

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

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Editor —

Fred D. Opperman, CGCS
1022 Shady Lane
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Phone (312) 469-3444

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President's Message

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. It is nice to take some time off from work and relax with family and friends without having to worry about deadlines and commitments. Take some time to reflect back on the events of 1986, give thanks for all the good in our lives, and enjoy the slower pace winter brings. Within a few short months, spring will arrive and we will be anxious to return to the fast lane. I want to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 1987, a year that brings us good weather and plenty of contented golfers.

The Midwest Turf Clinic was again a big success thanks to Bruce Williams and the Education Committee. I'm confident that the educational programs for 87 will be top-notch with Al Fierst and committee at the helm. Congratulations to Fred Opperman on winning the Ray Gerber Editorial Award for 1986 presented to him during the clinic. Fred has been editor of the **Bull Sheet** since Ray Gerber passed away and has done an excellent job over the past three years. Congratulations are also in order for Professor Herbert L. Portz, turfgrass researcher at S.I.U., upon receiving the I.T.F. Man of the Year Award. We all wish him the best during his many years of retirement.

Since it's inception in 1982, the North Central Turfgrass Exposition has grown and developed into one of the finest regional turfgrass conferences in the country. Almost every aspect of turfgrass management was represented this year, and it was obvious how specialized the turfgrass industry is becoming. Attendance appeared to be well over 1000. This reflects on the fine job the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, Inc. has done in organizing and promoting the NCTE. The future success of this joint venture hinges on the continued support from all sectors of the turfgrass industry.

The M.A.G.C.S. Board of Directors has been busy since the election of officers November 5. The Board met November 18 to receive committee appointments, to review and summarize the events of 1986, and to set goals for 1987. The Board met again on December 9 to revise some of the committee Standard Operating Procedures, to finalize an operating budget, and appropriate money to education and research. Each chairman has also held committee meetings to organize and arrange plans for the upcoming events. The general feeling among Board members is that we have much work to accomplish, but the attitude is very positive and enthusiastic toward a change for the better. In order to be an effective association, we need to keep an open line of communication between the Board and association members. M.A.G.C.S. is one of the finest local chapters in the country, and the current Board is committed to upholding that status.

As you well know, the M.A.G.C.S./G.C.S.A.A. regional seminars will be held January 6 and 7 at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. This is the fifth year we have co-hosted this event, and every year attendance has been good. But with 470 members in the association, I would expect much greater support and representation from the superintendents of the Chicago area. Pete Leuzinger has done a good, solid job of arranging and selecting speakers and topics for these two day seminars. I am sure he would welcome any suggestions for future topics. There is a definite need to continue the seminars in the Chicago area, and for the price of admission, we cannot afford to let this opportunity slip away.

Our first meeting of the general membership for 1987 will be at Arrowhead Golf Course on January 12, and the guest speaker will be Stanley Horn, an attorney that deals primarily with immigration laws and related problems concerning illegal aliens. This is one topic that should be of interest to all of us as employers of golf course laborers. The new immigration laws that were passed in November will be affecting us next year, and could have a big impact on who we hire.

Also Len Berg will be addressing us on his campaign for G.C.S.A.A. National Director. He will present a brief autobiography and personal history. With the support of M.A.G.C.S., and other regional chapters, we're confident that Lenny will be elected.

Finally, the G.C.S.A.A. International Turfgrass Conference and Show will be held the last week in January in Phoenix, Arizona. I hope that everyone has the opportunity and the financial support from their respective clubs to attend the world's largest turfgrass conference.

James E. Evans



A Short Biography of This Month's Director's Column

Alan T. Fierst has been a superintendent for ten years and has spent those years at Oak Park Country Club. He is a graduate of Michigan State University in Turf Management in 1975 and holds an Industrial Education degree from Ball State University in 1973. After his schooling, Al was the assistant superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club under Bob Williams. Al has served as Director and presently is the 2nd Vice President of MAGCS. Another duty of Al is serving as the voting delegate for our association. On the national scale Al is on the Scholarship & Research Committee. Al's hobbies and interests include cycling, skiing, auto racing, golf, and most of all, out running all those women who keep chasing him.

"A Strong Voice for Every GCSAA Member"

by A. T. Fierst, Oak Park C.C.
Voting Delegate — MAGCS

With the theme of "A strong voice for every GCSAA member", the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents has proudly nominated and is supporting Len Berg CGCS for GCSAA Director. The Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents is also honored to support Len as a candidate for GCSAA office. Both associations feel they have a strong candidate in Len and are pleased the Nominating Committee of GCSAA sees him as a strong and conscientious candidate.

Len is active in all local and regional turf organizations, having served as the Midwest Association President in 1981 and he is currently on the Chicagoland Association Board of Directors. He is also an active member of many other professional and civic organizations in the Chicago area. Len and his wife Pat are the proud parents of two children and active members of their church. His civic leadership includes stints as Church Council President, Assistant Scoutmaster, and he is currently carrying the rank of Captain as a volunteer fireman.

Len has over 15 years of management experience in the turf business, most of those as a golf course superintendent. In those years a strong feeling for the turf industry has evolved, a feeling of pride and identity of the Golf Course Superintendent. It is this sense of identity and IMAGE that Len feels is of utmost importance for the future of the business. The enhancement of the professional image of GCSAA and it's members is directly linked to an effective COMMUNICATION program at all levels of the association, a linking of open communication channels to every Superintendent, association chapter, and association member to the headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. The concept of communication is vitally important to Len — he emphasizes that in any association no person can be singularly more important than another. He knows that without the individual emphasis, no association can truly be effective in managing it's affairs.

The MANAGEMENT of an association depends upon effective direction based on experience. During the last 10 years Len had had important committee level experience as a prelude to further advancement in GCSAA operations. His recognition of the need for complete comprehension of all association issues while not overlooking basic premise is without equal. Len's experience with communication has brought forth the development of a DEDICATED, RESPECTED, and ORGANIZED leader in our turf industry.

Having served as a committee member 4 times has Len well poised as a GCSAA Director for the future. He has answered the call and the challenge to serve with distinction. Len is strongly committed to the GCSAA and to the INDIVIDUAL needs of the membership — both for today and for the future. Some of his strongest convictions regarding the future of GCSAA are meaningful communications with allied associations and chapters, superintendent image enhancements, a vigorous and viable Education/Certification program, and most importantly — improved Superintendent - Pro - Manager - Club public relations.

It's about time for a conscientious and open minded candidate for GCSAA office to come from the Midwest area. Len em-
(cont'd. page 4)