



*Bob Maibusch
Hinsdale G.C.*

The MAGCS Board of Directors recently met and approved the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the possibility of establishing a scholarship for children of MAGCS members. I will be chairing the committee and would welcome suggestions from members as to how we should approach this regarding selection process, scope of contribution, fund-raising, etc.

I think the time is right for a program like this. For several years on the Board of Director, I have heard members say, "Why don't we do more for our members?" or "Charity starts at home." We have even been criticized in the past for contributing to turf scholarships because we were creating more competition. Although curtailing our contributions to turf scholarships is, in my opinion, a shortsighted attempt to hold back the competition in our job market, I do believe that we can do more for our own members. The establishment of a scholarship program for children of MAGCS members is a way of rewarding the efforts of those in our own family, and it's probably long overdue.

My initial thoughts are that scholarship consideration should be available to all classes of MAGCS members. The most important area, in my estimation, is establishing an equitable selection process. It should be monitored by people outside of MAGCS or, at the very least, members who would not have a vested interest in the outcome. The candidates' qualifications should be submitted for consideration on a blind basis whereby no names are used that could influence or prejudice the judging panel in any way. If this program is to become established and successful, any possibility of favoritism or impropriety in the selection process must be guarded against.

My biggest concern in pursuing this objective is that someone whose child is denied a scholarship for legitimate reasons would then denigrate the program through rumor and innuendo which could have a devastating effect on fund-raising efforts. If we are serious about this program, it must be held to a very high standard. The Legacy awards sponsored by the Novartis Company and administered through GCSAA have been very popular and well received, but even they have been subject to criticism. I have heard people complain about how some recipients are children of past GCSAA board members or high-profile superintendents. Unfortunately, what they fail to recognize is that if the superintendents in question have had the drive and enthusiasm to become involved and reach their full potential in their profession, logic would tell you that these same traits will be passed on to their children as well; and they will fulfill their potential in the areas of school, community involvement, athletics, or whatever arena they are placed in.

Establishment of this program would, hopefully, have peripheral benefits. It may force us all to reexamine the influence that we have on the emotional, scholastic, and attitudinal development of our children and try to lead them by example. I certainly hope that is the case.

I would personally like to see renewable scholarship awards given out. In other words, if students received an award, they would be able to renew that award throughout their up-to-four-years of college based on a preset criteria of maintaining grades, community involvement, etc. This way, deserving students would know that they would be receiving support throughout their college career instead of the traditional one-year scholarships which are given out and which then create a void the following year.

Although this investigation process could take some time, I am confident and excited that it is being given serious consideration. We will continue to keep you updated on our progress in this area; and once again, please bring your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to my attention. ■