



The Assistants' Beat

Going into the second year of my term as the MAGCS class C advisor, I am proud of what the Committee has accomplished. Those who attended the annual Assistant Superintendent Winter Workshop in February enjoyed listening to Pat Jones of Flagstick Strategic Consulting cover the topic of communication and the future of the turf industry. The afternoon was rounded off with presentations by assistants relating some personal experiences showing creative ways to improve communication with employees and present oneself professionally. The event was a great success, and I am confident the attendees gained some valuable information that they can use in their careers. I am looking for ideas for topics for next year's workshop, so please let me know if there is some issue you think we should cover.

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Another terrific event started last year for assistants was the MAGCS Class C Golf Championship. Assistants played at Glen Flora Country Club for the honor of taking home the "cup-cutter" trophy. The event will continue this year with a minor change. Instead of combining it with the MAGCS scholarship fundraiser golf event, we have moved the class C championship to Monday, June 13, to be played in conjunction with the Dom Grotti competition at Phillips Park G.C. The MAGCS assistant superintendent who cards the lowest gross score will take home the "cup-cutter" trophy with his name and score engraved on the cup. So plan to play where you could feasibly go home with two trophies: the Dom Grotti and the "cup-cutter."

I am also looking to resurrect an event that was launched a number of years ago before the class C advisor position was ever created: assistants' "Shop Talk." In speaking with fellow assistants, I have discovered that some feel we have become too formal with our events, and that a number of assistants greatly enjoyed the informal "Shop Talk" gatherings we used to hold. Therefore, I am planning to have two "Shop Talk" events this year. Hopefully, long before you read this, you heard about and were able to attend our first "Shop Talk," hosted by Scott White on April 12 at The Links at Carillon. This promised to be an outstanding opportunity to network with other assistants amidst a relaxed atmosphere to talk. Any assistant superintendents (including non-MAGCS members) are welcome to attend "Shop Talk," so call a friend from down the road and come hang out with us. I apologize that we do not have a date or place scheduled for the fall at this time, but keep your eyes and ears open for details on the autumn edition of "Shop Talk."


Another new project on which I am working is a "Big Brother" type of program. This would be a voluntary program, in which an assistant moving into a superintendent role could sign on with a veteran superintendent for support in his or her new role. My hope for this program is that it will create a reliable, supportive networking environment for the rookie superintendent, facilitating a smooth transition into the new and challenging role. I am presently putting together the structure of this program and welcome any comments or suggestions.

Much of what I have been able to accomplish is due to the support of many people. My Committee has done a great job with every project I have

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brought before them, and I thank them for all that they do for me. I have received a lot of support and words of encouragement from the MAGCS Board, which keeps me motivated and pushes me to do the best I can with this appointed position. But most important, it is other assistant superintendents I have talked with and have been able to represent who give me the most encouragement. I would like to invite

anyone who has questions, comments or suggestions regarding my position as a representative of the assistant superintendents to contact me at chadk@hinsdalegolfclub.org or 630-986-1323. I took on this position not for myself, rather for the benefit of all assistants.

Thank you! 

I have received a lot of support and words of encouragement from the MAGCS Board . . .

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