



Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
Hinsdale G.C.

As most of you are probably aware by now, Fred Opperman will be leaving his post as the Editor of *On Course* magazine sometime in the next few months. Fred and his wife Judy are moving to Montana to pursue new opportunities and dreams.

Rest assured that the Board of Directors and the Editorial Committee will do everything within their power to assure that the quality and timeliness of your magazine will continue. To that end, a search committee, headed by Jim McNair, was formed the day we received notice of Fred's resignation and has been hard at work identifying possible successors. Their collective attitude is to approach this challenge as an opportunity.

Instead of bemoaning Fred's departure, I believe it is an appropriate juncture to give thanks for the time that Fred spent serving the association in the capacity of Editor since 1983. Anyone who has served on the Board of Directors in the last 15 years can relate at least one story about the intimidating voice on the other end of the telephone line reminding you

that your "Director's Column" article was soon due, or, heaven forbid, late. For most of us, that call only needed to be made once during our Board of Directors tenure. A second transgression would have been too frightening to ponder. This, however, speaks volumes for Fred's dedication to providing a quality product, on time, month in and month out.

I will remember Fred as a consummate professional. He brought to the position a passion for excellence which translated into the magazine becoming an extension of himself. At times, we all took for granted the quality of work which he gave us every step of the way. Fred also occasionally found himself on the opposite side of the fence of some vocal critics of the magazine's direction. Oftentimes, people's visions of the future do not mesh, but through it all, nobody ever questioned his commitment to quality and the betterment of the magazine. A less principled individual, or a person of diminished resolve, integrity, passion or dogged determination, would have abandoned his position long ago. We may find another person to assume the role of Editor, but it is safe to say that Fred will never be replaced.

Appropriately, *On Course* was recently awarded First Runner-up in its competition category for chapter magazines through GCSAA. This is quite an accomplishment considering that the other magazines in this category generally have higher budgets and multiple staff members overseeing their production. Congratulations, Fred!

With sincere appreciation for all that Fred and Judy have done for the association, because I am sure that in more ways than any of us realized, she has been a signifi-

cant part of the collaborative effort in assisting Fred in maintaining such high standards, I wish them both the best of luck in the future.

Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG
President, MAGCS