Attending my first national GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Trade Show in February was, to say the least, a very worthwhile experience.

Perhaps my most vivid memory of my visit to Dallas was the size and scope of the trade show exhibits. The Dallas Convention Center is approximately twice as large as the one we have in Minneapolis.

More important, from my standpoint, was the three-hour seminar that focused on association management, which I attended with MGCSA President Joe Moris. This, basically, was an informal gathering of chapter presidents, executive directors and executive secretaries.

After a variety of topics were suggested for discussion by the group at large, we broke up into small groups to focus on topics like membership, finances, conventions, etc. Joe went to the membership group and learned, among other things, that the MGCSA is about in the middle as far as dues are concerned nationally.

I wound up in a “financial group” with persons from the Carolinas, Ohio, Virginia and Florida. Investment of available cash was a major item reviewed. It was interesting to find out that the Carolina Association, for example, has Merrill Lynch invest its money, rather than have that association earning a comparatively small return on certificates of deposit.

I also attended a Cart Path Seminar, which was all right but not as illuminating as the association gathering, and it was enjoyable to participate in the “Minnesota Hospitality Night” put together in excellent fashion by Steve Garske and other Minnesota associates.

Perhaps the nicest part of conferences like this is the opportunity to chat with a variety of people from all around the country. Just a tip here and there can make attendance worthwhile.

In comparison with our Minnesota Conference, the national, of course, is about 10 times as big. However, I don’t think we have to take a back seat as far as the quality of our program is concerned.

Aside from attending the GCSAA show, about 30 superintendents and I took a break to watch the North (whoops) Dallas Stars play in the attractive Reunion Arena. It was fun to see a pro hockey game again, even though the Stars got clobbered by San Jose 7-1. The Dallas fans still have some learning to do, like the players sit on a bench and not in a dugout.

Overall, the Dallas conference will be long-remembered, but it was nice to get home, even though the temperature difference was nearly 80°.

Congratulations to Bob Distel and Tim Mihalko of Wayzata C.C. on their bunge jumps.

The renewal of your Pesticide License will take place during the 1994 Annual Conference December 7, 8 and 9th.