Hello everyone! You voted me in as Secretary and thought that you were done seeing my ugly mug in Hole Notes. Well guess what? While as secretary I am responsible for recording the minutes of the monthly meetings, it also appears the Secretary’s SOP is changing to include a column. This will include reporting the highlights of the monthly Board Meetings. If you are looking for entertainment value, you may want to look in a different direction. I will, however, try to keep you as informed as possible.

This report is on the January 15th meeting at Woodhill Country Club.

We started out with welcomes from our president Rick Fredrickson, CGCS to our new board members, Brad Zimmerman, Barry Provo, Mike Nelson, Jon Almquist and Mike Kelly. Rick also thanked the exiting members, Dan Swenson, Barry Hines, Mike Brower, Steve Shumansky and Ted Schirck for their service to the association.

The Treasurer’s report discussed the finances for the 75th anniversary gala, the meeting at the GCSAA Show, and finished with some discussion of changing the fiscal year of our association to more correctly align the expenses with the revenues. I won't bore you with the details.

The Arrangements Committee reported that all sites have been secured for the 2003 golf meetings. However, we are looking for speakers for the May and October meetings.

To find those sites look at the web site or in upcoming issues of Hole Notes.

Business Office reports that memberships are down about 50 from 2001. A number of factors could be involved, such as a weak economy leading to poor club revenues.

There was also approval to change the membership roster from its current form to a small three-ring binder. It was felt that this would ensure that the roster would remain accurate over a longer period of time due to the ease of updates. It will be about a thousand dollars more the first year, but will save thousands per year in postage each year thereafter.

The Conference and Education Committee reported on the MN Green Expo. Most felt the first year of the collaboration between the MNLA & MTGF was a positive experience; however, there is some work to be done, and due to the way the show is billed ie: ala carte, many vendors may alter the way they present in the show.

We discussed the upcoming GCSAA seminars in January and the MGCSA March Mini-Seminar.

Editorial report had new editor Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, with many new ideas for the Hole Notes. Some included getting vendors to write topics without allowing them to be too commercial, and a column dealing with personal issues for the members of the MGCSA.

The Environmental, Ex-officio, Human Resources and Industrial Relations committees gave short reports.

The Legislative Committee discussed the new legislation concerning the low voltage technicians’ license. It seems the law’s intent was to regulate installers, not superintendents; however the wording was such that we were included.

MTGF Committee reported that the $90,000 model for the MN Turf Expo had been met and while there are some adjustments to make, all were happy with the success of the Turf Expo overall.

They also reported that the candidates for the Horticulture Department head at the U of M were being interviewed in the next month or so.

Dr. Horgan reporting on the U of M also stated that while there were 20 candidates for the position to replace Dr. White, that had been narrowed to four and they were being interviewed in February.

-- Rick Traver, MGCSA Secretary