



President's Message FINIS

I knew this day would come and, quite frankly, I haven't been looking forward to it. This will be the last chance I'll have to write a "President's Message." It isn't writing the column that I'll miss — there are ways to compensate, as you'll see — but rather I'm about to give up a position that has been a singular honor and a distinct privilege. Of all the offices I've held in other groups in my life, none has come close to offering the pleasures and rewards the WGCSA presidency has. I thank all of you for that.

It seems appropriate on the eve of succession to look back at what principles and attitudes guided me for the two terms I was president. Words of wisdom from two small quotes I read and memorized 20 years ago influenced me greatly. I think they are worth repeating. The first is a paragraph penned by Daniel Burnham that is entitled "Make Big Plans." It goes like this:

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably in themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing asserting itself with evergrowing intensity. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us."

The literal translation may seem somewhat overwhelming, but the lesson between the lines applies anywhere. I recognized the risks one takes in aggravating people with such an approach, but the in-

tentions were sincere and I selfishly believe many of the results were positive. It is right for me to thank WGCSA directors of the past two years for support in some of the "big plans" I put before them. Specifics aside, I strongly believe that dealing with larger issues leads to a lot of sifting and winnowing on the part of the WGCSA membership and our organization will always prosper from those experiences.

This short, anonymous poem on perseverance applies throughout life's endeavors and I recalled it many times these past two years:

*"If a task is once begun
Never leave it till it's done.
Be the labor great or small,
Do it well or not at all."*

I vowed on election day in November 1983 at Hartford Country Club that I would always give the responsibilities I'd accepted something more than a lick and a promise. A lot of what must be done by a WGCSA president is hardly exciting, but must dutifully be taken care of, nevertheless. Attention to such details was, more than once, inspired by these few lines.

If asked to summarize a general overall goal as president for the past two years, it would be amplifying our **esprit de corps**. This fine French phrase, which is too often used loosely, is defined by Webster as "the common spirit pervading the members of a body or association of persons. It implies sympathy, enthusiasm, devotion and jealous regard for the honor of the body as a whole." **Espirit**, in its best function, can keep the members of a group working toward the same goal. In the end, nearly everything I endeavored to do had this in mind.

Serving with the WGCSA officers and directors of the past two years, as well as becoming better acquainted with so many of our members, gives one a good state of mind about the position of president. We have formidable numbers of people in our association who are qualified for leadership positions. This led to a view that the two terms served as president were merely "my turn." There is no need to worry of our future — we have great quality in our membership. The fact that our roster is filled with men more suited than I

to serve as president gave me a big dose of humility.

Of all that is dreaded, whatever it might be, there is always some good. The good of becoming a past president will be enjoying the fine company of all the men who preceded me in this office. This also is a rare privilege.

Public thanks are due to my wife Cheryl, who never once complained of meetings attended or business completed at night and on weekends. My assistants over the past two years — David Noltner, Mike Semler and Tom Parent — deserve thanks for their understanding and increased work load at certain times. John Kotz, Green Committee Chairman at Blackhawk Country Club for the past four years, always has applauded my involvement in professional associations and I'm grateful to him for that. Past President Jim Belfield offered the kind of advice and perspective to me that I hope to give to my successor. And Roger Bell always was willing to listen to the raft of ideas I put to him. His brutal honesty was needed and appreciated. Gene Haas, Marilyn Gaffney and Diane Haas tend to so much of our business that I dread to think of where we'd be without them. And again, to all of you, my deep gratitude for permitting me this period of what I hope has been helpful and useful service. I'd do it again in a minute.

Thanks for the memories.

Monroe S. Miller

