



Of Shrimp and Cocktails

It's that time of year again when I have to write a director's column, thereby fulfilling one of my responsibilities as the commercial representative on the MAGCS Board of Directors. Since I was in charge of organizing the Midwest's hospitality suite in Orlando, it's not so very difficult to find a subject to write about. And since I have a subject, my big stumbling block is finding the words to elaborate on the subject. What's really going to stretch my journalistic creativity is doing justice to an event at which I wasn't in attendance. Sitting here on a snowy Saturday morning with my girls wanting to go sledding, my wife waiting for the chores to get done and a Super-N-Site on Luke Cella to write as well, the pressure is on!

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First of all, I heard the hospitality room was a great success and I appreciate all the warm comments I've received as I travel the area. But the biggest thank-yous should go to all the vendors that participated in the Golden Tee Club. Simply put, without the financial commitment our vendors make to the event, the MAGCS wouldn't be able to afford this type of two-day party at the GCSAA national convention. To express our thanks, we developed a full-page color ad listing all the members of the Golden Tee Club. The ad will run in several issues of *On Course* this year and indeed, it already graced the back cover of the March issue. This year's Golden Tee Club contributions totaled \$26,500, which was incredible considering all the economic indicators that went south during the year 2001. I would like to personally thank all the companies that made my job easier.

Another success story behind this year's hospitality suite was that we finally stayed within the budget. The total cost for the two-day party at the Rosen Centre was \$33,195.17. With the MAGCS budgeting \$7,000 from its own coffers and the Golden Tee Club's contributions, we had \$33,500 with which to work. Jason Parsons, the banquet manager at the Rosen Centre, also helped out by giving us the room for free and discounting the food and beverage prices. I guess that given the economic slide of the last year, the folks at the Rosen Centre were only more than happy to collect our money. Anyway—that's enough of the financial stuff.

Last but not least, I would like to thank a few Board members who helped out behind the scenes. Brian Bossert used his price-slashing skills to rework the contract with the Rosen Centre such that they agreed to waive the cost of the room. Also, Brian has made my task easier overall by virtue of the outline he created for organizing the hospitality room back when he was in charge. Fred Behnke did a great job of writing the checks. Gary Hearn was on hand to lend a hand on the set-up of the room. Kevin DeRoo took the bull by the horns and volunteered to make sure the room was up to speed and that all the food we ordered was served. Kevin also had the authority to shut the bar down in case we were heading way over budget. Good thing it didn't come to that, or we would have been looking for a new superintendent at Bartlett Hills! Another one of Kevin's responsibilities was providing the two Golden Tee Club banners that were on display. Thanks, Kevin. Oh, there's one more person I forgot to mention. Thanks to Ed (Braunsky) for letting everyone know that we ran out of shrimp! 