



## What the Midwest Elves Have Been Up To Lately

*I am sure that by now, most of us are in winter mode. The pace of life has slowed down and things are a little less hectic. It is the perfect time to reflect on what was successful and what did not work so well last year.*

*Our executive secretary, George Minnis, has come up with a great idea to help decrease postage, copying and stationery expenses. Beginning in March, members will be able to receive all MAGCS correspondence via e-mail. Members will also be able to register for meetings on the Web site using a credit card. In this day of electronic everything, I am very excited about this new member service and hope it is heavily used.*

Now is the time to prepare for the 2002 golfing season. As superintendents, there is so much we must complete before the new season begins. New equipment to be ordered, chemical and fertilizer programs to be evaluated and products to be purchased. The off-season is also the time to sharpen our skills as superintendents. Many education opportunities are available to take advantage of, including the GCSAA conference and our own MAGCS March meeting. I do know how many times I have been asked, "What do you do all winter?" and when I tell them all that I do, I get that deer-in-the-headlights look followed by, "I never realized that there was so much involved in your job." I usually reply with, "What do you think, the golf course elves come in during the winter and get everything ready for the next year?"

The MAGCS "elves" have also been very busy this winter. Back in early December, the Executive Board met to formulate the 2002 budget. Although I have been involved in the process before, this year's process was extremely smooth. Thanks to the efforts of Brian, Kevin and Fred, we were able to balance the budget with ease. The 2002 budget will have revenues and expenses each totaling more than \$318,000. As our Association continues to grow, it is becoming increasingly important to keep expenses in line with revenues. Our executive secretary, George Minnis, has come up with a great idea to help decrease postage, copying and stationery expenses. Beginning in March, members will be able to receive all MAGCS correspondence via e-mail. Members will also be able to register for meetings on the Web site using a credit card. In this day of electronic everything, I am very excited about this new member service and hope it is heavily used. George has informed me that as of late December, more than 200 members had signed up for this service. I strongly urge members wishing to cut down the amount of paper accumulating on their desks to start using this service. Please contact George if you want to sign up.

Many of the other committees have met and are planning this year's activities or events. One of the biggest events we host is the Midwest hospitality room at the GCSAA convention. Paul Yerkes has been hard at work planning this year's event, which will be held at the Omni Rosen in Orlando on February 6 and 7. Some may not remember the days when the hospitality room was held in a suite. The room was usually overcrowded with a temperature of well over 90 degrees. This year's event, again, will be held in a ballroom setting. The ballroom setting has been well received by the membership and continues to grow in size and cost. Expenses for the 2001 room Dallas were \$39,000 for the two nights. A big THANK YOU goes out to the sponsors of the 2002 MAGCS hospitality room. If not for their generous support, this event would not be so successful. In this time of corporate cutbacks, it is nice

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to know we have the support of our commercial members. Please remember them when making this year's purchases. My final thank you goes out to Paul Yerkes. Paul continues to do a stand-up job putting the room together, completing all the legwork from soliciting sponsors to planning the menu, and securing the room. Make sure to stop and thank him sometime during the show.

For those of you attending the conference, have a safe journey to and from Orlando. Those who have chosen to stay home, keep warm and I hope to see you in March at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont.



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- With few exceptions, every golf course superintendent should have a personal "long-range professional plan" for his lifetime career and contributions to society. Keep in mind, too, that exceptional opportunities and options just might happen along the way. Think BIG!
- It's the man who learns how to hold his tongue who will probably also hold his job.



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