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Benevolence Fund. It is important that you realize that this money comes exclusively from dues. And finally, we must have some source of revenue to depend on when we negotiate a contract with a management service and we very much want to do this without removing funding from any other service.

This is your association and the BOD is doing what it feels is best for the future of the MAAGCS. The BOD can't urge you strongly enough to call one of us with a question or concern, or to volunteer your time. I am sure accommodations will be made for you. These decisions were made by the BOD based on recommendations by committees that consist of board members, past presidents and members at large. Every effort is being made to change while keeping in mind your best interests. The BOD hopes it can depend on your financial support to get some of these changes implemented.

The GCSAA has launched a new column in its publication, Newsline, entitled "Members Mailbag." The purpose of the column is to provide a forum for members where they can ask questions and voice concerns over GCSAA programs and activities. From what I hear, the Board of Directors of the GCSAA is eager to respond to the membership. So far, however, there has been very little response. Your comments can be mailed or faxed (no phone calls please) directly to the GCSAA.

Last year the MAAGCS sponsored a hospitality suite at the GCSAA national conference and show. It was such a success that we are going to do it again this year in Dallas. The suite will be shared with the Metropolitan GCSA. It's a great place to meet up with your neighbors and talk about the educational program or where to go for dinner. By sharing the suite we can renew old acquaintances or make new friends with the great group of superintendents who make up the Metropolitan GCSA. Look for more information in the next few weeks.

For those who haven’t heard, Mark Merrick has resigned as Social and Benevolence Chairman of the MAAGCS. Anyone who has attended Ladies’ Night or who has worked with Mark knows that he has done an outstanding job for the association. Thanks for the service, and good luck in the future, Mark!