

Local Heroes

Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and *Golfdom* are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these "local heroes."



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SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & OPINIONS

Steve Kealy

**Certified Superintendent, Glendale Country Club, Bellevue, Wash.
Long-time work on environmental issues**

"You could write volumes about what Steve Kealy has done for the golf industry," says Todd Lupkes of Gig Harbor Golf Course, president of the Western Washington GCSA (WWGCSA). "He is a power player in the Northwest. Environmental pressures are strong in this region. He is knowledgeable and articulate, and people listen when he speaks. State legislative bills have even been changed after he has testified."



While he is the past president of the WWGCSA, Kealy currently chairs the chapter's Environmental Committee, serves as vice president of both the Northwest Turfgrass Association and the Washington Friends of Farms and Forests, and chairs the Horticulture Advisory Committee for the Bellevue School District's Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Lupkes points out that Kealy spearheaded efforts that brought together the WWGCSA, Washington State Golf Association, Western Washington Section of the PGA of America and the Evergreen Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America to hire an advocate for golf at the state legislature.

David Webner

**Westwood Country Club, Rocky River, Ohio
Former president of Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Northern Ohio GCSA**

"Looks like 'Here we go again,'" David Webner says, relating a phone call he had taken requesting that he assist in the newest venture of The Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI): the Commercial Turf Equipment Industry Advisory Committee. ATI will teach people to be golf courses mechanics, and it's been three years since Webner stepped down as president of the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation (OTF), so he is taking the plunge back into volunteer work — again.



"I would greatly encourage anybody to get involved (volunteering)," says the 1981 graduate of Penn State University's two-year turfgrass management program. "Even if it's on a committee that meets twice a year for a couple hours. You will learn a lot and meet a lot of good people."

Beginning in 1987, Webner served on various committees of the Northern Ohio GCSA and then worked his way through the offices, serving as president in 1994. At the same time, he was volunteering on OTF committees, culminating with his run through the offices and his presidency in 1999.

DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?

Send us a note at pjones@advanstar.com and we may feature your hero in an upcoming tribute.

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