

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

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**President's Message**

As my term as President comes to a close, I would like to thank all the board members who worked hard in making 1985 a very good year for the MAGCS. Also I would like to thank the many members who helped on the various committees when they were asked. It takes the work not only of the board of directors, but the entire membership to make an organization strong. You are all to be commended for a job well done during 1985.

At the Aurora Country Club meeting, the membership voted to pay my expenses to attend the mid-year conference and show in Indianapolis. I have decided to write my final message on what I have seen and heard while in Indianapolis. If I offend anyone, I apologize. I tried to be as objective as I could in assessing the conference.

Upon my arrival in Indianapolis Saturday morning, I went over and registered. I then went into the exhibit area that was comparable to the NCTE in area. In one corner of the exhibit hall was an area that was cordoned off for various classes that were being held. I peeked into this area at three different times on Saturday only to find 15 to 20 people in attendance. As I made my way around the exhibit hall, I noticed very few people in attendance. My first reaction was not to panic because I thought Sunday would be a day for the largest attendance. I went back to my room Saturday night with one thought in mind. What will Sunday bring? Large attendance at the show? Good attendance in the classes? A lot of participation in the hands-on where numerous pieces of equipment were set up for you to operate if you so desired? I went to sleep with a very positive attitude and hoping for the best on Sunday.

Sunday brought a warm, sunny day to Indianapolis. I thought that if the attendance were to increase, it should be in the afternoon after the local superintendents finished their Sunday morning work. I got to the exhibit area at 9:00 a.m. when it opened. There I stood, me and eight other people waiting to get in. While I was touring the exhibit area for the second day, I noticed that all the badges, both Superintendent and commercial people, were alike. There was not a distinction made between any parts of our profession. This made it very tough on the exhibitors trying to distinguish between Superintendents and themselves. The attendance at the educational sessions on Sunday were terrible. Maybe 10-15 people in the classes.

During my day Sunday, I had a chance to talk to many exhibitors not about their particular product, but what they thought of the conference and show. I believe that in **all** cases, the feeling was that if this mid-year conference were held again, they would not participate. These commercial people pay a lot of money for this exhibit space plus the room and board for those people attending the booth or exhibit area.

In summary, I would like to see a profit and loss statement come from the GCSAA on this particular conference. I do not know the total people who registered, but I would guess between 200 to 300. The golf day which was held on Tuesday had 55 people entered and included staff people. The GCSAA should take a long look at the mid-year conference and assess the pros and cons before trying to hold a second one. The conference was very poorly attended, the educational sessions were poorly attended, and the exhibitors were very unhappy. And how was your day?

**Joe P. Williamson, C.G.C.S.**