It is an honor to serve as the President of our Association again. Although the challenges are different, the members' commitment to excellence is still the same. As J Robinson, the University of Minnesota wrestling coach noted at the December conference, the level a person attains is directly attributable to their commitment. I see this in our membership also.

It is an exciting time to be part of the MGCSA as we celebrate the 75th year since the Association was founded. Organized in 1927, the first President to lead our Association was Charles Erickson, Superintendent at The Minikahda Club. He was active in the formation of the Minnesota Greenkeepers Association, now known as the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association. Try to take a few minutes to read the article on Page 22 written by Jack Kolb about Charles Erickson.

In January of 2003, the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation will join the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association to host the Minnesota Green Expo. The conference and show will allow more opportunity for education and a variety of speakers. It will also combine the trade shows, allowing vendors to focus on one trade show rather than choosing between the two. With the changing economy many vendors will appreciate the cost benefit of participating in the one trade show.

The electronic age sure provides a great way for many companies and individuals to do business together. Instant information, ordering, and transacting can all be accomplished from either a computer screen or a cell phone on the far end of the golf course. However, I still enjoy reading a letter or a short note. I try to take time daily to read and answer e-mails. It combines the age of technology and the art of letter writing. Please contact me by e-mail if you have something of interest you would like to pass on to me.

- Rick Fredericksen
President
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