

THE BULL SHEET, official publication of the
MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At last we got through 1977 and are into the 1978 year. At times it seemed as if 1977 would never run out of extremes to throw at us. Even with all this, if you total it all up, 1977 was a good year for golf as a whole. I know it was our best season here at Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, but then we are a new course. Each course should to some degree have had a successful season. Every year adds to our experiences on which to base our future decisions. The future offers many more new challenges in technology, personnel, and equipment. Because of this, our profession has always been made interesting and challenging.

The E.P.A., OSHA, and the new wage laws are but some of the subjects we have to ponder this year. With the many changes and a number to come up in the near future, this will put more strain on already tight budgets. The ever present increase in cost of materials and wages will bring forth a major question in everyone's mind and that will be "How efficiently can we make use of man-hours, chemicals, and fertilizers?". I hope that through our decisions to change types of equipment we do not sacrifice in quality only to save man-hours. One thing that must go hand in hand with this new equipment will be better trained and more knowledgeable employees to use it. On a good note, with all this new equipment and better trained employees the superintendent's job should be made easier.

The end of the golf season and the problem of reducing a staff is yet another big problem, especially now with our more highly trained staff. There should be workable solutions to continue their service from golf season to golf season and not lose the time and dollars we have put into training a qualified staff. I have gone through this problem for many years as a way of life, and I think it is about time this problem is changed. The dollars spent each year in training a new staff could be taken and possibly used to keep the staff already employed.

In looking to the future I hope to see all of you in San Antonio in February. There will be a "caucus" in our hospitality room at 12:00 noon, February 15, prior to the National Elections. Hope to see everyone there.

Joe Grenko

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