



“Where are you going, Dad?” This question has been thrown at me several times over the past few years by my loving family. “I need to go to George’s!” On cue my kids will break into the “George of the Jungle” song: George, George, George of the jungle! Watch out for that tree!!! Such is the life of the president of the MAGCS. Nineteen ninety-seven has been a quick twelve months in which a lot of things have been accomplished.

At a recent long-range planning committee meeting, each area or committee was reviewed. We as an association have truly come a long way. As stated before, several areas we wished to improve on have already been taken of. Each committee chairman has done an outstanding job in 1997. A lot of time and energy was spent working on each given committee. I need to talk about a few.

Unless you have been the golf committee chairman of the Midwest, you cannot even imagine the time and effort that goes into setting up a monthly event. This is an area that will always be

difficult to try and put together simply because we still have many members that cannot get their you-know-what together. Please try harder, folks, in 1998! Everyone should give Luke Strojny a pat on the back. Along with setting up golf, we do need to eat. Greg Thalmann has “arranged” for us to have many fine meals over the past year. I wonder if Greg arranges his family’s meals this well? THANKS AGAIN, LUKE AND GREG!

You are reading one of the finest monthly superintendent’s magazines in the country. If you do not think so, we can meet anytime anywhere. Seriously, the leaps and bounds that *On Course* has made recently have been phenomenal. Many hours are put in by Fred Opperman each month. I still hear stories about how guys and gals rip open that large envelope each month to see what is going on in the Midwest.

One of the complaints (hey, I said no complaints!) that I do hear is that for one reason or another members are not getting their magazine. All of those situations are cleared up eventually. Jim McNair has also done a fantastic job working with Fred. Thanks a million, Fred and Jim. You both deserve a lot of credit for the tremendous shape of *On Course*.

All other committee chairmen deserve a lot of credit for a smooth year. Fred Behnke (the “rookie”) wants more to do in 1998. He’ll get it! Fred, great job. Don Ferreri as always turned in a super effort. Don, like Fred B., wants even more to do in 1998. What can you say about Brian Bossert? I’ll tell you a few things. Brian came through again to put on a super hospitality

room at the national conference. He has already made several arrangements for 1998 in Anaheim. He also planned several top-notch educational speakers. Brian, a big thank you goes your way. How about those Bull tics? John Meyer has come through with another super effort. Thanks, John, for all of your support with the Commercial Members Advisory Council. By the way, John, as of this writing, the “Pack” is not back!

No past president can talk about his tenure without mentioning his executive committee. Don Cross has been there to help guide me through this past year. For this, I appreciate all of his help. Bob Maibusch took it upon himself to do an outstanding job as secretary/treasurer. He can rest now for a year because we all know that the vice president does not do that much! Kevin Czerkies did plenty in 1997. One of the nice things about being on the Board of Directors is the fact that you not only take on a lot of new tasks but you also get the chance to make new friends. I consider Kevin a great new friend. No one needs to worry about the Midwest in 1998. It will be in fine hands. Thanks, Kev, for all you do!

I wish all of the members of the Midwest had a chance to work with George Minnis, our executive secretary. He has had a few setbacks this past year, but he has bounced back each time. George, along with his wife Karen, are that “main cog” in the big wheel of the MAGCS. My comment about not wanting any complaints this year rang true as far as George’s effort is

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**the Bull Sheet**

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published. For all of you who need to have geese chased off your property and do not own a dog, please give Harold a call. His phone number is 708-361-6772, and his pager number is 630-867-5840.

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Congratulations to Ray Schmitz on Flossmoor C.C. becoming the 101st Audubon certified golf course in the country. Illinois has the largest number of certified courses.

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Craig Wilson is looking for an assistant's position. He is presently at Briarwood C.C. Please call 847-945-3350 or his home at 414-304-0749.  
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For sale: 1983 Dodge D250 pickup truck, John Deere 575 Skid Steer Loader (hydraulic pump broken), 1982 Bobcat traction unit, Wards 11 HP garden tractor, 1988 Brower PTO-driven 10' reel mower unit. All equipment as-is, best offer. Written bids must be received by November 14. Contact Daryl Cole, Channahon Park District, 815-467-5621.

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The bachelor of bachelors (next to Al Fierst) Dave Blomquist is marrying Michelle McMahon on November 7 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. All are welcome to come. Congratulations to the happy couple.  
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Details were still being finalized at press time for the Midwest Turf Clinic and Annual Meeting to be held back at Medinah C.C. this year. Their newly-remodeled clubhouse is said to be spectacular. The November 12 clinic will open with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. The Clinic and Annual Meeting will follow. Hope to see you all there!

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For sale: Meyers model 5525 PTO, 300-gallon spray rig. Best offer. Call Bill or Al at Lake Shore C.C., 847-835-4303.  
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Joel Purpur has been busy this fall remodeling his practice range and tee plus rebuilding 21 bunkers and 5 tees. He still found time to hit the Gauley River and go white water rafting.  
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**President's Message**

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concerned. I cannot thank you enough, George, other than helping you out in the years to come. Drop George a line or give him a call to let him know how he is doing.

Every time you turn on an awards show, all of the winners make sure to thank their families. I cannot forget mine. My wife Sue and my kids Ben and Emily are truly my inspiration. They put up with all of my time away from home and are always there for me. If you have a family that supports you like mine does, you are blessed! I LOVE YOU GUYS!

Recently, one of my members, a fine pediatrician, was honored for his forty-two years of service to the Fox Valley area. I talked to him on the course soon after that event. I told him he deserved all of the honors he was being given. He told me, "I

went to school, I learned a profession and I did my job!" I feel that I have served the association, learned the ins and outs of the MAGCS, and I hope that I have done my job! Thanks a million (before taxes) to all!



Ed Braunsky, CGCS  
President, MAGCS

**Past President's Message**

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scenes. President Ed Braunsky, Vice President Kevin Czerkies, and Secretary/Treasurer Bob Maibusch, as well as the entire Board of Directors have performed admirably. They are just as busy with their work activities and family lives as everyone else is, but they still find the time to unselfishly serve our association. Thank you so much, guys!

The Midwest is always looking for and depends upon interested and dedicated members to help serve our fine organization. Get involved. Serve on a committee. Run for the board. Give a little something back to the group that benefits you in so many ways. You'll be glad you did. ■