



A FOND FAREWELL

By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Superintendent, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

It is hard to believe that it has been two years and 12 president's messages already. It is strange how the days and weeks can go slowly but the months and years fly by. Ten years ago I joined the WGCSA Board of Directors and I have enjoyed the opportunity. I appreciate in the past few years the number of members who have approached me willing to volunteer. If we have not called you yet, don't worry; we will.



With every president I have served, the WGCSA has gotten better. New ideas and better methods have streamlined what we do for the members. It is unfortunate that as a volunteer group there is always more to do, but that is the nature of association work. I am sure Marc Davison and the current and new board members will continue that improvement.

The two things I have come to appreciate the most as a board member are 1.) The Grass Roots and 2.) the relationship we have with the Wisconsin State Golf Association. Monroe Miller, along with his wife Cheryl, have given of themselves for 20 years to produce one of the best association publications in the country. The Grass Roots provides us with not only information but an education, all the while documenting our association history. Monroe has won awards every year from GCSAA for the best publication by a volunteer (read unpaid) editor. Thanks Monroe, those awards are well deserved.

For those of you who do not know, the WSGA has helped the WGCSA for many years with mailings and deposits. This relationship started with Jim Belfield and Gene Haas and has allowed the association to be more professional while allowing the board to concentrate on other items. Marilyn Gaffney does our mailings and keeps our mailing list up to date. She is also the first contact many persons have with the WGCSA. Diane Haas takes care of our deposits and tracks down billings and payments. Executive Director Tom Schmidt, like Gene before him, is always willing to help us out when possible.

What will I do with my free time? I have come to realize that my family time is running out. Kayla is 12 and Andy is going on 10 so I only have 8 years before both are out of the house and off to college. It is scary to think about how fast life is going by and that means I must be getting old. My goal is to spend as much time

as I can with them, trying to lead by example how to live a good Christian life. As things go I will hope to learn as much from them as they do from me.

I am also involved in my second year as School Board President of the Catholic Grade School the kids attend. That responsibility will take as much time as I allow it, as things are not going that well with a tight economy and declining enrollment. Small town parishes are rapidly feeling the effects of a Priest shortage, coupled with the many parishioners who are "holiday members" who only go to services at Easter and Christmas or for Baptisms,

Weddings and First Communions. Although I wish we did not have the challenge, I welcome the opportunity to help provide a parochial school for future generations.

That's about it. I hope your personal and professional goals were met this year and you will be able to reflect positively as you prepare for next year. If things are not going your way in these tough economic times, do the best you can, pray for better times and keep a positive attitude for your family. Take care and enjoy what you have. ♣

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