



Extra Effort!

We have all been there. You are ready to leave for the day and the phone rings asking for one more favor from the pro shop or clubhouse staff. You take care of the request and find several more attention-to-detail items that you take care of before you leave. I must make a major confession . . . I am a Professional Paper-Picker-Upper! I hope to one day be approached by a hidden camera show that gives away a new Lexus for spotting a person picking up trash outside of a major retail store.

. . . the Past Presidents Council meets once a year to go over all committees and suggest any new ideas and changes that may help the MAGCS develop and grow . . . they are giving that extra effort in order to help the Association that they have served already for so many years.

Back in March, several past presidents of the MAGCS gave a lot of extra effort back to this Association. Those in attendance that day were Kevin DeRoo, Brian Bossert, Al Fierst, Ed Fischer, Tim Kelly, Bob Maibusch, Mike Bavier, Joel Purpur, Luke Strojny, Don Ferreri, Paul Voykin, Fred Behnke and yours truly. Our executive director, Luke Cella, and current president, Phil Zeinert, were also in attendance. For those of you that do not know, the Past Presidents Council meets once a year to go over all committees and suggest any new ideas and changes that may help the Association develop and grow. It is quite a lively "exchange of ideas" that day and always seems to produce at least one or two things that the Board can take and run with. Many of those who are listed above are giving that extra effort in order to help the Association that they have worked with for so many years. I should have included on the sign-up sheet this year a column that asked for years of service. What a number that would be! Maybe, too, I could have asked for the number of committees guys have served on along with the number of broken tees they have picked up along with branches and cigarette butts! Thanks, guys, for all of your efforts!

I want to take a few minutes of everyone's time to talk about one of our Midwest members who gave a lot of extra effort to his golf facilities. James "Jimmy Mac" McNair only gave 30 years of effort to Fox Bend Golf Course and Orchard Valley Golf Course. I have had the pleasure to not only play golf with Jimmy but also attend with him a Bradley Braves basketball game, a Notre Dame football game (psycho Ken Shepard, who is another extra-effort guy, set that one up) and the boys' high school basketball tourney down in Peoria. A few weeks ago, a couple of foursomes got together to "celebrate" Jim's last day of work with a tour around Orchard Valley. What a great day. The cloud formations that afternoon would have had Tom Skilling in tears! My golf game would have had many in tears too. We got to the last hole and Jim stated, "I want to walk this one." Jim proceeded to walk across the bridge on the 18th and removed his hat almost like Jack or Arnold at the Masters or the Open. A tear came to my eye. At this point, I thought about two things: "This is for all of the extra effort you gave for all of those years . . . and Jimmy, TAKE ME WITH YOU to that land of retirement!" The best part of that 18th hole was yet to come. Jim hit his approach to the green and all of the sudden, all of these lovely geese surrounded him and led him towards his last day at work. I turned around to yell at John Gurke (another extra-effort guy) for his camera! Gene "Extra Effort" Thompson tried to get a photo off of his phone but I never did see if that came out. In a way I hope it did not. It would be fitting to have Jim go out without a lot of pomp and circumstance. I think a lot of extra-effort golf course superintendents would want it that way. 