided to shut up.

Before becoming a director, I had heard how the Midwest Board was nothing but a "clique." Our Board is just that, but not the clique I thought they were. We are a group that is willing to put forth the effort and dedicate the time to the organization.

For as long as I have been in this business, I have heard how the Midwest Board of Directors is nothing but a "clique." To belong, you had to be one of the good ole boys, one who ran a private or top-end course. The clique ran the show, and if you were not part of the clique, you basically had no say.

Looking back now, I have to admit that if you were to think now the way I did then, you would be wrong. As I was, even then. I am not part of any "clique," per se, and here I am now—a director.

By definition, a clique is a narrow, exclusive circle or group of persons: one held together by common interests, views or purpose. Our group on the Board is just that, a group that is willing to put personal and social differences aside. A group that is willing to put forth the effort and dedicate the time to the organization.

But the Board of Directors is not the clique I thought they were. Since my involvement on the MAGCS Board began, I have learned that it is all about who is willing to help. Whether it is sitting on a committee or the Board, involvement at any level is a huge help to the organization.

Get involved! By participating on a committee, or the Board, you enjoy so many amazing benefits, including the chance to:

- Keep up-to-date on new trends and products.
- Meet lots of new people.
- Network with your peers.
- Improve organization, communication and writing skills.
- Voice your opinion.
- Make MAGCS a better organization for members.

Every year at the Midwest Turf Clinic, MAGCS has committee sign-up sheets available at the registration desk. We are asking, okay, **begging**, for members to get involved. I don't want to hear that you have no time. That was my excuse, and look where it got me.

It's simple. If you want to make a difference, get involved. Whether you are at a private or public club, a nine- or 18-hole course, everyone has a different perspective to bring to the table. The fact is, the ones who get involved make the difference. The Board works closely together to make MAGCS a great organization for all its members.

So get involved today! Open the doors to new people and new possibilities.

