

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JAN. 1963

My first attempt at writing the president's message will undoubtedly lack the polish of Don Gerber's final inspirational composition, however, I have eleven more to go so maybe things will get better.

A good organization should refresh its goals from time to time and maybe have a few new stars to reach for. It's not difficult to have a galaxy of ideas but to reach one star may not be easy. Some stars to which your board of directors and myself pledge are as follows: 1. *Membership*. Members are still the most important part of any organization and more effort should be made to recruit more active Superintendents as members. The most disturbing thing we face is the fact that with 104 class A members we can manage to turn out only 50 or less at our meetings. Maybe too many of us think in terms of what the organization can do for me instead of what I can do for the organization. If our existence is to mean something more than just a part time, part interested membership we must all do more than pay our dues. There is room for all and all are needed to realize all the talent that is hidden among our members. 2. *Brotherhood*. This can be a very sticky subject but it can be the very difference between success and failure for us. We probably all feel we are friendly and considerate with the other fellow. But are we? Do we condemn and take sides without knowing all the facts about issues that come up from time to time. Differences of opinion will make us a good organization but how to settle them will decide how good. We should all speak our minds on occasion but let us do it without prejudice and with sincere motive, not just to see how much we can embarrass the other fellow. Brotherhood on a good honest competitive basis will help solve our inactive membership problem. 3. *The Bull Sheet*. The Bull Sheet has all the potential of being the finest publication of its kind in the country. We can be thankful for the Stupples, Rosts, and Woehrls who have kept this paper alive. There has been criticism from time to time about the contents of our paper and when help was asked for, it was not always forthcoming. I myself want to see the Bull Sheet become bigger and better with more pictures, more personals, etc. In other words let's make it a members' paper that will be eagerly

anticipated each month. But you must help by getting news items and material to the editor in time for publication. VIVE-LA Bull Sheet. 4 *Financial*. At our annual meeting the Sec.-Treas. produced a complete financial statement which showed The Midwest to be in sound condition. In fact so sound we might have a tax problem some time in the future. Money is only as good as the use to which it is put. Being the richest chapter in the country can't be very rewarding if we don't do something more beneficial or gratifying for the membership than collecting a large interest rate. Perhaps we could support a charity which could also give us some publicity for which we have been looking. Maybe a free fall clinic, or dues reduction. Your board of directors hopes each member will have some opinion on the aforementioned subjects. All ideas and suggestions properly submitted will receive full consideration. All the preceding accumulation of words simply means help the M.G.C.S.A. help you.

John Ebel
President

OPEN LETTER TO MIDWEST MEMBERS

As a retiring board member who has held positions as arrangements and golf chairman, the last two years, I feel I am qualified to express my views on a few points.

I will start off with some thoughts from my experience as arrangements chairman. It is my belief that there is nothing more commendable that a member can do, than to offer his club for a meeting. For without this important contribution, we couldn't play golf, relax, learn new thing and most of all have an association. This contribution takes time, effort and preparation. His rewards are those mentioned above, plus the fact that the membership, manager, and professional think enough of him to give their co-operation, so we may have the privilege of enjoying his club. Nevertheless there exists in every association a few members that are never satisfied, they never seem to be pleased, and are continually finding fault with everything, no matter what the effort. We have a few such critics in our association. And to them I offer this suggestion, quit griping, and enjoy yourselves.

Now for a few thoughts from my experience as golf chairman. It was decided this spring to raise the entry fee from one dollar to two dollars, so as to award better prizes. This enabled us to give the golfer, receiving ninth or tenth prize, a prize as good as the member receiving the number one prize. We never gave out fewer prizes than thirty-three percent of the total superintendents participating, and sometimes as high as fifty percent.

But again we have these chronic complainers who aren't satisfied with the quantity or the choice and they are usually the ones who complain about everything else.

I want to thank all the members who served on my committees. To those members who contributed their golf clubs, GENTLEMEN, I take my hat off to you, for we know the effort it takes. Finally I wish to sincerely thank all those members who appreciated my efforts the last two years, for I honestly tried to do my best.

Respectfully yours,
Paul N. Voykin.