

## Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary - Mike Evans



At the January MAAGCS Board of Directors meeting, President Walter Montross, CGCS applauded the direction of the Association in recent years and presented his vision for the Association in 1999. It included: establishing goals and priorities for three to five years in the future instead of one year at a time, energizing the "Welcoming Committee" that was established last year, forming an Industrial Advisory Group, greater focus on Social and Benevolence responsibilities, and investigating hiring a part-time media consultant.



The Welcoming Committee will be chaired each year by the Vice President with help from the Membership and the Social and Benevolence Chairmen. Vice President Nick Vance, CGCS, along with Dave Burkhart and John Newcomb, CGCS have divided the Association into five geographic regions and have organized a committee of more than twenty MAAGCS members, both superintendents and vendors. The five geographic regions are: Northern Virginia, Baltimore/Northern Maryland, Montgomery County/Western Maryland, Prince George's County and the Eastern Shore. The purpose of the Welcoming Committee is to have a Class A and Class F member of the Committee greet every new member to the MAAGCS. During this visit, the new member is cordially welcomed to the Association and can receive answers to any questions or concerns he or she may have about the Association, the area, product suppliers, etc.



The newly formed Industrial Advisory Group will be chaired each year by the Past President. The inaugural Industrial Advisory Group consists of Mike Gilmore, Harry Fridley (Green Meadows Turf Supply), Dave Cammarota (Egypt Farms), and Lance Ernst (Turf Equipment and Supply Co.). The purpose of the group is to provide the Class F members with a forum to voice their ideas, questions and concerns to the Board of Directors with the Past President acting as the group's liaison. The group will also begin to develop strategies to enable Class F members to assist in the planning of MAAGCS events and educational programs. In the future, Class F members will select their representatives to this group.



The committee that will investigate hiring a part-time media consultant is comprised of President Walter Montross, CGCS, Communications Director Tim Norris, CGCS and Executive Secretary, Charlotte Norris.



Chris Ayers, CGCS and Charlotte Norris represented the MAAGCS at the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Training and Strategic Planning Conference, held January 15-17, at the national headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. Thirteen GCSAA Affiliated Chapters were present. Chris and Charlotte

both reported the conference very worthwhile. The intent of the conference was to appraise the affiliated chapters of the wealth of programs and information available to the local chapters through GCSAA. Some of the topics included: strategic planning, research, fundraising, media relations, electronic communications, and education planning. Thanks Chris and Charlotte for spending a long weekend in Kansas for the betterment of the MAAGCS!



The MAAGCS receptions in conjunction with Maryland Turfgrass '99 and the recent GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando were huge successes.



The MAAGCS sponsored and manned a booth at Maryland Turfgrass '99, the Greater Washington and the Greater Baltimore Golf Shows. Many MAAGCS superintendents and several assistants volunteered time to disseminate literature, answer questions, and generally promote our Association and the positive impact our golf courses have on the community. In addition, golf course maintenance videos were shown, and MAAGCS logo ball mark repair tools were distributed. The volunteers reported many favorable comments from show participants. A special thanks to Communications Director Tim Norris, CGCS and his wife Charlotte for organizing all of the booths and being present for all three of these shows in their entirety and to all who volunteered their time!



A motion was made by Education Chairman Ryland Chapman to fund Amy Soli's research project was unanimously approved by the board. Ms. Soli's research "The Effect of Golf Course Management Practices on Stream Ecosystems" is ongoing at four area golf courses. The final results will be published in *Turfgrass Matters*.



Vice President Nick Vance, CGCS, is in the process of securing MAAGCS monthly meeting sites for 2000. If you would like to host a meeting, Nick may be reached at (301) 831-0498.



The MAAGCS congratulates the newly formed Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. The VGCSA affiliates the following five chapters: Old Dominion GCSA, Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association, Virginia Turfgrass Association, Tidewater Turfgrass Association, and Greater Washington GCSA. President Walter Montross, CGCS will contact the principals of the VGCSA and the Eastern Shore AGCS to set up a joint meeting with the MAAGCS to seek ways that we can work cooperatively for the benefit of all. Again, best of luck to the new VGCSA!