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The winds of change are blowing through the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. When Fred Opperman announced his intent to depart for Big Sky country, this year's Board of Directors accepted that change was imminent, and embraced a unique challenge. Although some of our current Board members were fresh out of high school the last time the MAGCS faced a change in magazine editors (feeling old yet, Fred?!), the Board of Directors recognized the importance of identifying the best person to assume this important position. After all, the magazine represents our association's single greatest source of information and is increasingly being utilized as a public relations tool by the membership.

A search committee chaired by Jim McNair—who was the editorial chairman during the magazine's transition in name change and style several years ago—was appointed. In addition to Jim, the committee included current editor Fred Opperman, current editorial chairman Fred Behnke, Mike Bavier, Don Cross and Joel Purpur (all past presidents), and myself.

I am extremely grateful to the entire search committee for their tireless efforts in identifying and interviewing candidates. Special thanks to Fred Behnke for his follow-up and detail work. I cannot begin to thank Jim McNair enough for his time and talents in pulling everything together and keeping the committee focused. His was an arduous task that required insight, tact, focus and grace. The entire membership has benefited from Jim's diligent efforts.

The committee had a very difficult assignment in choosing from the excellent candidates interviewed. It is always tough to replace someone who has earned a reputation for consistent achievement. Ultimately, we arrived at a decision based on where we are now and where we hope to be in the future as an association. The magazine has reflected those changes in the past. The name and format changes of recent years were an indication of the Board of Directors' awareness that *On Course* had moved beyond being a newsletter for our eyes only. The professional appearance and content of the magazine are indicative of the direction in which the Association and our membership are headed. We felt that it was appropriate at this time to turn the management of the magazine over to an individual whose vocation is editing and publishing.

The unanimous choice for managing editor of *On Course* magazine is Cathy Miles Ralston. Cathy received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, and did postgraduate work at the University of Minnesota. She has extensive experience as a writer, editor and public relations specialist in several industries, including golf. Cathy literally grew up in the golf business as a member of one of our area's preeminent golf families. Her

father, Tim Miles, Sr., and uncles Oscar Miles, Jules Peuvion and the late Oliver Miles have long been recognized as respected professionals. I am sure that Cathy will demonstrate this same level of innovation and professionalism in the management of *On Course* magazine. Please take the time to welcome her as a new member of the Midwest family.

Assisting Cathy with the content of the magazine will be contributing editor John Gurke, CGCS. Golf course superintendent at Aurora Country Club, John demonstrated his flair for writing as a past editor of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents *Verdure* newsletter. John will be responsible for the content of the popular *Bull Sheet* section of the magazine, and will assist Cathy in soliciting articles from the membership. John's contributions will ensure that a golf course superintendent's perspective will continue to impact the finished product. We all appreciate John's willingness to step up to the plate and offer his assistance in this endeavor. I also want to thank the other candidates for these positions who, without exception, offered to continue to contribute to the Association in any way possible.

I am confident that the future of your monthly publication is in capable hands. I am excited about its future and look forward to hearing your comments, both supportive and constructive.

Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
President, MAGCS