



In a few short days, our association will once again hold the famed Midwest Clinic and Annual Meeting. It is the day that the gavel will be passed and a new Board of Directors will be elected to guide us into the new year. With both a sense of relief and melancholy, I will begin the final leg of my journey on the board, joining that prestigious group, our Past Presidents.

The time has passed ever so quickly this year, and I can now begin to better understand why it is that past presidents have so many suggestions. It's because there is just not enough time to get everything accomplished that a president would like to accomplish in one short year. Perhaps a two-year term would provide a greater likelihood of achieving more goals and implementing plans that are conceived during the first year.

Conversely, the ascendancy of our vice president to president (and with him some fresh ideas, renewed energy, and, as we'll have with our new president, a greater sense of humor) is healthy, if not essential, for our association. The MAGCS will be in good hands with President-elect Ed Braunsky. Congratulations, Ed, and best wishes!

Of course, one person cannot begin to manage the myriad of activities necessary in the operation of an association as large as the Midwest. This year, with a larger than usual work load and time commitment at my course, it was especially relieving to have assistance from the dedicated, hard-working and effective group of gentlemen we know as the Board of Directors.

From the ultra-efficient handling of day-to-day business operations by our Executive Secretary George Minnis, the superb work of *On Course* Editor Fred Opperman in producing our first-rate magazine, to the outstanding efforts from our vice president, secretary/treasurer, and all of the committee chairs, I am indeed grateful. I sincerely thank each of you! If the ratio of complaint-to-praise comments are a measure of our success this year, we made a "Hole in One."

So collectively, what have we accomplished for the MAGCS and our members this year? Briefly, our member record keeping and response time of mailings and the directory update is better than ever; our magazine is now something we can all be more proud of and willing to share with others at our clubs or courses; we are nearly complete (much farther along than most chapters) with the GCSAA Affiliation Agreement; we have improved our association's presence via the golf show and the new MAGCS brochure (scheduled to be out now) and our *On Course* magazine; we have increased research support both locally and nationally with contributions to CDGA, ITF, and others and have joined the Platinum Tee Club, extending our ongoing commitment to the GCSAA Foundation; and finally, but not

all inclusively, our employment referral service has been streamlined.

We've accomplished much, tried some new ideas, and recognize we must continue to seek ways to improve in many areas.

This year, we tried a new format at several of our meetings with the holding of education before golf. From the comments I've heard, this was well received, and we will likely continue this format when applicable. We tried to keep our summer meetings casual, recognizing that many members travel long distances and may want to return to their courses in the evening. Most of the comments support this as well. At the upcoming Midwest Clinic, we will forego the usual after-meeting dinner and instead hold a President's Reception. Over the years, the dinner attendance has fallen, and it is time to try something new. These and many other ideas will surely be discussed and perhaps modified by the new Board of Directors.

Where can we improve? Well, there is always room for improvement. Our research contributions still fall short of other, smaller chapters. We could always do more to get positive press about the many environmental benefits our courses have contributed to our communities (perhaps the formation of an environmental stewardship committee will help here). We should do more to recognize the many commercial members who so often support and finance many of our endeavors (remember to support those who support the Midwest). Finally, we could upgrade our golf championship event with more participation, improved tee prizes, and perhaps a

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Twins are busting out all over! Brenda and Tom Hildreth (assistant at Twin Orchard) were blessed on September 10 with Chad Thomas, 6 lbs. 5 oz., and with Katie Emma at 5 lbs. 5 oz. Four-year-old Nicholas will be sharing his toys in the near future.

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Diana and Mark Kowliczko also had twins on September 14. Their sons Zenon, age 4, and Zachery, age 2, welcomed twin brothers Christian, 7 lbs. 15 oz., and Chandler at 6 lbs. 15 oz. All are fine, but Mark said that the event just cleared his golf schedule for the remainder of the century.
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On Course With the President

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36-hole event for the championship class. While on this latter subject, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our new MAGCS Champion, Tom Robinson. Tom persevered on a windy day from the blue markers on the very challenging Skokie Country Club. Participants told me it was a real test of skills. Congratulations, Tom, and best wishes at next year's Illinois Open!

If you support these improvements or have others in mind, I encourage you to get active. Join a committee, get involved, voice your opinion. This is your organization, and the Board of Directors is always will-

ing to discuss new ideas and concepts. Your input is valuable.

Thanks again to the entire Board and to you, the members, for your support throughout this past year. I hope to see many of you at the Midwest Clinic at Butterfield Golf Club on November 7.

Donald A. Cross, CGCS
President, MAGCS

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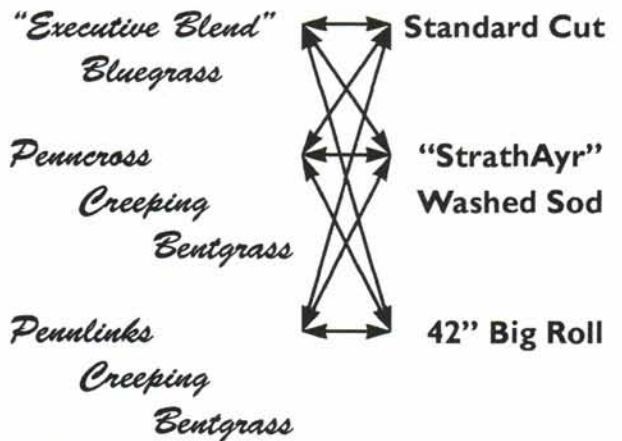
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