



Thanks and Reflections

Strength, dedication, persistence and perseverance are the combination that comprises the core of our membership, a core that makes this chapter stand out among the peers within the golf industry. My taking the helm of MAGCS gives me a chance to reflect over my past 20 years being part of a great “plan:” an organization that has produced unselfish leaders, devoted volunteers and great companionship. I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as your MAGCS president.

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Great Midwest Turf Clinic!!! Tony Kalina and his Education Committee did an outstanding job; I thought the itinerary was excellent, took a variety of different directions and made good use of roundtables that got fellow superintendents involved—which would have made Dudley Smith very happy. Even the keynote speaker followed through on the theme of “change.” Da Coach, Mike Ditka, was refreshing, inspiring at times, a straight shooter and quite entertaining, especially with comments towards Vikings fan Ed Braunsky.

Now that Phil Zeinert has passed the gavel to me, I would like to express my feelings to the officers and directors. To Phil, you are a very soft-spoken and receptive leader who believes in the strength of the committees. You have taught me valuable lessons; hopefully I can successfully fill your shoes. Congratulations to Tim Anderson and Dave Braasch for being elected as vice president and secretary/treasurer, respectively. I have a great Board of Directors that will be striving to achieve goals and set new objectives. To that end, I'd like to welcome to the Board Tom Prichard, already cracking out ideas at Dave & Buster's, and welcome back Dan Sterr, who stepped in last year and is doing a great job on membership—Dan won't miss a step. To veterans Tony Kalina, Scott Witte, Paul Bastron and Todd Schmitz, I'm really looking forward to your fresh ideas, enthusiasm and undivided devotion—thanks.

I'd also like to acknowledge the advisors and staff, a great group of people who have their hands on the pulse that surrounds our industry: John Gurke, Chad Kempf, Ed Braunsky, Cathy Ralston, Sharon Riesenbeck and Luke Cella. Many thanks for your support, contributions and sacrifices. To Fred Behnke . . . a friend, colleague and Packer fan (two out of three isn't bad) . . . as Godfather of the Board, and a Board fixture since 1996, you always have a point-of-view. I wish you new challenges and endeavors, you will be sorely missed at the roundtable.

Again, I am really looking forward to the new season as your president. Please feel free to call me, e-mail me or just pull me aside to converse. Members, please get involved by signing up on committees and making your presence known; your fresh ideas and unlimited imaginations will give assurance to the Board.

In conclusion, the holiday season is upon us and it is a time for reflection, time to be among family members and friends, time to set goals and rejuvenate the soul and the body, time to take care of the staff and remember the memories, and time to view life outside the world of golf. My family and I would like to wish you all a joyous holiday and a prosperous New Year. 