



Encouragement and Promotion

One writer for the golf publication, Links stated, "Chicago has the best golf in the country... for the number of courses at such a good price, it is by far the best." I cannot add my own comments to that because I am somewhat biased. Nonetheless, I do agree.

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Many factors have gone into making the Chicagoland golf so great. The one factor that pertains to superintendents is membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Our group's mission is to "provide affordable and environmentally sound golf course conditioning that results in the highest quality and playability possible." Having been a part of this board for the better part of seven months, I can say that everyone involved has worked tirelessly to continually provide many tools and opportunities for all of the members.

This area has many great golf courses, which creates much competition. The same is said for assistant superintendents aspiring to achieve the next level. With a finite amount of golf courses and many capable and skilled individuals to maintain them, becoming a golf course superintendent is not an easy task.

The Class C Advisory Committee, which was formed back in 2003, strives to provide educational growth and promote personal/professional development toward becoming a golf course superintendent. Erwin McKone and Chad Kempf, the first two Class C Advisors respectively, began leading this committee unlike any other in the entire Nation. No other local chapter association has a committee that is solely comprised of assistant superintendents and represented at the board level. Then President, Kevin DeRoo, was paramount in the beginning of our committee, and I thank him along with Erwin and Chad for their hard work and vision.

The focal event each year for the Class C group has become the Annual Assistant Winter Workshop. The first two years' topics pertained to career development. Our keynote speakers for those were Mr. Jim McLaughlin and Mr. Pat Jones, respectively. Each provided information and insights on our industry and speaking about career tracks toward a superintendent position. Last year we changed the theme to the weather. Mr. Phil Schwarz, Meteorologist for ABC 7 - Chicago and Mr. Paul Vermeulen of the USGA spoke of the summer of 2005. We look forward to many more great Assistant Workshops.

New for this year, is the addition of the publication, *Assistants Update*. The "Update" is a means of communication for information, dates, and features for assistants and all members alike. It is accessed by going to the MAGCS website at magcs.org via the assistants link. I highly encourage everyone to check it out.

The assistant shoptalks have been expanded to five different locations this year. The first shoptalk followed the Winter Workshop in January, and the second shoptalk was hosted on the west side at Aurora CC back in March. Broken Arrow GC in Lockport was the Southside club who hosted in May. Our fourth get-together was on July 20 at Dave and Busters, and finally we will be up north on October 5 at Inverness CC in Palatine. We hope to see you there.

With the information and opportunities available, the MAGCS aids assistants in our aspiring careers. The vision and views of the superintendents on the MAGCS Board make the efforts of the Class C group possible. Thanks to all superintendents who encourage their assistants to attend and be involved in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

