

# “Knock Knock... Who’s There?”

*Everyday is an opportunity and today is no different. As a groundsworker or intern at a golf course, you aspire to become an assistant superintendent. As that destination is realized, you begin to reach much higher; to become the golf course superintendent.*

Becoming a superintendent is no easy task. How do you get there? The answer seems simple; work hard, be dedicated and persevere. Unfortunately, these three characteristics are only a few things required to achieve success. One undervalued and often little-seen step in an assistant’s career is to become involved in the local chapter. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) is always looking for people and ideas to help promote each other and our great industry.

As an assistant, you are practicing to be a golf course superintendent. Unfortunately, not all of the experiences you will need can come from your everyday work routine. MAGCS offers several opportunities for you to fill in a few of the blanks that you will need to achieve success.

Someday you will have professional reports to turn in to your supervisors at your club. Hone your writing skills by penning articles for *On Course*. The magazine employs editors to help you along the way. Talk to the editorial committee, they even have topics to write about.

Someday you will have to explain in an interview why you are the best candidate for a superintendent’s position. Furthermore, as a superintendent you will have to give presentations to committees, owners, and managers. In December, the MAGCS will need dedicated people to help moderate for the Illinois Professional Turf Conference (IPTC). Grab this opportunity to learn to speak in public. Speaking in public is no easy task, however, this venue offers a unique opportunity to hone this skill. All of your material is prepared for you, and really, all the people in the room are there to hear the people you introduce. This is easy practice to become more comfortable speaking to a group.

The Assistants of the MAGCS will get together three more times this year at the Merit Club, Bryn Mawr Country Club, and the Hinsdale Golf Club for our shoptalks. This is an **opportunity** to meet other local assistants and learn from each other.

No one expects to attend every MAGCS monthly meeting. However, if you have the **opportunity**, you should attend as many meetings as you are able. Monthly meetings offer the **opportunity** to meet someone new. In the Chicago area, there is a great knowledge base of superintendents from which all assistants can learn. Ask your supervisor about getting involved.

If you haven’t gotten the message by now, the key word is **opportunity**. In the next 5-10 years, there will be some great superintendent positions that open in our area. I will also guess that those clubs will receive over 200 resumes for those positions. How will you stand out?

It does not take a whole lot to become involved. **Opportunities** are abundant, understand it, and embrace it. I promise you will be a better professional and a better person because of it.

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