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President's Message

Nick Vance, CGCS

As we begin the new millenium and I embark on another year of service on the MAAGCS Board of Directors, I can not help reflecting on some of the changes that has effected our lives on both a personal and professional level over the last couple of decades.

We can all relate to losing good friends and loved ones. They are gone but never forgotten, We can also remember friends that have changed jobs, Superintendents that are now either into sales or some other part of the industry, and we have seen dozens of new golf courses open in the Mid-Atlantic.

For some of us our children have become young adults and now we are enjoying their children. Personally it is a treat to be a part of that kind of innocence again. For those of you that have small children, remember to enjoy this time with them. We must all remember where our priorities belong.

Most recently some of us remember only too well the DROUGHT OF 1999. I personally could go the rest of my life without another year like that. I guess the best way to look at the big picture is to remember that today is the start of the rest of our lives.

I am looking forward to working with this very talented and capable board of directors that you have elected. I feel they will move us into the next millenium with a strong showing.

The MAAGCS has already taken a proactive role in regulatory matters by creating a govern-



ment relations committee and I have appointed Mr. Dean Graves to chair that committee. One of Dean's duties will be to keep us informed and represent the Mid- Atlantic within the local government agencies, and to make us available in any way we can to help the industry with the decision making process regarding golf courses, the environment and our jobs.

We are also going to put our best foot forward by creating a Media-Public Relations position. That director will be Mr. Dave Nehila. Dave will help us to keep the media abreast of what we are doing within the industry and help us to improve our image within the community.

I am looking forward to a new year both on the job and within the duties of my position as president of the Mid-Atlantic. I see a lot of challenges to be undertaken and, as I said before, I am surrounded by a very capable board of directors to tackle them.

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PDI

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recommended that these requirements be fulfilled through an administrative renewal cycle of every three years and that it contain a blend of continuing education and professional education. They also recommended that Certification be restructured to align more closely with the Class A membership requirements, but at a higher competency level.

The MSRG realized that many superintendents have been in the business for many years and have been contributing members of GCSAA. As a result, they recommended that all current Class A members be moved into the new Class A categories and be responsible for only the ongoing requirements. They made the same recommendation for all currently certified members. Finally, they recommended that all current Class B members transition into the Class B category but be allowed to apply for Class A membership by only passing the validation of the competency assessment and experience. Then as Class A members, they too would be responsible for ongoing requirements.

So what happens next? The MSRG will continue to make presentations throughout the country through May. They will be collecting information from these presentations as well as from individuals on the Web. Then in June they will meet to make their final recommendations. These recommendations will be distributed to all members early in August, prior to the Chapter Delegates meeting in September, and more than six months before any bylaws vote is scheduled in February of 2001. If adopted, the requirements would go into effect the following year, July 2002.

There are many unanswered questions that relate to the PDI, but the MSRG is working to keep members well informed about this proposal, through constant communication in Newsline and with chapters. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to send them by e-mail to pdi@gcsaa.org or by regular postal mail to PDI, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66049.

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This BOD is going to be very active and we need your help. This Association is only as good as it's members 'and we challenge you to follow our example as we attempt to lead. Give us your input and your support throughout the year. This is your association. Let's all reach out to a neighbor who has become inactive or is not a member yet and invite them into our association. There is a lot to be gained by being an active member of this association, but you can only find that out for yourself. Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this great association and I promise that with your help we will "be the best that we can be."