



Bob Maibusch, CGCS.

Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG of Hinsdale Golf Club gave the following farewell address at the culmination of his service on the GCSAA board of directors.

As my time on the GCSAA board of directors has come to a close, I want to take this opportunity to let you know how much this experience has enriched my life both professionally and personally. The highlight of my career thus far has been the opportunity and privilege to serve on this board. Little did I know that this professional opportunity would lead to and enhance personal relationships that are and will continue to be so precious to me.

The sum of the benefits I have received from the membership's counsel, encouragement, experience and, yes, even your criticisms cannot be measured. It says so much about the selfless purpose within this association that we can find reasons to disagree, sometimes vigorously, but still maintain a sense of fraternity and brotherhood. I will greatly miss the camaraderie and fellowship that was so graciously afforded me through board service. It has blessed me with experiences and memories that will last me a lifetime.

Whether you were offering a kind word, educating me on past history, sharing fresh perspective on what could be a vision for the future, or anything else large or small, the gifts that you have given me cannot be repaid. Collectively, this group can be much more than the sum of the considerable depth of its individual talents. That synergy of talent, dedication and sacrifice is an incredible event to experience and I thank you for allowing me the privilege to be a part of it.

If ever an action, inaction or word on my part was hurtful to you or offended your own beliefs, please accept my apologies. Nothing I said or did was meant to be malicious, and I hope that it was never interpreted that way.

I have had several inquiries about my reasons for leaving the board of directors. I thoroughly enjoyed my tenure here, but for me to stay longer at this time would be selfish. I know that the demands and challenges of my family and my current employment would preclude me from devoting the time and attention that I feel is necessary to accomplish continued board service in a manner that does justice to the needs of the organization; service to you, the membership; and still attend to the needs of my family and employment. I am incredibly fortunate to have a supportive family, staff and employer who seriously questioned my departure from the board and encouraged me to stay if it would make me happy. Their sacrifice these last five years in allowing me to devote time to GCSAA that would have normally been reserved for them fills me with tremendous pride and gratitude.

Staying longer now would only satisfy personal goals and that is not what this organization or this membership deserves. I think too highly of both those entities to have them suffer with a board member who is less than effective. Quite honestly, there were times when I questioned my contributions and wondered if I had already stayed on

too long. I hope not, and I trust that you will understand why my exit at this time is necessary. One thing I have learned is to never say never. After all, I am the same person who, until five years ago, said I would never be a member of the GCSAA board of directors.

It was not always easy to be in this position, but as long as I reminded myself that I was here because the membership trusted me enough and had confidence in my abilities enough to ask me to represent their interests, I hope that I stayed grounded in a spirit of service. I tried to never forget that I was here to serve your vision.

Occasionally, the rhetoric did sting. When I felt the weight of criticism and second-guessing on my shoulders, I took solace and inspiration in the words of President Theodore Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of good deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming, but who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place will never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

By the nature of the business we are in, we all find ourselves to be men and women in the arena. I learned life lessons from many members, and your encouragement, support and counsel were always deeply appreciated. It is an incredible gift.

Thanks again for all that you have given to me. You cannot imagine how much it has meant to me.

With sincere appreciation,
Robert J. Maibusch, CGCS, MG

