



# Thanks to All

*The leaves on the trees are changing colors, daylight hours are growing shorter, temperatures are getting cooler, golf course aeration is coming to a pleasant end, course improvement projects for some superintendents are in full swing and the loveable Cubbies are still playing baseball. It must be October . . . right?*

*In 2003, the MAGCS Board of Directors, their respective committees and the host of committee members all kept themselves very busy with Association duties. I am as proud as a parent of this Board and its accomplishments this year. The directors really did make my job easier than it should have been.*

Okay, now, we all know which of the above is NOT exactly typical of October. Apparently next year is finally here. While my South Siders were doing their best impression of a cardboard box and folding down the stretch, the Cubby nation was celebrating in the streets as America's team clinched a National League Central Division title. Amazingly enough, the Boston Red Sox were also making some noise in the American League. Would it be too much to ask the baseball gods to find a way for these two teams to meet at the "Big Dance?" Maybe that would have kick-started the economy into overdrive. At least business at the watering holes around Wrigleyville and Fenway was booming. In any event, a change of uniforms in this year's baseball playoffs was welcomed by almost everybody.

Change is on the horizon for the MAGCS as well. This will be my last message to the membership as president. My responsibilities in this leadership role come to an abrupt end at our annual meeting in early November. Professionally, serving MAGCS has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. The Boards on which I have served, the people I have met and the places I have seen because of my direct involvement with Association duties far outweigh the amount of time and energy spent on running the Association. A few years back, I ran for the Board of Directors for only one reason: to give something back to the Association. And all it really amounted to was time. Time is a commodity none of us can ever harness, but all of us should learn to better manage. MAGCS has taught me to be a better time manager.

This past year, as with every year, the MAGCS Board faced many unique challenges. The biggest, of course, came with the passing of our executive secretary, George Minnis. For many years, George had been the heart of our Association. He was the organizer behind the organization. He brought us into the computer age and will always be remembered for his contributions to our Association. How would we fill this void?

As I proudly announced at the September meeting at Shoreacres and wrote in my October president's message, Luke Cella accepted the newly created position of executive director for MAGCS and the ITF. He was to begin his new duties on October 20, 2003, working out of the Midwest Golf House in Lemont. I am as excited for the MAGCS and the ITF as I am for Luke entering into his new endeavor. During the long interview process, Luke astonished the selection committee (comprised of the executive boards of MAGCS and ITF), not only with his computer talents, communication skills and organization abilities, but also with his vision for our future. The challenge for Luke

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does not lie in doing the things we already do, better. The real challenge will be in doing well the things we hardly ever do, and making those routine. I truly believe the success of our profession lies with the constant positive promotion of it. By forming this new position and hiring Luke, we have an opportunity to begin doing just that.

In addition to filling this new position, the Board accomplished a few other things as well. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Formation of the Class C Advisory Council with Erwin McKone (assistant superintendent at River Forest C.C.) chairing this committee.
- Appointment of Sylvia Lima from Leibold Irrigation, Inc. to chair the Commercial Advisory Council.
- Purchase of a laptop computer for the secretary/treasurer position.
- Promotion of the annual "Bird Watching Open" sponsored by Audubon International.

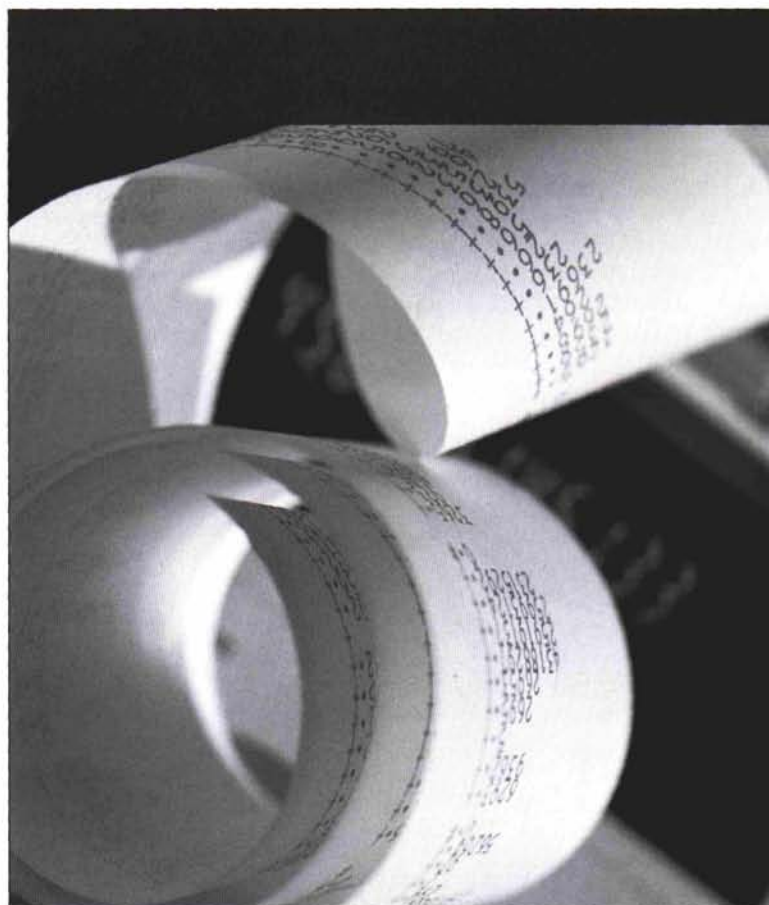
- Awarding of three \$1,000 college scholarships.
- Completion of MAGCS Family Tree.
- Updating and standardization of the S.O.P.s for each committee.
- Completion of the 2003 MAGCS membership survey.
- Integration of PDI education points with GCSAA.
- Completion of *On Course* readership survey.
- Establishment of MAGCS meeting sites for 2004 and almost all of 2005.
- Reformatting of monthly golf events.

To say the least, the MAGCS Board of Directors, their respective committees and the host of committee members all kept themselves very busy with Association duties. I am as proud as a parent of this Board and its accomplishments this year. The directors really did make my job easier than it should have been. Their diligence and commitment of

time to MAGCS is what we as a whole are all about. Participation is really not that hard when you think about it. And to all those who did take part, I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart.

To the commercial members of our Association—I cannot begin to tell you how grateful we are for your generosity this year, as we are every year. This fine Association cannot perform as it does without your financial help and to come through like you did this year, shaky economic times and all, is a testament to your faithful support. To the membership—your acceptance of and patience in Board activities has been remarkable. And last, to my family—support is what you always have been to me, and words alone cannot possibly describe what that means.

Thanks to all.



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