

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Ed Braunsky, CGCS, Geneva Golf Club

The Future is Built on our Past



MAGCS recently conducted its annual Past Presidents' Meeting and it got me thinking...as most of you know by now this fine association recently turned 85! The golf course superintendents in this area of the country have been very blessed to have one of the premier superintendent associations in the land! A great debt of gratitude is owed to the many who have gone before us.

I thought I would relive a little more than 30 years of my own memories of the MAGCS.

Monthly Meetings

I often heard stories about the meetings going until the wee hours of the morning. Many times guys would not get home until well past midnight, stopping off for breakfast just to be sure not to get home "too early". Maybe that's why the tales of guys ending up in Iowa (Carl) may not have been that far-fetched!

John Stephenson would accompany Albie (Albie Staudt 45 years at Geneva Golf Club) and I to meetings. John had this great knack of falling a sleep during the education part of the meeting (turned out John was diabetic and never knew till later in life). You could also tell the menu for the day due to the fact that it would be on John's shirt! I miss you John. Speaking of Albie, who can forget "Mr. President I'd like to make a motion we dispense with the minutes of the previous meeting".

Long-time guy Bill Kraft always wore a shirt and tie to every meeting. He wore it even while on the links. Ray Gerber is still walking to the front of the room somewhere trying to take a picture! Greatest line at a monthly meeting...while putting on a par three at Mt. Prospect, Lynn Wesson yells out to a chatty Kathy named Wally Fuchs, "Hey Wally is my putting bothering your talking". I still have Toro tees if anyone needs some.

Hospitality, Parties and More

Christmas Parties at Turf Products...I still smell like that warehouse (SP and fresh floor paint). Every year Adolph Bertucci would have his Christmas bash at Lakeshore. We would make the drive in from Mayberry (Geneva), have a few drinks, some chow, and then head back home. I never saw so many coats piled up on tables in Adolph's old shop along with several police and firemen and VIPs from around the hood. Open houses at Illinois Lawn...always had great seafood!

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The Birth of the Hospitality Room

Back in the day Albie and Bob Breen and Art Clesen would haul booze up to the a couple of adjoining rooms in suitcases. Then the boys would babysit later in the evening for the likes of Bavier and Fischer.

Miscellaneous

The Association's Telephone & Telegraph operator was Pete Vandercook at Illinois Lawn. Pete knew the buzz of the association. If someone was sick or had passed on, Pete knew and made sure that those who needed to know did. I remember having Chris Johnson come out to demonstrate a Jake greensmower. He confidently unloaded the machine and proceeded to head out to our practice green. This hotshot started mowing but there was one problem. He forgot to remove the transport wheels! I couldn't run to the phone quick enough to call Pete. It was all over Chicagoland in a matter of minutes. Now they call that Facebook.

Ken Zanzig's poems.

Bruce Williams' President's picture in the Bullsheet back in 1981: He looked like an adult film star.

Julie Albaugh calling the stimpmeter a "rectal thermometer".

It's all in a Name

Dave "Legs" Louttit, Wayne "Kinky" Trometer, Johnny Lebs, Jerry Crist, Frank Krueger, Ben Kronn, Jim Latham, Howard Baerwald, Warren Bidwell, Jerry Adank, Jackie Butler, Ed Wollenberg, Cecil Kerr, Dr. Daniel, Herb Graffis, Roscoe Randall, John Ebel.

Past Executive Secretaries: Penny Meyer, Joan Minnis, George Minnis.

I know I missed a lot of names and memories but hopefully you will get a chuckle or a smile out of some of the things I listed.

Here are a few more names: Dave Braasch, Scott Witte, Joel Purpur, Brain Bossert, Tony Kalina, Tim Anderson, Luke Strojny, Fred Behnke, Don Ferreri, Mike Bavier, Phil Zienert, Dan Sterr, Ed Fischer, Bob Maibusch, Kevin DeRoo, Ed Braunsky, Luke Cella, and Bob Kohlstedt. All of the above participated at the Past Presidents Council meeting held at the Geneva Golf Club.

The theme of the meeting was the present state of the MAGCS. It is still outstanding shape thanks to these men and those that came before them. -OC

"April Showers"

Looking for those April Showers?

That magically bless Us with springtime flowers.

The Green Grass is already setting the stage,

For the Floral extravaganza to become the rage .

Every year the Golf Course, in great display,

Helps Nature with Its Springtime Bouquet.

A treat for the nose, a feast for the eyes,

Nature's Yearly Springtime Surprise.

- Kenneth R. Zanzig

