



Where We Are, And Where We're Going

Apparently, gazing into my crystal ball is something I ought to get used to. It has quickly come to my attention that as the newly elected president of the MAGCS, I must adapt to unconventional thinking and sometimes put the cart before the horse. Such is the case of punching out my first president's message before actually being elected. Hopefully, running unopposed will have slanted the voting contingent heavily in my favor. I am the first to tell you I am not a politician and I adopt a Yogi Berra theory to election results and say, "It ain't over . . . 'til it's over." For the rest of the slate of candidates the Nominating Committee selected, early polls showed the races were too close to call. And don't be surprised that a nomination or two from the floor occurred. It's the democratic process in action. Now that the outcome is finalized, I can assure the membership that the MAGCS Board of Directors shall always do its best in serving this Association. It will be my responsibility to see to it that this newly elected Board shall follow the stone path of accomplishments already laid by the many previous boards. And if we are to truly be successful, hopefully we will lay a few stones of our own.

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To know the direction MAGCS is heading, we must define where we are now. Today's membership is close approaching the 700 mark, a number almost unthinkable just a few years ago. Membership Committee chair Tim Anderson attributes the increase in membership to a midseason membership drive and a change in policy as we allowed no guests to attend our golfing events. A total of 43 membership applications were processed this year.

MAGCS monthly meetings continue to be filled or near capacity. The new practice of online meeting notices and meeting registration through e-mail has proven to be very successful and is being used by over one-third of our membership. The use of our Web page is still in its infancy and we as a Board need to stay abreast of ways to distribute information to the membership. An additional application of our Web site has already gone into effect. Members can not only register for a meeting online, but also—as of this year's Midwest Turf Clinic—they can check to see the registration list as well. No longer will the Golf or Arrangements Committee chairperson have to call members to tell them of their registration status; they can check themselves. This change will especially help in the golf event registrations next year. Speaking of our golf meetings, Phil Zeinert and the Golf Committee should be commended for the events and prizes offered this year. A quicker way to score some of these events is one quandary we hope to resolve in 2003.

Meanwhile, as of this writing, Mike Mumper and his Arrangements Committee were diligently finalizing meeting sites for 2003. This is a great position to be in for the Board, but no time to rest either. 2004 will soon be upon us and meeting sites can be reserved well in advance. If you are thinking of hosting a meeting, please contact any Board member

(continued on page 25)

Smith, conducted the process, and the results are now official. Your new Board of Directors for 2003 is as follows: Kevin DeRoo, president; Fred Behnke, vice president; Phil Zeinert, secretary/treasurer. Joining incumbent directors Tim Anderson, Dave Braasch, Luke Cella and Gary Hearn (who was re-elected) are Scott Speiden of Itasca C.C. and Tony Kalina of Prairie Landing G.C. Joining the group is Dave Armentout of TPEC, who gets to fill the very large shoes of Paul Yerkes as the commercial advisory representative and will tackle the job of arranging the hospitality suite in Atlanta (to be at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel). Congratulations to all, and best of luck in keeping this ship sailing straight and smooth.

MAGCS thanks all of those involved in making the 50th Annual Midwest Turf Clinic a success, including Gary Hearn and the Education Committee, Tom Lively and the staff at Medinah C.C., our education speakers and of course, all who attended. Thanks also to Brian Bossert, who is leaving the Board after seemingly decades of service. Brian put a new spin on leaving the Board by not only accepting his parting gift (a \$300 gift certificate from Fleet Feet Shoes), but by presenting gifts to all MAGCS members as a token of thanks. Class move, Brian. See you all next year.



On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

and we will do everything in our power to make it happen.

At each MAGCS meeting, Gary Hearn and his Education Committee had the not-so-enviable task of providing an educational topic and speaker. A considerable amount of time and energy goes into lining up educational speakers to discuss their respective fields of expertise. The last survey showed the Board that more than 60% of the membership wants an educational session at each meeting, and yet attendance is far less than that. I would hope that going forward, our membership will give these speakers the time and courtesy of their attention that they so richly deserve.

We see the fruits of the Editorial Committee's labor each and every month with another fantastic issue of *On Course*, a publication that we as an Association should all be very proud of. The professional work of Cathy Miles Ralston, John Gurke, Dave Braasch and the Editorial Committee goes without saying. But I would be remiss if I did not mention our monthly advertisers. Frankly, without them, this magazine does not happen. I do hope the membership realizes this and helps support those who help support us. Since the days of *the Bull Sheet*, the search for member-written articles continues to be an ongoing hurdle for this committee to jump. I urge everyone to take the time during this off-season and write. Just imagine if every member wrote just one article! I can guarantee the feeling of accomplishment you get out of it will far surpass the effort you put into it. Besides, being published is a really cool thing.

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The Long-Range Planning Committee and its chair, Luke Cella, have just completed a plan that has been adopted by the Board. This plan mainly calls for updating SOPs for each committee, appointing a co-chairperson for those committees with a greater workload, the creation of exit summary forms for each committee chair, and ways to increase membership involvement on committees. The purpose of these changes is simply to enhance the continuity between changing boards, chairpersons and committee members.

The direction that we as Association are heading is simple as well: forward. It is my intention and challenge to keep us on that path. I am as proud as can be to be president of this Association, and I know we as a Board are only as good as the membership we represent. We know only this: participation is the key to our success. And no participation is too great, or too small. Have a wonderful holiday season.



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