



# Thanks for the Opportunity

By Rod Johnson



Where have the past two years gone? It seems like only yesterday that I nervously stood in front of this group thanking you for the opportunity to serve as President of this organization. The task at hand seemed very clear and I was anxious to tackle the challenge.

In writing my final message to you, I thought it would be appropriate to return to the January/February 1990 issue of this journal to gauge my thoughts about WGCSA; then versus now; to compare what I envisioned then, as to what happened; to examine my goals for WGCSA - versus the results.

Two years ago, I stated my goal to see the successful completion of the fundraising drive and the construction of the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research. The Noer Center, once thought an unattainable goal, has been constructed and has a full-time manager. Next year promises the establishment of plot work and the first of many meaningful research projects.

The 25th Anniversary Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium proved to be a special event and a stepping stone towards the future of the event. I hope to remain an active part of the Symposium Commit-

tee. The evaluations made by attendees will be used to make the small changes to enhance membership participation and benefit.

Two years ago, many of my thoughts dealt with our relationship with other groups. I was somewhat critical and concerned by the perception of an identity crisis between ourselves and WTA, O.J. Noer Foundation, and the O.J. Noer Center. As WGCSA members, we should be proud of the leadership role we have in WTA and the O.J. Noer Foundation and be further proud of our major contribution towards the construction of the O.J. Noer Center. The common goals of WTA and WGCSA continue to be of the utmost importance.

We continue to be appropriately involved with other groups in the Wisconsin golf industry. We have seen numerous examples of our profession receiving credit due for its role in golf. As our professionalism and the recognition of our role increases, so will our involvement with these other groups.

I stand firm on my opinion that for many WGCSA is a social organization. This is NOT a negative. Our profession

and ultimately our employers profit from the camaraderie and the idea exchange that our organization affords.

I offer this analysis, not as a personal report card of time served, but as a reference to where WGCSA is today—versus two years ago. As previously stated, the role of President is not to subject the membership to personal preferences and opinions, but rather to listen to the opinions of others and then make them the basis of decisions.

I am indebted to many not just for their help during my term as president of WGCSA, but for their roles in my professional development. Avoiding the risk of offending by omission, I offer my wholehearted thanks.

I thank the board of directors and the membership of Pine Hills for their support and encouragement of my involvement.

There is a tremendous amount of talent within this organization. I encourage and I challenge all of you to become involved. The rewards far outweigh the efforts.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity.

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