



BENEFICIAL OBLIGATIONS

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



Do you think about your obligations, or do you just do the right things in life? We have obligations to ourselves to eat, exercise and rest so we stay healthy. We have obligations to our family to provide food, shelter and love. We have obligations to our employers to do all we can with what they give us in property, people and products. We also have obligations to our

church and community. Although I am obligated to do all these things I also do them because I want to, as I am sure most people do. If you only provide for your family because you're obligated, you should not have a family. The same at work, if you do not like your job you should find a new job or career.

What about the turf industry? What obligations do we have to support the WGCSA, GCSAA and our fellow superintendents? I and many WGCSA members before and after me take this obligation and volunteer to serve as a board member. We volunteer because we want to make the association better and to serve the industry as a whole. Most members are not going to be involved on the board but they still have obligations to participate.

Why do I bring this all up? To be honest I am a little concerned over the lack of participation at some of our industry events. Paying dues to WGCSA supports our industry because any extra revenue we have we turn into research funding. But it takes more than just dues to support the association. Some of our members attend just about every meeting and that is great although not expected of everyone. Some of our members have never been seen and that is unfortunate.

I know we are all busy and come from a variety of situations and some of our members pay their own dues and meeting fees. My opinion is we are in a unique industry where peer interaction is the best education we can have. I have taken a lesson or idea home to Rolling Meadows from every meeting I have attended.

It is a shame when we have a monthly meeting and the superintendents from the local area cannot even come for lunch. The clubs that host monthly meetings give up tee times for us and often the host superintendent and his staff put in extra work to ready the course for our group. Our speakers spend time

preparing their material to teach us the latest in information. You don't have to attend meetings because you're obligated, but you should attend because it is enjoyable, educational and it supports the industry that supports you.

Coming up this fall we have some great events for you to enjoy. Golf and education events are scheduled at Nakoma CC on Sept 22 and Racine CC on October 14. A weekend away with your spouse October 3 & 4 as the dinner dance visits Greenwood Hills CC. The best in education will be provided November 18-19 at the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium and then again at the revamped Wisconsin Turfgrass and Greenscape EXPO January 5 - 7.

With all that to choose from there is something for everyone. Hope to see you there. ♣

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