



# Home Hole

*Last message. Putting these together for the past 12 months has helped me identify a few things about myself.*

- 1. I do not like working up against a deadline and find it downright painful when I feel like I'm holding someone up (like our poor editor).*
  - 2. I enjoy writing about people and life and family and faith. I am a whole lot less passionate about writing about my occupation.*
  - 3. I like expressing myself in print. I feel as though this might lead to doing more of it.*
- Thanks.*

*... how do we improve our level of service in the future? I'm not entirely sure, but it starts with moving ourselves into the Midwest Golf House. We need at least a part-time physical presence there so that we can begin to forge and improve relationships with the other allied golf organizations that call the Golf House home.*

Last November at Medinah, Pete Leuzinger pulled me aside and offered his ear if leading our organization ever made for a trying day. Specifically, he said to call if the complaints ever got to be too much. I can say that the complaints were very few and I hope that means that most of the members enjoy our Association and feel there is good value in being a Midwest member. The Board is to be congratulated; it is at times trying when one is balancing a life, trying to keep a golf course alive and attending to Midwest affairs. These duties can require more time than is available.

For all the things that went well and that we did accomplish this year, a few visions and goals didn't get far from the drawing board. It's not my nature to dwell on all that went right. Without being specific about where the details fell through the cracks, how do we improve our level of service in the future? I'm not entirely sure, but it starts with moving ourselves into the Midwest Golf House. We need at least a part-time physical presence there so that we can begin to forge and improve relationships with the other allied golf organizations that call the Golf House home. Those in the golfing community that frequent the Golf House need to see us there. We've acted prudently and slowly to date and this move may not be without a few growing pains. However, our current executive secretary, George Minnis, does a great job for us and will help make our transition as smooth as possible. We are still examining our vision for that position in the future, but the time to grow our Association with a new address is now.

Another step forward will involve improving the Board's management of their respective committees. In some cases, the Board member **IS** the committee, and we need more members to participate. The more people sharing the workload, the more that gets done and the easier it

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is on those involved. More done and done more easily: win-win! Just think what you could accomplish with just two or three more crew members? Or with just one more salesperson or customer service rep? And wouldn't it make life easier for the whole staff? Make this year the year you sign up for a committee assignment.

On our end, committee chairs need to hold a few more meetings and divide up the workload. I know Fred Behnke is making strides with a new long-range plan and that document is very necessary so that we can have a more prioritized approach to our efforts. Trying to put your arms around too many items will lead to being disorganized and falling short of our goals.

I do need to thank a few folks before I step aside. In my first message a year ago, I

expressed gratitude to a number of individuals, but I need to mention my assistant superintendents at Bryn Mawr again. Bryan Widmer and Damon Soderberg did a great job filling my shoes when I was away from the course and/or holed up in my office returning calls and such. I was going by the seat of my pants at times and didn't always handle my additional responsibilities with a big smile. Well done, fellows!

Thanks to outgoing past president Don Ferreri. Don was a true leader on the Board; the type of guy that people listened to when he was talking and still a go-to guy when we had difficult decisions to make. He is a very committed steward to the industry and carries a good attitude along the way. Thanks as well to outgoing Board member John Gurke. John's real passion is for our magazine and he will continue

assisting Cathy and handling "the Bull Sheet" section of *On Course*. John, you did a great job coordinating those decade articles and the authors did a good job following through with the vision you created. I guess this means we won't be e-mailing each other all the time. You can probably live with that.

Last, I'll just thank the members of this Association. It was a privilege to serve during our anniversary year; I do appreciate the opportunity. I received so many positive calls and comments throughout the year. Complaints were few and most of the aggravation was self-imposed. As a past president, I look forward to **not** sitting in the back row with my arms folded and shaking my head at the future hierarchy. Good luck to Luke and our next Board, and to all—a blessed holiday season!



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