

to a large problem is intense and very satisfying. It is the giving, not the getting that truly fulfills.

Not that I have not been sheep before, or have sheep moments in my current life. Before I was married, my future wife and I had visited my grandmother in East Chicago, Indiana. If you have ever had the displeasure of spending time in this industrial hell-hole, you would quickly realize positivity is a scarce commodity. My grandmother, though possessing a big heart, had a sit down with my lady and informed her that I was for myself and not a very giving person. My wife married me anyway, but that conversation has always stuck with me to try and be a better person because if your grandmother thinks you are selfish, you probably are. Maybe not always, but there was definitely room for improvement.

Sometimes all the sheep need is an inspiration, or a swift kick in the rear like my grandmother afforded me. If you are searching for such an inspiration, check out the rap sheet on this year's DSA award winner, Paul Diegnau, CGCS.

As Eric Councilman, Superintendent, Somerby Golf Club delivered his introductory speech at the MGCSA awards banquet last week, I was somewhat taken aback by his accomplishments. Besides his service

to the MGCSA, Paul served and gave his valuable time to all kinds of government relations boards and committees, environmental groups and wildlife groups. He did all these things while putting in the hours as a superintendent, and raising a family. Paul is no sheep, and if you read Eric's story about Paul in the previous pages, I think you may come away inspired to serve in some capacity on some worthy cause.

Take a second to look around. There are so many opportunities to help out, and many of them are staring you right in the eye. Some of them are even in your comfort zone, but the ones outside of that zone are the ones with the most potential return.

The giving of your valuable time can be a very hard commitment to make, but the rewards are worth it. Whether it is a work association, charity, church, whatever, take the time to consider what a piece or your time would mean to that organization, and ultimately, yourself. As a superintendent you have already demonstrated an ability to lead and you, by the nature of your job, have to be versatile and level headed. This is just the kind of mind-set these organizations need.

Get involved.