



Brian A. Bossert, CGCS

Iwould like to begin by inviting everyone to the MAGCS Hospitality Suite in New Orleans. The fun can be found in the Marriott on Thursday and Friday nights, the 17th and 18th of February. Backed by the strong support of our vendor members, this should again be *the* social event of the conference. The MAGCS Board looks forward to seeing you there!

As I write this column a few days prior to Christmas, I am still cleaning up my secretarial shortcomings and stepping into my new duties as vice president. As our Association has grown, so have the secretary/treasurer's tasks. Apparently, the IRS takes a more interested look at our Association as our annual budget has grown in excess of \$250,000. To confirm our not-for-profit status, the IRS has recently asked for an annual certified audit of our books. I have been busy making sure all the Ts are crossed. This will take place after our books are closed for the year ending December 1999. Our current accountant does not offer the auditing services required, and Luke Strojny and I are investigating our options. Unfortunately, it appears this task may be fairly costly; one of those inevitable growing pains.

In addition to paying the bills this year, most of them on time, as secretary/treasurer I also

took the minutes for all of the business and Board meetings. It is important to have this documentation; completed reports are forwarded to George Minnis, our executive secretary. If Don's first board meeting as president is any indication, Luke is really going to have his hands full with this task.

For the purpose of letting our contingency funds go to work for us, we did reallocate some of

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our cash reserve into higher-earning options. Last summer, with the support of the Board, I was allowed to look into alternatives for the purpose of growing our cash reserve. MAGCS member Larry Tomaszewski, who works with Equitable, was very helpful in evaluating our investment options. After all the homework was done, we redistributed \$77,343.95 from the existing CD and money market

accounts into five different mutual funds and a higher-interest money market. Specifically, \$20,000 was divided equally among the mutual funds, and we deposited \$60,000 into our new money market. At times of the year when our normal checking account has a higher balance (typically the winter months, when *On Course* ad payments and dues are being collected), we will transfer funds to the money market. Our current checking account (because of our not-for-profit status) does not pay interest. During the summer months, we will probably have to transfer money back from the money market to the checking account.

Obviously, our mutual fund investments entail some risks, but these moves should improve our cash reserve in the long term. Without a doubt, the new money market account and the extra effort to transfer funds back and forth will result in additional income from interest.

Now, as vice president, I will serve as Employment Committee chairman. The MAGCS offers an employment referral service to clubs or companies with a position to fill. Let's hope Mother Nature doesn't contribute to 2000 being a busy employment year. If any superintendents are looking for an assistant or equipment tech, please remember we will combine mailings if possible, thereby reducing your cost. However, we do not combine notices of superintendent positions with other job notices. The current cost of \$300 per mailing allows us to break even after covering postage and paper supplies.

Additionally, all employment information—and much, much more—is available to our mem-

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Director's Column

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bers on our Web site. If you have not punched up www.magcs.org on the Internet, you're missing out. In addition to publishing the highlights of each issue of *On Course*, our site informs visitors what our organization is all about. The interactive message board is a popular spot to pick up the latest trade tips, and employment opportunities are there for those who are interested. Again, the login name for both the message board and employment page is "magcs." Simply type the login name in lowercase letters, no periods or spaces. The password for the message board is "deeproots" and the password for the employment page is "greenjobs." Again, use all lowercase letters and type in the words without spaces, as if they were one big word. Information for posting messages and using those features is explained in detail, once you access the page.

In closing, I look forward to serving another year on the Board. It has been a great experience and a responsibility that I take very seriously. The Association continues to grow, develop and offer more to the members. I am proud to be a part of this profession and this very dedicated Board. All the best in the new year!



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