

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Sharon Riesenbeck, *Waupaca Sand & Solutions*



Fluorescent and 72°

...I overheard this quote at the GIS show from my co-worker, Dena Zajdel, responding to the question, "how's the weather down there?" I'm sure most MAGCS members can relate. To me, it really doesn't matter where the conference is held, since I am either on the trade show floor or attending a seminar throughout the day. What does matter to me is that you always find the weather "warm & fuzzy" inside the MAGCS Hospitality Suite.

As Commercial Advisor, I have made some changes to ensure that our sponsors and attendees feel that a MAGCS Hospitality Room visit is always worthwhile. Hospitality Suites can be one of the most abused and expensive of trade show costs. We all know that there are plenty of networking opportunities, both formal and informal, throughout the conference. My only hope is that the MAGCS Hospitality Suite is on your "can't miss list." If you were able to attend, please make a point of thanking your vendor representatives for sponsoring this event. You can find a list of our Golden Tee Sponsors in this issue as well as in the MAGCS directory. If you do business with outside vendors, please encourage them to participate next year.



The other sideline to my job is to raise money for our scholarship fund. The MAGCS Hospitality Room is by far our largest fundraiser. This year we were able to raise over \$2600! Our biggest receipt to date. It's very easy to run a raffle when most everyone participates without hesitation. Thank you all for your generosity! Bob Lively, Jan Jarvis, Dan Cherrstrom, and Rick Wilson can certainly attest to the payback on their generosity. They were the recipients of our hourly \$200 American Express gift card raffle.

Here are some quick facts & figures from that night:

- We consumed over 900 pieces of shrimp and crab claws. I have no idea how many liquid refreshments we enjoyed, but I am confident we got our money's worth by paying a flat fee per person!
- When setting up the menu, we tried a few new things, sushi for one. It turned out to be a big hit as well as many of the other foods.

- We were blessed with 48 Golden Tee Sponsors, two of which are brand new: **La Grange Country Club** (thank you Jeff Brinegar!) and **Arysta Life Sciences** (thank you Sam Wineinger!). We also were fortunate to have several sponsors return to the Golden Tee Club: Conserve FS, Kasper Trucking, and Peat, Inc. Thank you!

Please remember to say thank you to the many volunteers that either solicited sponsorships, sold raffle tickets, and greeted or guarded you at the door: Garry Anderson, Rick Uthe, Tom Healy, John Gurke, Mark Norville, Matt Breeden, Michael Heustis, Steve Stewart, Jeremy Duncan, Mark Kosbad, Keith Copersmet, Howie Shuck, Marsha Traves, Beth Whitehouse, Pete Kiraly, Dan Kisse, Scott Spier, Mike Matchen, Gary Hearn, my co-workers, Dena Zajdel, Brett Grams, Jon Faulks, and Bob and Christine Faulks. I am particularly indebted to Blake

Meentemeyer, current President of the UIC turf club, who graciously offered ten U of I students to help sell raffle tickets in the room.

Of course, I am eternally indebted to Luke Cella. He secured the location, brought down the Wii games, mailed all other essential items needed to run the event, coordinated the PowerPoint Presentation



with Ernie Kaplan, took pictures, initiated the web link for sponsorships, sent out reminder notices & invoices, and most of all, put up with me!

I hope everyone made it home safely despite the heavy snowfall that hit Chicagoland between Thursday and Sunday. Just remember there is one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's!

Thanks again, and I'll see you in New Orleans! **-OC**