



Commitment to excellence has been a popular term used recently in everything from car commercials to mottos for football teams (not “Da Bears” by the way). As the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents prepares for a new year, it looks like this commitment will continue for a long time.

Everyone has heard the old term “I will be proud to be able to serve.” The fact is, I will be proud to be able to serve the MAGCS as president. I am very pleased to be able to work with an excellent group of committed people. One needs to step inside the shoes of a Midwest board member to realize the amount of work that goes into running this association. Several meetings are held throughout the year. Committees have a lot of work to do during the fast-paced months of the year. Many board members take a lot of their time out to organize the golf meetings, arrange the meals and set up numerous educational sessions. Sounds like commitment to excellence to me!

Two other important people who have been very committed to the MAGCS are Fred Opperman and George Minnis.

Fred, our *On Course* editor, has committed himself to present one of the finest chapter magazines in the country. What a pleasure to pick up a copy of *On Course* and show it to a club member or a golf pro. It’s the 90s folks, and the new magazine has become a big hit. One side note: I use *On Course* as a quick directory to put me in touch with the many fine commercial members we have!

George Minnis, our executive secretary, continues to be committed to providing the MAGCS members with all of the help they might need. I have joked in the past that George’s office looks like something out of NASA, but George needs this “command center” to provide a lot of services to the members. He is able to receive faxes, send out requests and organize numerous amounts of important information. You have heard it before; you will hear it again. Fred and George do a tremendous job! Thanks, guys. Another example of commitment to excellence!

The commitment continues throughout the membership of the MAGCS. We are all extremely proud to have a man named Bruce Williams leading the GCSAA as its current president. Thanks for your commitment, Bruce! Also, several other current members have served as president of the GCSAA.

How about the Audubon program. Peter Leuzinger has done a terrific job along with many others in promoting this terrific program. Environmental awards just keep coming to guys like Tim Kelly. In this day and age of everyone trying help to protect Mother Earth, several current superintendents have a good handle on doing what’s right and letting the public know about it.

Certified superintendents seem to be popping up all over within the MAGCS. Our very own Bob Maibusch is also a Master Greenskeeper. Way to go, Bob! These are just a few examples of the committed people within the MAGCS. Stop and think for a minute about all of the other areas that our members excel in. We are truly a committed group. Please continue to strive for the commitment to excellence we all know we possess. The MAGCS is one of the nation’s best!

On a recent vacation to Door County, I was awestruck by not only the beauty of the changing colors but also the show of stars at night. I could not believe the intense glow of the sky. As I looked to the heavens, I forgot all about turf disease, localized dry spot and employee troubles. The holiday season provides us with a chance to reflect on last year. It also should provide us with the chance to spend time with our families. On behalf of the entire MAGCS “family,” have a fantastic holiday season. Peace on Earth and Good Will to All.

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