

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Sharon Riesenbeck, *Waupaca Sand & Solutions*



♪ Sentimental Journey ♪

In case you didn't know it, there is not an official song about San Diego. It came as a surprise to me since it is such a beautiful city. Great weather, great downtown, a lot of history, and from what I heard, a great place to have the GIS show.

My annual article usually summarizes the specifics of the Hospitality Suite, but I do not know how many beers, wines, or hard drinks were consumed at this year's event, and I'm not even sure if everyone found the place! This much I know: everyone that attended said it was one of the best venues. We can all thank Luke Cella for the location as he selected it and, as usual, did a great job. I am sad that I missed one of my favorite events of the year. You get to see EVERYBODY. You can talk all night if you want to!

I won't bore you with the details, but I got sick during the GIS. To make it interesting, it happened while I was walking to the Conference Center with my new boss, Jed Owen. I am so grateful that Jed and my co-worker, Ellen Davis, were both at my side when it hit as they escorted me back to my hotel room. That is where I stayed for the remainder of the week.

I made some phone calls to good colleagues who gladly covered the event in my absence. A big "THANK YOU!" to the following guys who stepped up to the plate: Scott Witte, Luke Cella, Mike Matchen, Rick Becker, Kevin DeRoo, Colin White, Tony Kalina, Bruce Schweiger, Mike Murphy, Erwin Mckone, John Gurke, Garry Anderson, Tim Snell, Joe Etten, and Joel Purpur's "Nick's" (that is - Marfise and Walters). I knew that the event was in good hands, and if I failed to mention someone, I certainly apologize.

So back to the song that I want to dedicate to San Diego:
Sentimental Journey*

*♪ "Gonna take a Sentimental Journey,
Gonna set my heart at ease. Gonna make a
Sentimental Journey to renew old memories.
...Never thought my heart could be so
yearny. I've Gotta take that Sentimental
Journey" ♪*

As many of you know, it is time for me to relinquish my position as the MAGCS Commercial Advisor. But I will not disappear. I am going to concentrate my volunteer efforts, which my company-Waupaca Sand-wholeheartedly supports, on philanthropic organizations such as the Wee One Foundation; we want to be there for you.

I have absolutely loved my experience serving the Association. Everyone should try it once! The camaraderie is contagious. Maybe I am naïve, but I am fascinated with you "GOLF GUYS." Keep in mind, I have only worked in "male dominated" industries:

- Farming
- Greek Restaurants
- Railroads
- Golf

Each one of these industries had its own challenges and its own "network." I really thought "railroaders" were the tightest bunch of guys. They encompass very similar ideals to the golf course industry: quality product, quality service, and helping out your "brothers" when they call. This is so true for golf and I am so impressed with all you have to do and all you have to know!

*♪ "Got my bags, got my reservations...
Like a child in wild anticipation, I long
to hear that, 'All Aboard!' ...Never
thought my heart could be so yearny.
Gotta take that Sentimental Journey,
Sentimental Journey home." ♪*

With a tear in my eye, I just want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Board Members that I have worked with over the years. Thank you for letting me be a small part of your journey. -OC

**Sentimental Journey, published in 1944, was written by Les Brown and Ben Homer, lyrics by Bud Green.*