



Kevin Czerkies, CGCS Sportsman's C.C.

I would like to start off by giving my wife a huge thank you for writing last month's president's message. I hope you all enjoyed her article. Many hours of thought, time, and effort went into putting her article together. It's nice to hear what our spouses are thinking. Don't expect my messages to be as long as hers though. She had one month to say what she wanted to say. I've got the other eleven. I offered her another month, but for the sake of our marriage, she kindly refused. She got mad when I got out the red pen after each draft.

I would also like to wish Wally Fuchs a long and happy retirement. If anyone deserves it, it's Wally. After many years of building Turf Products into a successful business, Wally sold the company. Turf Products was one of the biggest supporters of MAGCS events, from sponsoring monthly meetings and hospitality rooms to advertising in this magazine.

Back in June, Brad Anderson, superintendent at Midlane Country Club, put together a retirement party for Wally. It was a fun evening with many of Wally's closest friends roasting the hon-

oree. The highlight of the event came when Wally was presented with a painting of the 18th hole at Glen View Club. The magnificent painting was done by Peter Leuzinger. Thanks, Peter!

Every year, GCSAA chapters are asked if they know of someone deserving of their Distinguished Service Award. In the years since I've been on this board, we have never nominated anyone. Until now, that is. I am proud to say that the MAGCS board has decided to submit the name of Paul Voykin, superintendent, Briarwood Country Club, for that honor. If chosen by GCSAA, Paul would receive the award at the 1999 conference in Orlando next February.

While compiling information for his nomination, I took a couple of hours and visited Paul at his club. I learned more about Paul in that short amount of time than I've ever known about him. Paul has been at Briarwood for 38 years and has no plans of retiring. He has written two books that have sold over 50,000 copies. He has also written six articles for *Golf Digest*. But what makes Paul unique is that he was the first superintendent to plant wildflowers and ornamental grasses on a golf course. He gave a speech about his plantings at one of the conferences many years ago, and everyone thought he was nuts for incorporating such plants into the golf landscape. Well, now look; everyone is doing it.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to someone who has been around awhile and has done something to promote the profession of the superintendent. I believe that Paul is worthy of this honor and wish him luck during the GCSAA selection process. If you ever get a chance, ask Paul

to show off his golf course and numerous wildflower beds. You'll be in for a treat.

In addition to Paul, there are many MAGCS members that should someday be nominated for this award. I encourage the future MAGCS Board of Directors to get into the practice of submitting someone's name every year. We have a lot of great leaders in this association, so let's start showing our colors on a national level.

It seems like the season is just getting under way, but this month, GCSAA is mailing out the Early Bird registration packet for the conference in Orlando. I encourage you to make your plans early for this one. Orlando is the most popular of all the conference sites and will, no doubt, set new attendance records next year.

Now that we are in the home stretch of summer, I hope many of you are not suffering from personal burnout. As the season winds down in the next couple of months, plan now to treat your staff to a well-deserved luncheon and/or golf outing. We are only as good as our employees. So don't forget to do something special for them before they leave at the end of the season.

Kevin Czerkies, CGCS President, MAGCS