

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Mark Thibault, *Carillon Golf Club*



MAGCS Employment & Membership Update

The 2009 golf season is upon us. Because the 2009 season seems unlike any other, there are many unanswered questions for the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Will the number of job postings be higher than usual? Will golf courses have higher employment turnovers? Will our golf events have a lower turnout? How will the economy affect the association's membership numbers?

The MAGCS is an important venue for listing job opportunities. Employers simply fill out a questionnaire, and the information is posted as a job opening. The following figures illustrate how beneficial our services have been both for facilities and members. During the year 2005, 16 jobs were posted with the MAGCS: 7 Superintendent positions, 5 Assistant or Second Assistant positions, and 4 Technician positions. In 2006, 14 jobs were posted: 3 Superintendent, 8 Assistant or Second Assistant, 1 Director of Grounds, 1 Territory Manager, and 1 Assistant Technician. In 2007, 29 jobs were posted: 6 Superintendent positions, 18 Assistants, 4 Technicians, and 1 Horticulturist. During the year 2008, 22 jobs were posted: 4 Superintendent, 16 Assistant, and 2 Technician positions. So far, in 2009, 21 jobs have been posted: 6 Superintendent, 12 Assistant, and 3 Technician positions. We provide a valuable resource where courses and golf-related businesses can list their job opportunities. This can only be a positive for those interested in entering the golf industry.

One recent change to the employment section of the website is any non-superintendent posting is available to the world. Only superintendent postings are password protected, so if you are searching for a key staff member, think of the MAGCS website as your place to begin your search.

A membership in the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents can be beneficial for many and different reasons. Some members attend our events for networking, some for education, and some for the golf outings. Whatever the reason, our membership has grown through recent years. In 2006 we had 666 members; in 2007 we had 780 members; in 2008 we had 799 members; and in 2009, to date, we have 768 members.

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This year the Board of Directors is hoping to see more members than usual venture out to different events. If you usually attend the golf outings, how about inviting someone that normally would not attend? Or, how about golfing in a different foursome? During 2009, try attending educational events and giving MAGCS your feedback, good or bad. If you are a seasoned member, invite newer members to our organization. Try to introduce yourself to new members at events. Ask newer members to join your foursome at the next golf outing or even invite them to play golf at your establishment. Whether as seasoned superintendents or new superintendents, we can all learn from each other. We have a great organization, and we hope you will take the time to be more involved on any level. **-OC**