

Congratulations to **Matt Senatra**, former superintendent at Sydney Marovitz and Robert A. Black Golf Courses who is now the golf course superintendent at Orchard Valley Golf Course.

Also congratulations to **Reinders, Inc.** of Milwaukee, WI on receiving the Toro Company's award for outstanding customer service and performance in the commercial equipment market for 2009. Jerry Kienast, Service Director at Reinders accepted the Equipment Service Achievement Award for his accomplishments. The award, which is given to a service manager who has exhibited exemplary progress in completion of Toro's "Distributor Partners in Excellence" program which entails the distributor utilizing best business practices that produce positive results relating to customer satisfaction and service profitability.



L to R: *Christiaan Engstrom of Toro, Jerry Kienast of Reinders, and Jack Hensley of Toro*

MAGCS has lost one of its legends with the passing of **John Stephenson, CGCS** on January 14th. John was a 35+ year member of this association who continued as a Life Member up to the day he died in his hometown of Quincy, Illinois. John's caregiver had this statement: "He fought a long, hard battle, but in the end his lungs just couldn't keep up. As you all know, he was a great man and will be sadly missed by all of us. We all lost a very good friend, but as we know, he is in a much better place (probably on hole 19, celebrating this great golf game called LIFE)." **Eddie Braunsky** shared his memories of John, recalling his penchant for wearing his breakfast (and possibly lunch and dinner) on his shirt now and again, while also pointing out how much John loved attending MAGCS meetings and gathering with friends. John wasn't quite as fond of the education portions of those meetings, as evidenced by the occasional snore heard when the lights dimmed and the overhead projector fired up (and also by the cigarette burns in his pants from nodding off while enjoying a smoky treat). Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of John Stephenson.



*John Stephenson*

Boy, the worst part of this job is reporting the loss of a friend. I write this having just attended the funeral of **Gary Galecki**, the longtime superintendent at Ridge Country Club who had fought a bout with lung cancer. I've known Gary since our days working together at Butler National some 30 years ago, and above all else, he was just too damned young to be taken. Gary leaves behind his wife Grace and his children Josh and Jenna—both of whom spoke to the large congregation, Josh to share some fond and poignant memories of his dad, and Jenna to recite the General Intercessions with poise and grace—along with his extended family and countless friends. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to them.



*Gary Galecki*

*Family and friends...*

*Many words may be used in many formats to describe Gary... Always and ever we shall think of these: friend, colleague, solid, quality, compassionate, caring, generous, thoughtful, erudite, positive, bright, strong and a complete example of a fine man. A guy's kind of a guy. He would ever give willingly of himself to his golf course and his friends... always though, there was much much more for his treasured family... Our heartfelt condolences are extended to you all... condolences for the finest "keeper of the green". Deep Peace Friend.... God Bless You.*

*~ A.T. Fierst, The Oak Park Country Club, Illinois*

Don't forget this month's rendition of the Annual Class C Winter Workshop, which will be held on the 24th at Midwest Golf House in Lemont. The topics covered will be "Interviewing Do's and Don'ts" with **Luke Cella** heading up this interactive session, followed by "Landing the Position" featuring a panel discussion with four of MAGCS' newest superintendents—**Jim Canning** (White Eagle Golf Club), **Michael Heustis** (Chicago Highlands Club), **Kyle Jacobsen** (Twin Orchard Country Club), and **Scott Vincent** (Onwentsia Club). This educational opportunity is open to all MAGCS members, so head on over to Lemont for a full day of enlightenment, and at the bargain price of \$25.

Huge thanks go out to the generous **Golden Tee Sponsors** (as of printing) of this year's Hospitality Reception, held on February 10th at the Hotel Solamar in San Diego. The Ryder Cup Club includes: **Arthur Clesen Inc., BASF, Bayer Environmental Science, Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc., and Syngenta Turf & Ornamental.** Hole In One Club members are: **J.W. Turf, Inc., and Lohmann Companies.**