MAAGCS Board of Directors Officers

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Randall Pinckney-Media/PR Piney Branch Golf Course (410) 239-3232

President's Message

Jim Halley

The season is near its end, and I'm glad this extremely wet year is almost over. I hope the next year brings better weather and improved agronomic and economic times.

The 75th Anniversary meeting this October at Bretton Woods was outstanding. Many thanks to Ken Ingram and his staff, for a great day of golf, dinner and a wonderful display of our associations history. Listening to the stories of the men who shaped our association over the years made me proud and honored to be a member of the MAAGCS.

I would like to thank Gary Crone and his staff for hosting our November meeting at The Woodlands. The Golf Course was in excellent condition. Congratulations to Jeff Miskin on being elected at this meeting to the Industrial Advisory Committee.

This year I have had the pleasure of working with a board that is a fine group of professionals. I have enjoyed the experience of being President and thank you for this great opportunity. I feel we have made progress this year and the board has worked hard to improve our association. The addition of our executive secretary, Theresa Baria has proved to be a great asset. Theresa has done an outstanding job since she arrived in May. Although progress has been made, we need to continue the momentum and stride for our goals.

I know this board is up to the challenge and will continue to serve the association well. I'm looking forward to being Past President next year and working closely with board and the Industrial Advisory Committee.

Best wishes this Holiday Season and I encourage all of you to get involved in 2004

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting

By Kenneth Ingram

The 11th Annual Chapter Delegates Meeting was held September 6-7 in Kansas City. It is my job as Chapter Delegate to bring the information back to the MAAGCS. As always I left Kansas City with a lot of pride in my association, a full tummy, and a tired fanny from sitting all weekend.

Surprisingly, Headquarters Relocation was not the highlight of the weekend. Actually, that discussion did not take place until Sunday morning. Don't hold your breath on this one, the process is now going to be incredibly thorough. Interestingly, what was once the Headquarters Relocation Resources Group (HRRG) is now the Headquarters Location Resource Group (HLRG). I don't know if that should tell us something or not. Although no members of the HLRG are from our area (I can't believe Walter Montross escaped this one) it is a "Blue Ribbon" committee and I trust their judgement.

Every year now it seems we have some activity with a consulting firm involved with our Board. This year it was an "organizational audit." A firm called PRA had given GCSAA a "complete physical." The results were good, but they introduced the buzzword "accountability." They want our Board and Staff to spend less time reporting on efforts and activities and focus on results. There was a lot of discussion of Goals and Indicators of Success.

This was followed by a discussion of finances. What a difference a year makes. The association is in much better shape. Included in this was a discussion of a long term Dues structure. Some folks are still upset with last years 20% increase. No decision was made and committees will discuss whether to have small annual increases or a more substantial

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Our 2003 directories have been printed and sent out to the membership. If your information has changed, please call the MAAGCS office at 888/Mid-Turf