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President's Message

by Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
President, MAGCS

Our membership has spoken and your Board has heard you, loud and clear. Our recent MAGCS Survey gave the Class A and B members of our association an opportunity to present their views on the current state of the association. Your Board values this input and will develop our mid-range and long range plans based on the feedback we have gotten. About half of those receiving the survey returned them. In terms of statistical analysis this is a very relevant response. In addition to the multiple choice questions in the survey we left space for additional comments. A summary of those comments was printed in last month's **Bull Sheet**. I feel as though it would be appropriate to respond to some of the comments at this time.

Employment relations is an area in which we will never be able to make everyone happy. Unfortunately there is only one person who eventually is hired by a golf course after going through a list of many candidates and a handful of interviewees. The procedure by which a club chooses to select a Superintendent is up to each club and we, as an association, can only give the clubs guidelines on hiring Superintendents. We cannot force clubs to use our mailing service on job openings but we make every effort to provide that service to each golf course. Another sore spot with our members is the hiring of "outsiders" for Chicago area jobs. Upon close investigation there are really a small number of native Chicagoans in the ranks of the MAGCS. Most of our members have migrated here from other parts in the country at an earlier time in their career. Likewise we all have the freedom to relocate to any other spot in the country should we choose to do so. It is not surprising that many job applicants come from outside our area. After all, collectively we have the best maintained golf courses and quality of Superintendents in the country. Is it any wonder why someone would not want to be a part of that?

The Arrangements Committee, led by Dennis Wilson, has us in a position that we are now scheduling meetings for the 1991 calendar year. Our survey indicated that almost 50% of our members would consider hosting a meeting of the MAGCS in the future. Dennis is more than happy to make arrangements with any club. We try to have a good mix of private & public courses with a good geographical spread. While the cost of our meetings has risen over the past decade, we feel that the costs are in line for what we offer. When you consider that you receive lunch, golf, carts, drinks, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, prizes and education at a cost that ranges from \$45 to \$55 our meetings are indeed a bargain. Our survey indicated that the quality of our meetings has been good and the prices have been fair and reasonable. Without the generosity of our commercial sponsors we could not provide you with the type of meetings we have

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at the cost you are currently paying. Thanks to Dennis and all of our great sponsors.

Several members responded that they were pleased to see a greater involvement in the association by more of our members. As your President, I have put a large emphasis on member involvement in our committee system. Each committee is now made up of a handful of members that do not serve on the board of our association. Each committee is chaired by one of our board members. The committees have met on several occasions giving direction to the MAGCS Board of Directors. We have established a broader base for running our association. At the same time we are able to develop other individuals for leadership roles in the association. This is very important when it comes to election time each year.

Due to the limitation of space a survey can only ask so many questions. Several members asked if we could include specific questions about fungicide & fertility programs in the future. I feel that the appropriate vehicle for the collection and dissemination of that information should be the new bulletin board service "Turftalk" which is being developed by Russ Fink, Supt. at Tamarack Golf Club. While it is hard to compare budgets of clubs, likewise it is difficult to compare fertility or fungicide programs. By submitting information to "Turftalk", each individual could pick and choose the data he requires for comparison. In this way you can compare courses in your own geographic location, club type (public or private), and level of conditioning required.

The level of education offerings is at an all-time high for the MAGCS. Don Cross has worked diligently with Joel Purpur to provide superb speakers and seminars for our association. Our survey showed that the members recognize the importance of our educational sessions. We know that it is difficult to have a full hour of speakers during the stress months so we have modified our speaker schedule and are offering a beefed-up educational offering in the off-season. I am confident that Don and Joel will continue to bring us a high quality educational program throughout the year.

The most gratifying portion of the comments from our survey was the positive criticism and kind compliments offered by our members. The following terms come to mind: "excellent association", "I'm proud to be a member", "great organization", "keep up the good work", "very nicely done", and "super association". Your board appreciates all of the comments that we received. We hear you loud and clear.

"Summer Specials"

Western Open — U. S. Open — hard to beat,
June's De Luxe Golfing Treat.
Oh Yes, Dudley Smith had a Big Surprise,
Friend's helped punch 60 between the eyes.
As Fourth of July Skyrockets fill the air,
July Greets Us with It's usual Flare.
Soon August will add It's Summer Appeal,
Need a Vacation? How do You feel?
What a challenge each Summer provides,
Reassuring, "There is no free ride."

Kenneth R. Zanzig

Director's Column



It's hard to believe that after a couple more weeks of "The Dog Days", it should be smooth sailing and another season under our belts. Hopefully everyone took some time to smell the roses.

I think our profession of Golf Course Management has a great future because of the increasing number of courses with a shortage of turf graduates. I remember seeing about ten openings for assistants last spring. Even though the demands and standards for golf course maintenance are very high, salaries are also on the increase.

It's already been almost three years since coming to River Forest Country club where Ed Stewart retired after being Superintendent for over 35 years! I feel extremely lucky with my situation here. I've seen situations similar to mine where either the retiring Super won't let go of the reins, or won't give any input what so ever. Ed and Gene Stewart only give good constructive criticism. I can tell when it's coming when Ed says, "Just a suggestion...", or "Question?". Ed and Gene will be moving this year to Lake Wildwood, down around Peoria.

Ed was President of the MAGCS for two years in the late 50's, and also ran for office of the GCSAA. Myself and the MAGCS wishes the Stewarts the best of luck, you'll be greatly missed.

**Joel Purpur, Supt.
River Forest Country Club**



Gene and Ed Stewart