



This is YOUR Committee, Take Advantage of it!

As I type this, we are in the midst of the first big snow storm of 2010, wind chills of -50° have hit the northern areas of North Dakota and a foot or more of snow has fallen in areas of the Midwest. It is days like this when I realize why everyone asks me "... so what do you do in the winter?" For those of us fortunate enough not to have to sit in a plow truck, it is days like this when we have time to think about how we can take advantage of the off season. For the Class C Committee it means planning events for the year and thinking about the best course of action for the Annual Winter Workshop. Many of you reading this are in a position similar to mine. We have been around since 2003 and the first Class C Workshop. In the years that we have attended we have had many people speak to us about our career development. We have been told of ways to guarantee an interview, sure fire interview techniques, trends in hiring, portfolios, web sites, the weather, the number of pages on GCSAA.org, and numerous other items. Given that I have already experienced all those things, it's difficult for me to think of a new way to approach this year's Winter Workshop. Thankfully the committee is made up of a great group of professionals with new and fresh ideas.

The committee decided that staying on the career development track was the best way to go. But how do we make it different and still relevant? It has to be something different for us veteran assistants, but still helpful to the new folks as well. So this year the morning session will focus on interviewing, but with a different spin. We discovered that our own Luke Cella has taught a class on interviewing and some of the dos and don'ts that go along with that. We decided that Luke should conduct mock interviews of one or more

people who will be hand picked and videotaped ahead of time. We will watch the interview(s), have an opportunity to dissect them, and learn a few things that we may not otherwise have realized about the process. The second half of the morning will feature a panel of superintendents who have taken the step up from assistant in the past couple of years. We'll see if they can shine a light into just how you go about standing apart in a group of 10, 25, 100, even 300+ applicants to finally secure that first job and become an SM member.


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On a different slant, we are going to make the afternoon a bit more relaxed, loosen up the tie, lose the jacket and get into some small groups. Each group will be led by a member of the Class C Committee. We will have a prepared list of issues and questions to discuss. After some time has been spent in small groups, we will reassemble and discuss the results. What we are hoping to gain from this, ultimately, is a sense of what you want from your Class C Committee. Are there things that we should be doing that aren't happening? Are there things that are happening that shouldn't be? This is your Committee and your Association. Tell us what you want from it. The whole point of the afternoon is to relax, open the communication, and figure out just what the best direction is for the Class C of MAGCS in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say that this is the last action that I will be taking as the Class C Committee Chairman. A few weeks ago I accepted my first Superintendent position at Kenosha Country Club. Until then, being a part of this Committee and working with the Board of Directors of MAGCS was the highlight of my short career. Working with the people on the BOD, all of whom are willing to help and offer advice, has been a true blessing. I first have to thank Past President Dave Braasch who asked me to fill the position in 2008. Next, it was Tony Kalina and, now, Scott Witte. It was my pleasure to work with all of you. I appreciate all that you have done to help me and the Class C succeed. I thank Harry Lovero and Bob Kohlstedt who have allowed the Class C to

be involved in writing for *On Course*. This is a great experience for anyone. I thank all the other Committee Chairs who have continued to ask the Assistant members to help out on their committees as well. Luke Cella has answered more emails from me in the past two years than probably anyone else in my address book and has been a great guide during this process. And finally thank you to John Nelson who for the past four years has been my boss at the Merit Club. He allowed me the time to be active in MAGCS. Many superintendents could learn from that example, and I hope that I am as willing with my own assistants in the future.

Again, thank you to all of MAGCS, for what you have allowed me and all of Class C to be a part of. We are truly fortunate. I look forward to working with all of you again in a few years if asked to become a part of the organization as a Superintendent. **-OC**

EDITOR NOTE: The MAGCS Board of Directors and Membership thank Scott for his service to the Association and offer him our sincere congratulations. We hope to see him serving in a few short years.



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