

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Tim Anderson, CGCS, Naperville Country Club



2007

As golf course superintendents, all of us stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. The pioneers of our industry worked hard to advance our profession and solidify the role of the golf course superintendent. Today we reap the benefits of their efforts. Likewise, as members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents we owe a debt of gratitude to the founders of our association. Their dedication laid the groundwork for what has developed into one of the strongest chapters in the country. We must accept that each of us serves as a temporary custodian of this association. An association nurtured for decades by generations of superintendents. Collectively, we have a responsibility to contribute, and advance our association. It is our duty to preserve the MAGCS and leave it in better condition than we found it for the generations of superintendents yet to come. This perpetual cycle of stewardship is the mechanism that allows us to express our gratitude to the founders of our association.

For the last 7 years it has been my honor and privilege to serve the membership of the MAGCS. My tenure on the board has been a very rewarding experience, one that I would recommend to anyone. The benefits that I take away from the experience: professional growth, the opportunity to challenge myself to achieve something that I did not think I was capable of, and the new friendships, all far out weigh the commitment of time that was required. I always took my board responsibilities seriously, and strived to work with the best interest of the membership in mind.

Most people do not realize that initially I was not elected to serve on the board. Rather, I was asked to fill a position created by a resignation. I still remember receiving the phone call from then past president Don Ferreri. It was late afternoon and I was still at work. I happened to be in the break room when I answered the phone. Don explained that a resignation had occurred and asked if I would consider filling out the balance of the 1-year term. I had not volunteered, but I had been "tapped on the shoulder" nonetheless. The truth is that very few MAGCS members volunteer for board service. Most are "tapped on the shoulder" and are nudged into service. Next year, as MAGCS past president, my responsibility will include presenting a slate of candidates for the November 2008 election. If you feel a tap on your shoulder I would ask that you resist that initial instinct to say no and take a moment to seriously consider serving on the board. It is truly a worthwhile and rewarding experience.

With that being said, all that remains is for me to say thank you. To the membership of the MAGCS, thank you for allowing me this opportunity. To the MAGCS officers, directors, and committee members, thank you for all your hard work. You embody the best of what our association has to offer. To Luke Cella, you have taken the MAGCS to the next level and beyond. We are fortunate to have an executive director of your caliber. To John Ekstrom and Sharon Riesenbeck, your commitment and dedication is inspirational. To Paul Bastron and Tom Prichard (as they leave the board) thank you for your years of service. To John Gurke and Brad Anderson, your contributions keep "On-Course" fresh and exciting to read. Keep up the great work! To Gary Hearn, Past President, thank you for your leadership and guidance. To my Assistant, James Chisholm, thank you for picking up the slack at work. To my wife Linda and my daughters, Rachel and Hannah, thank you for picking up the slack at home.

It has been said that leadership is the art of mobilizing others to engage in a struggle to achieve a common goal. It is my sincere hope that during the past year we have struggled together to improve our association and re-pay the debt of gratitude that we owe our predecessors.

From my family to yours
Happy Thanksgiving!
Tim

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