



It's All Been Arranged

Serving on the Arrangements Committee this year are Dave Braasch (co-chair) and committee members Joel Purpur, Mike Mumper, Keith Peterson, Todd Schmitz and Stacy Wallace. I would like to thank these individuals for volunteering their time.

The most common concerns with MAGCS events seem to be the cost of meetings, location of sites and prompt notification of members regarding upcoming meetings.

What does the Arrangements Committee do? That is a good question. The Committee's primary responsibility is to make all the arrangements for MAGCS meetings, both locally and nationally. This includes securing sites, setting times for meetings, determining room requirements, securing audio-video equipment, ordering food and beverage service, setting the cost for the event, providing directions, estimating the number of participants, providing the executive secretary with all pertinent information for registration mailings, ordering signs and banners, soliciting sponsors to help offset the cost of the event, tracking costs associated with the event and verifying final payment for the event. To accomplish this, the Arrangements Committee works closely with the Education Committee, the Golf Committee and the treasurer.

Over the course of the year, the Arrangements Committee helps organize 11 different events (two non-golf meetings, the hospitality suite, five golf events, the Cougars baseball game, the Midwest Turf Clinic and the Fall Dinner Dance). At the recommendation of the Past Presidents Council, we will be adding a twelfth event in 2004, family hockey night.

As the Committee works to fulfill its responsibilities, it also tries to address the membership's concerns regarding the planning of events. The most common concerns with MAGCS events seem to be the cost of meetings, location of sites and prompt notification of members regarding upcoming meetings.

Cost of events is influenced by a variety of factors including number of participants, amount of sponsorship support and fees charged by the host site (we are fortunate in that we are routinely offered substantially discounted fees as a professional courtesy). Over the past four years, the cost of monthly golf meetings has ranged from \$65 to \$125 with an average cost of \$80. This year, our goal is to maintain an **average** cost of \$80 for golf meetings. To help track monthly meeting costs, we have put together an income/expense report. This report is completed for each event so we can monitor our financial status through the course of the year. The goal of the Committee is to achieve a year-end break-even status for all 11 events.

Location is a difficult topic. With close to 700 members located in 14 different states (predominantly Illinois, but Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Virginia, South Dakota, Colorado, Florida, California, Minnesota and Montana are also represented), and given travel times within the Chicago met-

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ropolitan area alone, it is not surprising that members are concerned about how far they have to drive to attend meetings. It would be ideal if all the meetings were centrally located, or some type of a geographical rotation existed to ensure that everyone had meeting sites to choose from that were close by. However, since we are working with sites that have volunteered to host our group and extend us a discounted fee, an old adage applies: "Beggars can't be choosers." We are fortunate to have members who are willing to share their facilities with their peers. The best way to avoid a long commute to a meeting site is to volunteer to serve as a host site. Hosting a meeting is a great way to participate and give back to the Association. Our goal for this year is to line up a full slate of meeting sites for 2004, 2005 and 2006. If you would like to help us achieve this goal, please contact me as many dates are still available.

Providing timely notification of upcoming events to the membership is the direct responsibility of the Arrangements Committee. We work to have final arrangements in place well in advance so that registration information can be sent out to the membership four weeks prior to a meeting. This requires good coordination with both the Golf Committee and Education Committee. To facilitate this process, we are using an event-planning form that was developed with input from all of the involved committees.

For the remainder of the year, our event calendar is as follows:

- July 8
Foxford Hills Golf Club
Golf Event
- August 9
Kane County Cougars Game
Family Night

- August 11
Bartlett Hills Golf Course
Golf Event
- September 23
Shoreacres
Golf Event
- October 7
Prairie Landing
(ITF Event)
- November 5
Medinah Country Club
Turf Clinic
- November 15
Aurora Country Club
Dinner Dance

Mark these dates on your calendars and watch the Web site and snail mail for specific registration information!



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