



Our Unsung Heroine

By **Monroe S. Miller**, Golf Course Superintendent, Blackhawk Country Club

As I look back over my decades of involvement in the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association, few events measure up to the decision of the Wisconsin State Golf Association to welcome our chapter as a partner with them in administration.

The days of late meeting notices, outdated and inaccurate membership rolls, no directory, and a thousand other missed details were over. The change in our chapter was immediate and overwhelmingly favorable. Officers and directors of the period were relieved that we really could begin to move forward with the times.

Those of us filling elected positions during that period had no clue of just exactly how positive the change was to be. Gene Haas, as the executive director of the WSGA, provided the leadership required for a smooth transition and was genuinely excited about being part of our culture. He helped design the protocol we would follow and led the development of mission and goals of this new alliance. I honestly believe this event strengthen his already strong advocacy of our profession.

But the true value of our partnership wasn't actually realized until the implementation took

place. That is where our good fortune took hold and we started the 25-year partnership we have had with Diane Haas. How incredibly lucky we have been to have her in our corner all this time.

Diane is the gold standard when it comes to details. Ask past treasurers about her help with financial details – from bank deposits to balanced checkbooks. We always knew who was a member in good standing and who wasn't. The correspondence required for communication among members was always on time and thorough and correct. Job notices were standardized and complete. Mailing

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lists were accurate (much to the glee of the Grass Roots editor, among others).

And so it went with other responsibilities that were part of running a fairly large organization like the WGCSA. Diane did her work without fanfare or even calling attention to herself. It was about the superintendents of Wisconsin.

The real perspective on her competence comes when you recall that she was also involved in the administration of the WSGA. Many of us got to know her person-

ally through WSGA tournaments when she would be there as a team member who help run thousands of amateur tournaments.

And for a period of time in the early years of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, when she did the same work for that organization she was doing for the WGCSA. Many WTA officials will tell you no one ever recruited more new members than Diane Haas!

She is retired now and we are going to miss seeing her and talking to her. But she and Gene are still extremely busy doing all the things

they didn't have time for during their working years. They are healthy and happy and on the go.

This spring a few of us got together with Gene and Diane for lunch. We wanted the chance to thank her in person and give her a gift from all of her golf course superintendent friends in Wisconsin. I was happy to be there but sad thinking that a significant part of our history was ending.

We were fortunate to have her in our corner for a long time. She deserves all the great things a life in retirement can bring. 🌱



L-R: Gene Haas, David Brandenburg, Monroe Miller, Diane Haas, Brian Zimmerman, Jim Vanderwynen and Mike Lyons.

*Dear Friends:
 Well you guys really knocked
 my socks off.
 The lunch, flowers and cash,
 plus the fact you took
 time from your busy schedules
 to "honor" me - I was and
 still am overwhelmed by it
 all.
 I really appreciate everything
 you did and a great big
 "THANK You" to all. You
 guys are the greatest. Sincerely,
 Diane*