



Past Presidents Meet Again

The Past Presidents Council (PPC) of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents met on February 26 at the Geneva Golf Club.

The meeting was attended by the following Past Presidents: Pete Leuzinger, CGCS Retired, Bob Kohlstedt, Gary Hearn, Scott Witte CGCS, Don Ferreri, Kevin DeRoo, Luke Strojny, CGCS, Joel Purpur, CGCS, Tony Kalina and Al Fierst. Members present from the current Board included: Chuck Barber, Justin VanLanduit, Jim Pedersen, current President Dave Kohely and Luke Cella.

This year, as in the past, the PPC was given the opportunity to suggest any ideas or changes that would help MAGCS improve and grow. From the outcome of the meeting, it was apparent the PPC felt the current board and staff are doing a great job of keeping the Midwest at the forefront of the profession.

Different facets of the Association are discussed including the financials, membership, membership classifications, charitable contributions, monthly meetings, education, On Course and the GCSAA. The association has been able to control costs and expenses the last few years through careful management. The board of directors hinted a dues increase in 2015 may occur if projections prove one is needed to continue membership benefits on par with rising costs.

Since its inception, several companies have embraced the Core sponsorship program. It continues to be a viable program for many. It has allowed companies flexibility in payment for association services, advertising and support throughout the year. After another successful Hospitality Reception in Orlando, plans are being made to find a site in San Antonio. Early research shows, the Midwest should not have trouble finding a venue for our size group.

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Whenever there are many different superintendent job openings in the area, the Midwest scrutinizes their employment referral program to help advertise members of the Midwest as viable candidates. The Midwest only offers clubs and companies a way to advertise open positions (through an online post) and will continue to offer this service in the future. A short letter has been developed by the Employment Committee to offer this service to clubs and courses in the area and will only be sent when it is confirmed that a facility is in the process of searching for a superintendent.


The Midwest is going to take a year off from hosting the Family Night Picnic at the Kane County Cougar Baseball game this summer. The Association was one of the Cougars longest running returning groups, however the board has decided to try something new. They are developing a family event at the Midwest Golf House for families, the date is to be determined. Plans for the event include different games for our children in a relaxed atmosphere on the Sunshine Course. This sounds like fun and something that could turn into a new tradition. Last year, the Midwest hosted a new event, the 12 hole event at St. Charles Country Club. The board hopes to continue this event in the coming year and they've been talking to a few 9 hole course superintendents to find a spot.

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In 2013, the GCSAA extended the Affiliation Agreement for another year. This agreement covers the relationship between the chapters and GCSAA and defines roles and responsibilities among other things. It has not been reviewed for quite a while and Luke Cella has stepped up to help represent the local chapters on a small task force that is supposed to oversee the reworking of the document. The document oversees items as conformity of bylaws (need to be consistent with each other), Membership classifications and definitions of such, (remember changing from Class B to SM? This is why.), Annual Chapter Delegate Meeting, Annual reporting of association activities, GCSAA voting, and more. The document needs to be revised to more accurately represent the local chapters and national association.

Pete Leuzinger was in attendance prior to teaching at Kishwaukee College that afternoon. He led a discussion that centered on the future of Horticulture, a field of study that has contracted not only at Kishwaukee but across the country at an eye brow raising pace. Programs struggle with attracting students and the group has felt this in the employment market for interns, second and first assistants. Working outside and with nature is not as desirable and attractive as it used to be – at least until marijuana sales are legal in all 50 – that may produce an uptick in the study of plants.

The only old business, as I previously insinuated were the people in the room. The information that was provided to the PPC was outstanding and the group expressed its gratitude to the current board present. The PPC values the opportunity to openly discuss the past, the present and future as those who still take the time each spring to express their points of view on an Association they hold dearly in their hearts. @



Points for a Purpose

The Wee One Foundation is asking golf course superintendents nationwide to donate a portion of their Early Order Program points to the Wee One Foundation through participating turf care supply companies. All donated points will be matched as a cash donation from the participating organizations. Donations will help ease the financial burden associated with medical expenses for golf course management professionals and their dependents.

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For a complete list of participating companies, visit weeone.org

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Wee One Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. A tribute to Wayne Otto, CGCS.

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