



*Fred Behnke
Mt. Prospect G.C.*

I'm the new guy on the board, and President Braunsky definitely subscribes to the "throw 'em in the deep end of the pool" method of swimming instruction. My chair assignment is the Membership Committee, and I would like to thank the following friends and colleagues for their assistance by agreeing to serve on the 1997 MAGCS Membership Committee: Terry Dilner, Brian Greene, Butch Peuvion, Bob Rigney, Parin Schmidt and Mike Vilendrer. I would also like to publicly thank my employer, The Mount Prospect Park District, for their encouragement and support of my work on the Board of Directors of this association. We have hosted several meetings over the past few years with their blessing for which I am grateful.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is the third largest chapter in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, with over 260 golf course superintendents (Class A and B) and over 580 members at large. Over 250 golf courses in the Chicagoland area are represented by our members. Needless to say, managing the membership roll of such a large organization is a huge task. Most of our membership functions are ably administrated by our executive secretary, George "Database" Minnis; and when George talks, I listen. The membership process

runs smoothly by and large, but there seem to be two main reoccurring problems:

1) All membership applications, regardless of class, **MUST** be attested to by two regular members of the association (Class AA, A, or B). Failure to do so will result in unnecessary delays in processing the application.

2) There are some old membership applications floating around with the old, incorrect schedule of fees for membership. The correct fees are: Class A - \$85, Class B - \$85, Class C - \$70, Class D - \$70, and Class E - \$105. If you run across a membership application with a different fee schedule, trust me, we are not having a sale; you just have one of the old forms. You can use the application, but enclose the proper fee. I have plenty of current applications; give me a call, and I'll send you a handful.

In fact, if you have any questions at all regarding membership in MAGCS, give me a call. If I don't know the answer, I can find out, and learn something in the process.

Did you know that the Sega Saturn game system runs on a higher performance processor than the original 1976 Cray super computer, which, in its day, was accessible to only the most elite physicists? In 1991 for the first time ever, companies spent more money on computing and communications gear than the *combined* monies spent on industrial, mining, farm and construction equipment.

These are just two examples of how information processing is becoming the most important aspect of running a successful business as we roll into the twenty-first century. Nobody can know every-

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Director's Column

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thing; and if you find yourself faced with a problem or project that has you befuddled, it's a pretty safe bet that somebody in our association network has dealt with it and can provide valuable guidance. Our association was founded on the principle of shared information; and, despite our size, I have always been able to call a fellow member with a problem and get some good advice (or at least a sympathetic ear).


You probably won't see me featured in the "Ask the Expert" feature of this magazine, unless the topic is how to "surf" the MAGCS membership directory looking for a clue. My MAGCS membership directory is always with me, and it hasn't let me down yet. ■





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