



Can You Hear Me Now? It's Been Taken Care Of

The above "play on words" of a cell-phone company's recent TV advertisement describes the way a lot of the past presidents of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents feel about the present state of the MAGCS.

It has been amazing to see how quickly the Board has been able to act on the Past Presidents Council's suggestions . . . the list of suggestions coming out of the past presidents' annual meeting keeps getting smaller and smaller.

First, some background. I was asked last year to be the chairman of the Past Presidents Council by the now Past President Kevin "I Never Miss a Meeting" DeRoo. At first, I thought, "Piece of cake." The prior chairman was Joel Purpur, who did a fantastic job of organizing the Council and running our meetings. As I started to plan for a meeting in 2003, I realized that I would be eating the whole cake. Joel had a plan that has been continued into this past year. For those of you who do not know, the Past Presidents Council meets at least once a year. The current MAGCS president is also invited to attend the meeting. Our new executive director, Luke Cella, will be asked to attend the meetings too.

The agenda for the day consists of going over the activities of every committee of the MAGCS. That's where the Board of Directors has listened to the past presidents' voices, loud and clear. It has been amazing to see how quickly the Board has been able to act on the Past Presidents Council's suggestions. For example, some concerns had come up about the way the hospitality suite at the national meeting has been taken advantage of by folks who have nothing to do with our Association. Problem solved. This year's room in San Diego will have a check-in desk that will monitor who goes in and out of the room.

The passing of our friend George Minnis left a big hole to fill, and quickly. The past presidents were concerned about who could take over for George. A lot of us on the Council feel that the hiring of Luke Cella was the right move to make. Taking full advantage of the facilities at Midwest Golf House is an exciting prospect for the future of the MAGCS.

The Council also talks about the state of the GCSAA. We are very fortunate to have Bob Maibusch on board to use as a sounding board with concerns or comments about the GCSAA. We will surely give Bob a list of any concerns we have this year.

As a member of the MAGCS, you can help make the Council's future meetings run more smoothly by becoming active. Get involved! Join a committee or offer your facility as a site for a monthly meeting. Run for the Board. The staff and current Board of Directors can only do so much.

I have stated before that the list of suggestions coming out of the past presidents' annual meeting keeps getting smaller and smaller. It takes a lot of time and commitment by a group of very special and talented people to get the job done. All of the past presidents have dedicated that time and made that commitment. The Board of Directors of the MAGCS realizes that the Past Presidents Council keeps a watchful eye on the way the Association is running. Never before has the MAGCS had the opportunity to become one of the strongest associations in the nation. Now we do.

Can you hear me now? I knew you could! Thanks to all, and have a great 2004. 