



# The Word, By George!

*It seems like only yesterday I was writing my 2001 director's column and here it is, a year later. And what a year it has been! September 11th seems to make all other things seem small, but a few good things happened also. Karen and I were able to get a couple weeks' vacation in and by the second half of the year we were blessed with two more grandkids: a boy in August and a girl in September (just two days after 9-11). I guess things have a way of leveling out.*

*... MAGCS is setting up a daytime office at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. This location will be our headquarters for questions and information during business hours, as well as the site for mailing of announcements and referrals via U.S. mail.*

While in Phoenix this time, we decided to try to climb Camelback Mountain, which is very close to the resort where we stay. The girls wanted to go along but Gary (the smart one of the group) wanted no part of it. Thinking we would beat the heat, we got up at 6:00 a.m. to get a head start. And sure enough, when we stepped outside ready to take on the mountain, it was a mere 90 degrees and of course, SUNNY. We drove to the trailhead and found we were not the only ones attempting this endeavor. The parking lot was almost full. Our group managed to make it about a fourth of the way before the girls called it quits and waited for me as I went on a little further. When I felt as if I was hiking straight up, I too decided to stop. (I blamed it on the heat and not the fact that I was really in no shape to do this in the first place.) I took a couple of pictures, rested and turned around. When we got back to the resort, I found a tee shirt that said "I Climbed Camelback Mountain." The kind clerk said it was okay to wear it since I at least had made the attempt. Who knows, maybe I'll try it again this year and make it further. (Or maybe not!)

Not quite as formidable as Camelback but still challenging is the new MAGCS Message Board that debuted early in 2002. For some (myself included), confusion reigned at first, but all is now running smoothly and the forum is used by quite a few members. HINT—if you forget your password to the message board, you can retrieve it by going to the login, typing in your user name and then clicking below where it says "Forgot password?" Within a minute or so, your password will be e-mailed to the address with which you signed up.

E-mail delivery of meeting notices started with the March meeting, but that notice was also mailed to all members. Since it was (and still is) sent directly from our Web site and not from the MAGCS computer, I didn't know how the first attempt would fare and wanted to make sure all members received the announcement. As it turned out, I got a list of all e-mails confirmed sent as well as a few that failed (some due to my typing skills). With those results, I decided it would be a good idea to put the monthly announcement itself on the Web site. E-mail messages for announcements as well as job referrals are now shorter and to the point. Please be aware that the online registration form has also been modified. Registering online is by far the best and fastest way, but if you need a hard copy of the form, you can click your Web browser's print button and download the form itself.

I am writing this column at the end of March, so while I can't be sure, it's most likely a reality that MAGCS is setting up a daytime office at the  
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On Course With the President (continued from page 3)

Spanish-speaking assistant. We must cover a mountain of material annually and having him there to translate makes getting through all of it much easier and quicker. One of the many jobs he does well!

Bottom line, it is important to keep our staffs well-educated and trained. The maintenance staff is the most important staff in any golf operation. A well-trained and educated staff is a strong asset and is a lot more difficult to trim or cut than a weak,

untrained staff. It takes some planning and time to train, but the rewards are endless.

I hope everyone has a good start to a long season. Good luck!



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Midwest Golf House in Lemont. This location will be our headquarters for questions and information during business hours, as well as the site for mailing of announcements and referrals via U.S. mail. Yours truly will supply the updated membership lists when needed. If you need to talk with someone during the day, phoning the Golf House will be your best bet.

I plan on continuing with the e-mail side of the mailings as well as keeping track of meeting registrations, collection of dues and directory updates. I will also oversee the Web site for referral and meeting announcement updates. So if your question involves an address or place-of-work change or "am I registered?" and things of that nature, let me know and I will get back to you as

soon as I can. Both phone and fax numbers as well as my e-mail address are listed in your directory.

Enough said. Best of luck to all and have a great year!



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