

superintendents. Naturally, I felt like an outsider, although nobody in particular made me feel that way. One day I had a conversation with another area superintendent who was not a native, and he kind of convinced me that the MGCSA and the local native guys were fine, but very tight. He related that he never really felt comfortable or included, and kind of re-enforced a feeling I was getting. Our perception was that of the “good old boy” network in Minnesota, one that was tough to infiltrate.

Fast forward a dozen years later. After three unsuccessful attempts to serve on the MGCSA (One in which I was one of three candidates for three spots and still lost), I was finally elected. I quickly realized after a few meetings that the good old boy theory was just plain wrong. I found the executive branch was not from the area, and had zero feelings of not being included, wanted, or anything of the sort. My perception had failed me, and I felt like a complete idiot for ever thinking it.

After serving one year on the Board in 2012, the 2013 board features four new members, whom I got to know well last week at the MGCSA board retreat. One of the new guys stated that he had thought the board was a bunch of good old boys, and that after just a few hours of quality time with

everybody that perception was blown out of the water. Just like mine.

So the question is, how many of the MGCSA’s current members and even non-members feel like I did- that the MGCSA, or even a small get together of regional superintendents not in an MGCSA setting are exclusive and non-inviting. How did this perception become truth in my mind? It was simple- by not questioning the perception, and not trying to find the truth.

Wars have been waged, and millions have perished from the perception of a false reality. Always question your perception. In my case, the reality was that the MGCSA needs me, and others like me, to further the progressive endeavors of the association, and give substance and quality to every person involved in the MGCSA and golf course industry. My perception delayed the truth, as it did with the new board member.

Do not let false perception get in the way of finding truth in all you do. One needs to be perceptive in their endeavors, but take the time and effort to define the truth and avoid the double-edged sword.