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President's Message

Every year we all look forward to the GCSAA International Turfgrass Conference and Show. The conference offers us the chance to increase our knowledge and learn from both our peers and highly respected speakers from various segments of the golf course industry. The conference is a time to see old friends and make new acquaintances. The show gives us an opportunity to meet with manufacturers so that we may view and discuss their products. There is a lot of planning that goes into a show and conference like the one we recently attended in Orlando. GCSAA does an outstanding job of putting on an event of such magnitude.

As President of the MAGCS I am thrilled with the response of our commercial members in supporting our Midwest Room in Orlando. The Board thought we would try a different approach to our hospitality suite this year and it worked quite well. My thanks to all of the businesses that helped to make the Midwest Room a success in Orlando. A special thanks goes to Dennis Wilson, our Arrangements Committee Chairman and to Dave and Penny Meyer for all of their help, as always.

The MAGCS was proud to sponsor 26 team members in the GCSAA Golf Championships. Mike Bavier, our Golf Committee Chairman, assigned Ed Fischer and Tim Davis to the task of organizing the teams for the Midwest. Thanks for all of your hard work behind the scenes. Our chapter fields 6 or 7 teams each year and is one of the best represented chapters in the country.

One change at the conference this year was the absence of Len Berg as our voting delegate. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Len was unable to make the trip to Orlando. Len has represented us well in the past and is a highly respected delegate. We hope to have Len back next year with his seemingly endless energy. Our delegates spend a lot of time prior to the conference ensuring that our voting strength is correct. At the conference there are several hours each day devoted to interviews, association affairs, and the voting process. While the job of a voting delegate can be a thankless position, I would like our membership to recognize Len Berg for the many years he has carried this responsibility on his shoulders. We look forward to Len's return next year.

Regulatory issues were a hot topic at the conference this year. GCSAA will be adding several new seminars in the upcoming year covering Underground Storage Tanks, Right To Know Law, and Employee Training. If you missed the presentations on regulatory issues than make a special point to attend the CDGA Green Seminar in March and bring your Green Chairman or immediate supervisor. Several new laws will impact our businesses dramatically. You should keep informed of the new laws and communicate that information back to your golf club.

It was a pleasure to make several presentations, on behalf of the members of our great association. The MAGCS donated \$2,000 to the GCSAA Scholarship & Research Fund earmarked for the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund. We also donated \$1,000 to the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation to support the work of a doctoral candidate in turfgrass science. The MAGCS is committed to making prudent investments for the future of the golf course industry.

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS
President