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President's Message

Bill Shirk, CGCS



As this will be my last chance to address the membership through the Turfgrass Matters, I have several topics to review in this issue!

First of all, I would like to thank each of our Host Superintendents and Host Clubs for their outstanding service to our membership for our monthly meeting sites. Everyone of you should be very proud of a job well done. The commitment you made to serve our Association set a great example of how to host a membership meeting. Thanks again!

Secondly, I would like to relate some of my experiences while serving on the MAAGCS's Board of Directors for several years. When I was asked by Mr. Bill Neus, CGCS, to run for election to serve on the Board of Directors, I felt that it was time for me to give something back to the Association -- that being my time and effort to strengthen the MAAGCS. The MAAGCS has provided a real service for all of its members.

In addition, I thought that some modifications needed to be made for the MAAGCS to advance in the 90's and in to the next millennium. I have always believed that rather than complaining about something it was better to become involved and make the change accordingly!

The first major change that I felt needed to be accomplished as a Golf Chairman was to change the Clare Emery Trophy to the President's Cup. Even though the Clare Emery Trophy served us well for many years I strongly believed that our Superintendent-Pro Tournament was the MAAGCS's Tournament, and we should be commemorating our own members. What better way to honor our Past Presidents for their hard work and many years of service than through our largest tournament of the year.

Secondly, our Newsletter was a subject that bothered me for many years. It was the second major change that I felt was necessary. I always believed that the MAAGCS could generate a better publication. Over the years as a Board member, I found that it wasn't going to be simple to change. In spite of all of the hard work by several Board members, upgrading the Newsletter wasn't

going to be easy. After the dreadful experience the Board encountered from hiring a management company in 1995, all of the Board members and I theorized that 1996 was

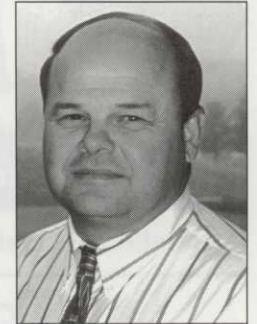
going to be a year of reform and would be the best opportunity for making improvements to our Newsletter. Through the great efforts of Chris Ayers and his committee, the entire Association and I can be very proud of the MAAGCS's Newsletter. There have been some other minor changes since I have been on the Board, but the Clare Emery Trophy and the MAAGCS's Newsletter were my major concerns.

After serving on this Board for several years, I can assure the Membership that every decision made by the Board is carefully thought about before being voted on and the well being of the Association is always the principal concern before any action is taken on the Board level. I would like to thank all of the 1996 Directors. At the beginning of 1996, in our first Directors' meeting I told each member what would be expected of them and that nothing less than 100% effort would be acceptable. All of the directors responded by giving the MAAGCS and me much more than that! Again, thanks for holding up under all my demands. I am very proud of the entire Board!

In closing, I would like to say that over the years as a Director, I have met some great people and feel fortunate to have been able to work with them for a common cause. I am also fortunate to have made some outstanding friends. These are some of the greatest rewards one can receive from serving on the MAAGCS's Board of Directors, and I encourage all Members to support the MAAGCS by serving on the Board or hosting a meeting.

Thanks to the entire Membership for your support in 1996. It truly was a great year!

Bill Shirk, CGCS
President



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