



Hit the Ground Running

In 1926 the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents was founded by a small group of local Chicago Greenkeepers. At the center of the association was a common belief in a set of core values. These values included:

- The advancement of the science of turfgrass management
- To discover and share effective, efficient, and economical methods of golf course management
- To work together to enhance, individually and collectively, the professional image of the golf course superintendent.

Over the last 80 years the MAGCS has evolved into one of the largest and most respected local chapters within the GCSAA. Today, the strength of the MAGCS is still found in its 800 members. They support the same core values set forth by the charter members back in 1926.

This month, all MAGCS members will receive their membership renewal statement. At the annual meeting a twenty-dollar dues increase was voted on and approved. The dues increase affects class A, SM, and E members. The dues structure for class C, D, and F remains unchanged. Historically, dues increases have resulted in a slight decrease in membership renewal. Typically it takes a couple of years to repatriate these members. Annual membership renewal combined with a slight dues increase certainly raises the question: "What value do I receive from membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents?" This year, while contemplating your membership renewal, I would ask that you consider the value of the following benefits afforded to members of the MAGCS.

...MAGCS has evolved into one of the largest and most respected local chapters within the GCSAA

- Educational opportunities
- The chance to network with peers operating under the same set of local industry conditions
- Subscription to the association's award winning magazine On Course
- Seasonal golf events with exposure to a variety of different golf venues
- Membership directory
- Access to the "members only" section of the web site
- Scholarship opportunities for children of MAGCS members, regardless of their chosen field of study
- Social activities such as the fall dinner dance and the hospitality suite at the national conference
- A voice in one of the largest voting blocks at the national level
- The employment referral program
- Benevolent contributions for MAGCS family members
- Funding of turfgrass research projects
- Resources for environmental stewardship and awareness
- Access to the association's full time professional staff
- Affiliation with other green industry associations
- Professional recognition by your peers and employer

Hit the Ground Running (continued from page 3)

- Direct access to leading researchers in the field of turfgrass management
- The opportunity to refine leadership skills through participation at the committee or board level
- Charitable contributions and financial aid to worthy organizations

When preparing for a job interview it is often said that the most important thing to remember is to ask for the job. This is no different. Your involvement is the corner stone of this association. **The MAGCS is asking for your participation!!**

As this is my first president's message, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank you for the opportunity to serve as the president of the MAGCS. It is very fulfilling to have the opportunity to give back to an association with such a long history of excellence. I anticipate a great year, and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

Please join me in welcoming incoming board member Harry Lovero, as he embarks on his path of service to the membership of the MAGCS. To outgoing MAGCS President, Gary Hearn, I would like to thank you personally for your dedication and leadership. I look forward to your continued guidance and support in the year to come. And finally, to the membership of the MAGCS, from my family to yours, best wishes for a safe and joyful holiday season.

Merry Christmas!
Tim



*Your involvement
is the corner stone
of this association.*



Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc.
Since 1930

A Tradition of Excellence.
More than 75 years of complete, dependable and economical tree service for residential homes, municipalities, schools, industrial areas, parks and over 125 golf courses.

847-475-1877
fax: 847-475-0037
www.nelsjohnsontree.com