



# Assistant's Creating Opportunities

By **Kevin Knoblauch**, Assistant Superintendent, Milwaukee Country Club

In an industry that has become so competitive, Assistant Superintendents are finding it a lot harder to land that first Superintendent position. Most job postings draw over 100 resumés which often include experienced superintendents. How are Assistants supposed to compete with these individuals and convince a future employer to hire them, instead of a candidate that may have five to ten years of Head Superintendent experience?

Being fairly new in this industry I have motivated myself to become

active both locally and nationally. It wasn't long after the GIS in Orlando that I realized how important it was to become involved in the industry in order to be successful. Whether it is attending education seminars, events or serving on a committee, becoming active has helped me prepare to stand out amongst other candidates. This also has helped me build a strong network of professionals within the industry.

Over the past two years, I have had the chance to meet many individuals all over the country. Some of these people have become good

friends and have been a huge support in my efforts of trying to create an Assistants committee/organization in Wisconsin. Creating education seminars geared toward the interests of Assistants will help improve ourselves professionally and prepare us for a future in this growing business. This has led me to take action in our local chapter here in Wisconsin. With GCSAA chapters throughout the country creating events/committees for Assistant Superintendents, seeing their results has showed me how benefi-

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Milwaukee Country Club Putting Green and Clubhouse



Attendees network during a break.

cial it would be to bring that to my chapter. I then wrote a proposal to present to our chapters board of directors. The proposal included details such as a purpose, goals, benefits and events that would go along with the formation of a class C committee. Once the proposal was reviewed and discussed, the board members decided to provide funding for an inaugural event.

Working with the education committee of our chapter, we orga-

nized the Inaugural Assistants Education Seminar held at Milwaukee Country Club. The event was geared towards introducing my proposal submitted to the WGCSA board of directors along with other presentations from area professionals. The seminar was attended by 35 Assistants from private & public golf courses throughout Wisconsin. My presentation covering the purpose and goals of the class C proposal kicked

off the day. Potential benefits were laid out and hopefully Assistants were motivated to become involved in their profession. Our other presenters stressed the fact that it is up to the individual to become successful, know one else can do it for you. The full-day seminar provided a great opportunity to gain knowledge pertinent to the development of our careers as well as build a local network with peers.

The seminar also included presentations from John Ekstrom, Assistant Superintendent at Hinsdale Golf Club in the Chicago area who talked about the benefits that the Midwest chapter has created for Assistants and stressed the importance of becoming involved in your local and national associations. Colin Seaberg, Superintendent at Ozaukee Country Club in Mequon, talked about career development and what we can do as Assistants to better ourselves in order to be successful in the Turfgrass business. Patrick Sisk, CGCS at Milwaukee Country Club, gave a presentation on interviewing and resumé techniques needed when applying for a desired position. A short video can be seen on the event by going to [www.gcsaa.tv](http://www.gcsaa.tv) and searching Assistants.

Since the February seminar Assistants throughout the state have continued to network and discuss future activities. Looking to better ourselves, as well as our profession, we believe that creating opportunities will benefit everyone. This spring I have worked with a few others in the Milwaukee area in creating an Assistants website. The website launched May 15th and offers many benefits. This site can be visited at [www.wiassistantsupers.com](http://www.wiassistantsupers.com). If you are an Assistant that would like to become involved and added to the e-mail list contact me at [knoblau5@msu.edu](mailto:knoblau5@msu.edu) or 414-362-5290. 🌱