

Past President's Message

by Alan Fierst

It's been a long, long journey ... Or so it would seem after such an extended tenure as I have enjoyed on the Board of the Midwest. The tenure may have been long if measured strictly in terms of the span of days, months, and years. I do not and have not measured it in such strictly defined terms. My gauge of measure is much different and looks rather kindly upon the span of time. I do have to say that the time seemed to fly and the efforts were really not so difficult after all. They were decidedly worth it ... And decidedly rewarding. And I'm ready to pass the mantle along.

Through the span of years, I have had the pleasure of serving with a fine and dedicated group of individuals who wanted nothing more than to best serve the interests of the Midwest and it's membership. The people with whom I have sat and shaped the image and force of the Midwest are among the finest and brightest of the bunch. A good group all around. Oh, we have had our differences, disagreements, and occasional "snit fits" over arcane details, and occasionally someone or other might have been a knuckle head. But nevertheless we've shaped the direction of your Association and encouraged it's progress. And for the most part that progress has been efficiently accomplished and done so with a minimum of pain. Good I say! Yes, there has been some considerable amount of effort involved and it has taken its toll in time. But that's OK. I have truly enjoyed the feeling of teamwork within the rank and efforts of the differing MAGCS Boards. I too, feel I have grown with the unified efforts of all fellow Board members in the attempt to bring the MAGCS to it's membership. And I feel we've done well. But there's more to do ...

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In his final message as President, Joel Purpur addresses the pressing need for a affirmative dues increase vote at this years annual meeting. I could not agree more. And the time is now! This association is growing far beyond it's present means to effectively manage its membership and day-to-day operations. We somehow continue to do so on a scale that is bordering on miniscule. The Midwest is strong and among the largest of the singular, free standing GCSAA chapters. And yet we continue to operate as though we have not progressed beyond the values and capabilities of our Association from twenty years ago. The membership wants more **of** the Association and more **from** the Association. And there is a lot more to be offered; but like everything else it comes with an elevated price tag. It is becoming more and more difficult to deliver the "goods" with a fiscal structure that was destined to barely meet the Midwest demands of six or eight years ago. It is now that time hence. And things have changed. The cost and way of doing business has changed and

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"Where Meadow Goes,
the Water Flows"

(Past President's Message continued)

will continue to do so, escalating, as we know, in an ever upward spiral. So too are the expenses of present day MAGCS operations as well as additional membership services. The time is at hand for an adjustment in the dues structure. And the time is now for the MAGCS membership to do something about it. Our fiscal position to manage the MAGCS simply does not provide for the range and depth of services of an association of our size. Period! We cannot afford to continue to exist with our existing dues structure. It does not fit us, we've outgrown it, and we are in danger of not being able to meet our obligations — either to ourselves or others.

The time is now for the MAGCS membership to do something about it.

It is time to address the strength of our future as an association. We will do so during the Annual Meeting at Medinah with the election of those individuals we deem to be desirable as strong leaders. At the same time, we should also insure that those leaders have the fiscal strength in place to carry on the fine legacy of the "Midwest". We need to become the benefactors of our own vision, not to become the "victims of our own creation".

The Proof of a Golfer

by Edgar Guest

The proof of the pudding is the eating they say,
But the proof of a golfer is not
The number of strokes he takes in a day
Or the skill he puts into a shot.
There is more to the game than the score which you make
Here's a truth which all golfers endorse:
You don't prove your worth by the shots which you make;
But the care which you take of the course.

A golfer is more than a ball-driving brute
He is more than a mug-hunting czar.
To be known as a golfer, you don't have to shoot,
The course of your home club in par.
But you do have to love every blade of the grass.
Every inch of the fairway and greens.
If you don't take care of the course as you pass;
You're not what "a good golfer" means.

Just watch a good golfer some day when you're out,
And note what he does as he plays,
He never goes on leaving divots about,
'Till the grass is put back, there he stays.
Observe him in traps as he stands for his shot,
Then note when the ball has been played,
He never unthinkingly turns from the spot,
'Till he's covered the footprints he made.

You may brag of your scores and may boast of your skill,
You may think as a golfer you're good;
But if footprints you make, in traps you don't fill,
You don't love the game as you should.
The proof of a golfer — now get this my boy,
Is the care that you take of the course.

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