



On to the Pasture of Past Presidency

This being my last article as an MAGCS board member, I would like to recap my involvement with the board and offer a few parting thoughts on why involvement with the MAGCS is time well spent.

Don Spier, who was a sales rep for Wally Fuchs of Turf Products, invited me to an MAGCS monthly meeting in 1988. Don was very gracious with his time. He mentored my transition into being a superintendent in the greater Chicago land area. The atmosphere at the meeting was warm and fun-filled. I soon joined the MAGCS.

Several years later I was asked to help out with registration and to become a golf committee member. I have always enjoyed our monthly meetings, both for the hospitality from and the variety in the host clubs. In my earlier years, light competition was also a drawing card, not just the education. Now I look forward to the camaraderie and education more than the competition—I guess that's due to age.

Next, one of the past presidents, I forget just which one, asked me to run for the MAGCS board of directors. After two losses, my name came first on the ballot the next time. That third time was the charm, and I was elected to the board. The decision to run for the board was not made lightly. I'm of course juggling time commitments with "giving back to my association." As it turns out, time spent with the MAGCS is beneficial, with positives outweighing the negatives ten-fold.

There are so many positives in serving the MAGCS; that the payback for time spent is worth every minute. Many of the board members were new acquaintances. Those friendships never would have happened without my serving on the board. These relationships will give back forever. The topics and ideas discussed in committee and board meetings are learning experiences in themselves. The various ideologies and methods employed by different board members were eye-opening as well. These experiences have helped me to develop as a professional. Once again, I cannot put a price tag on being involved with the MAGCS. What is learned by serving the MAGCS can not be learned in a classroom or in a seminar.

We have accomplished much over the last seven years—the length of my board service. Several major accomplishments come to mind. Hiring Luke Cella as director has proven to enhance all that we do and to do it at a lower cost. Now that we know Luke, the MAGCS knows that it is lucky to have his organization and his many talents. And I know that Luke appreciates the opportunity to put his many talents to work. What a great win-win. Another huge move forward is the establishment of the Assistant Superintendents' committee and their position on the MAGCS board of directors. This group is very involved with the MAGCS and their profession. The development of standard operating procedures and exit forms has enhanced the transition from one committee chair to another. Being headquartered at the golf house gives us an identity. It also facilitates management of our association and our member resources. Finally, one almost takes for granted the continued improvement of *On Course*, monthly meetings, and the hospitality suite at the national conference.

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contacted in regard to their presence in our midst. Oh well...

- These things aside, it was a hugely successful PGA, and with all the golf world's eyes on Medinah, Tom and his crew did us all proud. Congratulations to everyone at Medinah Country Club for a job well done!

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 If you are a graduate or former student from the University of Illinois' Turf program, come join your classmates in the Annual Turfgrass Alumni Golf Outing on the 17th at Broken Arrow Golf Club in Lockport. A new format will be unveiled, and it is bound to be another great time. Call Bruce Branham for details at (217) 333-7848.

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 Belated congratulations to JW Turf's Kelli Zopfi and her husband Jeff on the June 20th birth of baby daughter Payton Pricilla Zopfi (coincidentally born on the very same day as the John Buck Memorial Golf Outing). Payton was a bouncing 6 lbs. 12 ozs. And 20 inches long when she arrived.



Payton Pricilla Zopfi

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 The August issue of *Golf Course News* included articles featuring 3 MAGCS members. **John Ekstrom** (Hinsdale GC) was featured in a news analysis titled "Assistant Superintendents Create More Opportunities for Themselves," highlighting his work on the Class C Advisory Committee, while **Ed Braunsky, CGCS** (Geneva Golf Club) and **Jeff Pozen** (Downers Grove Golf Club) were both immortalized in an article about nine hole

courses titled "Still a Challenge." Congratulations on your newfound fame, guys!

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 Still waiting for a new home: Brand new 2006 Jacobsen LF-3400 with 1.2 hours, never mowed grass. Call Dennis at (815) 634-4018 to hear why he has a brand new LF-3400 for sale, and make him an offer he can't refuse.

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Director's Column... *(continued from page 5)*

Now that my board tenure has come to an end, I will continue to support the MAGCS by signing up for a committee or two. The sign-up sheets will be out at the Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting on November 1, at Medinah Country Club. Let's fill up all those sheets.



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Founded in honor of Wayne Otto, CGCS, the Wee One Foundation assists golf course management professionals or their dependents who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship. Through this foundation's work, Wayne's legacy will never be forgotten.

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