



# A Mid-Year Report

*With summer knocking at our door, I hope we are well-prepared. I am quite confident that my beloved Cubbies have their team flag flying near the top of the pole. I always look forward to summer; a bad summer day is always better than a good winter day. Routine events are in place and a little bit of help from Mother Nature can make summer quite enjoyable in our walk of life.*

*Our Board of Directors has been involved in many discussions pertaining to the Midwest Golf Complex at Cog Hill. We have been invited to participate in this venue and are considering the possibilities seriously. The opportunities it proposes are very positive and would join the MAGCS with a great team of allied associations.*

I thought I would write a mid-year report on the state of our Association. You are halfway to the finish line in reading my messages, but don't get too excited—I still have six more. Happily, I can assure you that the MAGCS is as strong as ever with more irons in the fire than my memory serves. Our Board is collectively working on a number of projects that I would like to highlight for you. Also, many tasks are in progress at the committee level as well.

Among our directors, Luke Strojny has been implementing our new accounting system. This involves working with an outside contractor to balance and rectify our ledger monthly. Currently, we have settled the books on 1999, and will be working towards our 2000 certified audit. Our Association is working with a budget greater than a quarter-million dollars; this requires more work than you might think.

Brian Bossert is keeping our Web page updated continually and adding new components as they become available. He has also kicked off negotiations for the 2001 hospitality room in Dallas. Paul Yerkes will be spearheading this project as the date draws nearer. Brian is also keeping quite active in communicating with golf clubs or companies for employee announcements. This particular facet of our Association, fortunately or unfortunately, has become very busy over the past two years.

I myself have completed a few projects with the help of my Board and other dedicated members. We created and distributed our 2000 survey to all members this spring. I would like to thank all of you for the time and effort you put into your returns. Cathy Ralston will write an article highlighting the results and publish them in this magazine. Anyone interested in reviewing the results in tally format can request them from George Minnis. Speaking of George, he is hard at work with me on a number of projects. We are formulating an updated Standard Operating Procedure. Our last one was 10 years old and outdated in many areas. A new membership applica-

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tion form was created recently, bringing a better process with it. It is available to download and print off of our Web page. Tom Fahey and George are working on a new procedure that will help streamline our new memberships. A new dues statement is being drafted for 2001. It will become a useful tool for the Board to use. (We will talk about the dues structure in detail at a future date.)

Our Board of Directors has been involved in many discussions pertaining to the Midwest Golf Complex at Cog Hill. We have been invited to participate in this venue and are considering the possibilities seriously. The opportunities it proposes are very positive and would join the MAGCS with a great team of allied associations. I encourage any member with questions or comments on this endeavor to contact myself or any member of the Board. The decision of whether or not to commit to the project should be made in the near future as space could become limited.

At the committee level, a few items of interest are in progress. Greg Thalmann and his committee are just about ready to introduce the MAGCS Scholarship Program to the members. We are also trying to embellish our relationship with the Chicago-area media. I believe this will help promote our profession to golfers and non-golfers alike.

Cathy and John Gurke continue to do an outstanding job in producing one of our industry's finest publications. Please pass along your comments as well as compliments to them about our magazine. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to complete this job on a

monthly basis. They continue to innovate and bring interesting information to our mailboxes. Fred Behnke and the Education Committee are helping to provide timely articles along with determining our monthly meeting speakers.

Our golf meetings are becoming very popular. Mike Mumper and Kevin DeRoo, along with their respective committees, are doing a terrific job in providing us with great golf experiences. They are always eager to hear from members who want to host a golf event, and give back to the Association. It would be wonderful to have a meeting calendar that stretches out for a number of years.

Serving on the Board of Directors for the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation and representing the MAGCS on the Green Industry committee has kept me well-informed about the ongoing activities of our affiliated associations. I hope you can tell by virtue of this short message that a tremendous amount of time and effort goes forth behind the scenes to make this Association click. Consider becoming a candidate for election to the Board of Directors and become a part of this operation. I strongly feel that the current state of our Association is excellent. It seems that all the pieces are in place for continued success, much as it appears to be with my beloved Cubbies. God bless.



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