

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN
Luke Cella, *Publisher*



Making an Impact in This Season

There is something to be said about being solid and secure, especially since human nature and the world are always changing. This growing season has been a challenge and continues to test each and every Midwest member. Whether this is your first season at a club, or your 20th something year at a course, the trials continue.

Most were happy for the March we experienced, getting a jump-start on wrapping up projects from the fall, and welcoming golf in short sleeves for the entire spring. With this fortuitous beginning, however, there lurked in the back of everyone's mind a question of the kind of summer it would produce. I just thought everyone would be tired come July, only because the amount of work (warm days and lack of rain outs) that took place in spring – I didn't think we'd see the tired out there now: The tired caused by lack of rain. The tired caused by holding hoses at all hours of the day. The tired caused by excessive heat. The tired caused by irrigation pumps, controllers, heads and water sources. The tired caused by the long range forecast. The tired caused by hoping a spray will last another day or two until you can get out there again. The tired caused by caring for the turf, like only you do on your property. The tired caused by the inability to sleep past sunrise. The tired caused by turf conditions that worsen instead of mend. The tired caused by seeing only the sick turf on 3000 square feet rather than all the healthy turf on the rest of the 120 acres. The tired caused by being too tired for anything enjoyable other than sleep.

Here's the thing, though. You can still be counted upon. You still show up for work everyday, often the first one there and the last one to leave. You create schedules for your crew, utilizing this resource in the best way possible. You give your staff days off and keep morale high by praising the work they do each day. You tweak your irrigation program conserving every last drop of water. You plan each day around the weather, scheduling tasks and programs. You calculate the best way to fertilize and feed the turf. You happily talk with members and golfers about their own lawns and give them sound advice. You tour the course each day to see what needs to be done, what needs to be improved, what can be done better.

Most could not do what you do, mentally, physically, or even emotionally. There are still a few weeks to go until that date in mid-August. That date that you look forward to each season where the days are noticeably shorter, the shadows a bit longer and pockets of cool air more common across your face on your morning tour. You are still at it, still caring, still trying to improve, still offering a place for respite and relaxation where others may forget about the things that drag them down. That is solid. That is impactful. **-OC**

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