



## Nothing Gets Past the Past Presidents

*The Past Presidents Council (PPC) of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS) met at 10:00 am on Tuesday March 7th at the Geneva Golf Club. The following Past Presidents were in attendance: Al Fierst, Bob Maibusch, CGCSMG Scott Witte, CGCS Don Ferreri, Kevin DeRoo, Luke Strojny, CGCS Joel Purpur, CGCS Gary Hearn, Tim Anderson, CGCS MG Tony Kalina, Ed Fischer, CGCS Mike Bavier, CGCS and Carl Hopphan. Current President Dan Sterr, board member Chuck Barber and Executive Director Luke Cella, CGCS were also in attendance.*

This year as in the past, the PPC was given the opportunity to suggest any new ideas or changes that would help the MAGCS grow. The PPC feels that current Board of Directors and staff are doing a great job. The following is a brief breakdown of the meeting and the comments that were made.

At the meeting, all of the Past Presidents were given copies of the following: The MAGCS financial reports, 2010 Charitable Contributions, 2011 Midwest Core Company Sponsors, Honorary Member List and the position statement concerning the code of ethics of the MAGCS.

Here is a brief highlight of the items that were discussed:

- The MAGCS continues to remain solvent, like most controlling expenses and watching what it spends. Changing printers for the magazine has contributed to the cost savings this past year and continues to do so now.
- MAGCS is creating an ad hoc committee to oversee its yearly charitable and research contributions. Each year the MAGCS donates to the ITF, the CDGA, IJGA, EIFG and other organizations to further the development and enhance the game of golf. This committee will take a look at the funds given and seek recognition on behalf of the members of the MAGCS when appropriate.
- The new MAGCS Core Sponsorship program was highlighted and shared with the group. This program was created from feedback from our Partnership Task Group and has been received well by the 15 participating companies in 2011.
- The bylaws will be gone over this year and some proposed changes may be put in front of the membership this fall. The two largest proposed changes include reducing the number of Board of Directors from seven to six and lessening the current requirement that a prospective board member must be a golf course superintendent for three years prior to being elected to serve. The bylaws were last updated in 2008. President Sterr will oversee the bylaw committee and any proposed changes.

- The Hospitality Reception was reviewed and the survey results were discussed. Those in attendance enjoyed being "offsite" and would like to see this continue if possible in Las Vegas. While many volunteered to scout a location for 2012, the group felt it a necessary step to make sure the venue is adequate for our group and expectations.
- Our code of ethics is not a legal binding document for any member, however they are a moral code, something this profession has, unlike many others. Last year, the Board of Directors retained the services of a labor attorney to draft a position statement that basically states, from a legal perspective, the Association would place itself at risk and open itself to suit, if it pursued any member that crossed the boundaries of our code of ethics. The document was shared with those in attendance and the Council felt it is still important to keep our code of ethics in front of our membership to remind them of the courtesy and standards of the profession.
- Each year, the past winners of the Charles Bartlett Award are encouraged to meet and select a winner. The award was last won by Dan Dinelli, CGCS in 2008 for promoting the profession and the game of golf and the selection committee promises to meet.
- The MAGCS Past Presidents will purchase a brick at the Midwest Golf House to honor all the members of the Midwest to benefit the Sunshine Through Golf Foundation.

The information that was given to the PPC was outstanding. Overall, the Board of Directors and staff are doing an outstanding job and the PPC thanks them for allowing the Council this forum. The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is and will continue to be one of the finest Associations in the country. Here's to continued success in 2011.

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