



# So.... Why not you?

By **Mike Lyons**, Golf Course Superintendent, Old Hickory Country Club

Like many past presidents of our Association, I feel the need to pose the same question they asked.

"How and/or why we don't have more member involvement? Or possibly, how do we get you to be more involved?"

I will briefly explain how I got involved with our association and why. Many years ago, Mike Semler and Mark Kienert asked me if I would be interested in serving on the board of directors. I was only in my second year at Old Hickory and was, to say the least, still a little green. But the opportunity was there and I knew in time I would be able to contribute and have the opportunity to meet many of you.

The facility I work for is a low to midrange facility, and fortunately they wanted and supported me in choosing to serve our association. However, financially, they do not support me to any great extent. For example, I am not able to attend the GCSAA convention every year. It began as an every other year opportunity, but that slowly became difficult to continue. I have been fortunate to attend four national conventions in my ten years at Old Hickory. Well, that is basically how and why I became involved.

So.... why not you? I have heard that there is a clique and it is difficult to meet and approach various members. Well, maybe to some extent that may be true. But I do know this; the easiest way to meet members is to get involved with the board of directors. During my two years as Golf and Arrangement chair I met more members than I have my whole time on the board. My biggest problem is remembering names. I am terrible at it. I am pretty good with faces but am not so good with names.



I even get my own kids names mixed up. So, please forgive me if I don't remember your name. I will always be that way. It is like some of you know—I will never be good with the putter; two footers are a killer.

Back to my point - another great way to meet other members is to attend our monthly meetings. I am very aware that attending them all is

difficult to do financially and also is a significant time commitment. However, if a meeting is in your area there should be no reason not to attend. Not playing golf is not a reason. Stay for the luncheon or educational session if one is scheduled. Many times a simple "hi" and "how are you" will lead into a great discussion. There are many experienced superintendents always willing to help. If you ask a question and listen, they will help. In most cases, your problem or situation might be similar to one they are having. All you need to do is ask and listen.

Well that is my two cents worth. I truly hope many more of you will take the opportunity and attend more meetings. I promise you will learn something. Upcoming events to attend are: WTA field days, our tournament at Ozaukee Country Club, and the Wee One outing being held at Pine Hills Country Club. Take care. ♻️

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