



# The Time Is Now

*The end of another golfing season is upon us. To that, my only reaction is . . . whew!!!*

*. . . as golf course superintendents in a geography that has changing seasons, we have this time during our “off-season” to evaluate every aspect of our operations . . . While all of us apply these thought processes at our individual facilities, the same tasks and concerns are being addressed by the MAGCS Board of Directors concurrent with the changing of the guard.*

Sometimes the seasons change faster than we might hope. Having done this for many years, I am here to tell you all that nothing spells relief to a superintendent like having the irrigation system blown out before the snow falls. I can still remember the last time my staff and I froze our tails off while bowing out the system in the middle of an early-season snowstorm. I told myself that would never happen again. I should know by now that in this business, never saying “never” is a conceptual approach closer to reality. I need to remind myself of that every now and then, especially after once again, blowing out in a blizzard. “Not until the next time” shall be my new credo. Equally reassuring to the superintendent is, of course, the completion of all snow-mold applications before the real winter sets in. Unfortunately, in the Midwest, we never really know when winter will arrive, and when it arrives, is it going to stay? In any event, until these tasks are completed, our season is not quite over at all. Lucky for me, I can sit back and relax now, at least for a bit. Time to start work on next year’s budget! I believe it to be Homer Simpson who said it best (on behalf of superintendents everywhere) and I quote: “DOH!!!”

From a management perspective, now is also the time for superintendents to look back and study the season just past. By identifying our organizational strengths and weaknesses, we can determine the areas in which we need to improve. Fortunately, as golf course superintendents in a geography that has changing seasons, we have this time during our “off-season” to evaluate every aspect of our operations. We can analyze our list of last year’s accomplishments and set new, attainable goals for the upcoming year. Working within our budgetary constraints is always one of the utmost concerns. Especially during these slow economic times, the decisions on how we spend our dollars are more crucial than ever. While all of us apply these thought processes at our individual facilities, the same tasks and concerns are also being addressed by the MAGCS Board of Directors concurrent with the changing of the guard. As the newly elected president of this Association, it will be my formidable task to help set new goals for the Board and for the membership, and assist in guiding our future as a professional organization.

The new Board of Directors met for the first time on November 19. After introductions for the two new kids on the block (Tony Kalina and Scott Speiden), we dove right into issuing committee chairperson assignments, co-chair assignments and director’s column due dates. Each committee chair will be responsible for the organization of his committee and performing the duties thereof. Completing the updating of every committee’s SOP (standard operating procedures) will be the first and foremost priority for each chairperson individually. Collectively, the Board must move swiftly towards filling

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a void in our growing Association. This fall, the final phases of the three-hole experimental research golf course in Lemont were completed, making the dream of the Midwest Golf House Complex a total reality. Already many of our allied associations in the golf community have taken up residence in this magnificent facility. Even before Midwest Golf House was built, it was a goal of the MAGCS to reside there in some capacity. Now more than ever, we must take advantage of the generosity offered to us by the CDGA. Our

every intention is to finally accomplish this in 2003. For it to happen, we will need assistance. At this time, we as an organization are not large enough or financially endowed enough to have a full-time person answer phones, take messages, do administrative work and answer questions pertinent to our Association. To solve this quandary, we are entertaining the idea of combining forces with an allied association that is suffering from the same symptoms. The answer could be a dual-role position, financially supported by both organi-

zations. By doing so, we and another allied association can help each other grow and utilize the resources of Midwest Golf House to the full extent that is being offered to us.

We will keep you all posted on the future progress of these endeavors. Until then, have a very wonderful new year.



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