



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Make Plans to Attend the March 9 Mini-Seminar at Brackett's Crossing

By Robert Panuska

Thank you to James Bade and the Conference and Education Committee of the MGCSA. The educational offerings and speakers at the Minnesota Green Expo were outstanding! I heard many positive comments from fellow MGCSA members regarding the show as well as the educational seminars. I have mentioned in the past about the value of networking and "rubbing shoulders" with others in our industry. This conference offers us a premier platform for this type of activity. I hope you and your staff were able to attend this year's expo.

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Thanks go out to all Affiliate members participating in the 1st Annual Green Expo Booth Challenge. Early feedback from participating vendors indicated that this was a very successful event (See Page 11). Eric Peters won a set of Callaway golf irons for visiting each participating vendor's booth. Eric later was elected to the Board of Directors of the MGCSA. Congratulations on your big day, Eric!

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring Board members for their service to the MGCSA. They include Mike Nelson, Dacotah Ridge GC, Barry Provo, Deer Run GC, Mike Kelly, Edina CC and Jon Almquist, MTI Distributing, Inc.

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Returning to the Board are Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello Country Club as secretary and Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club. Welcome to Paul Diegnau, CGCS, Keller Golf Course; Eric Peters, North Links Golf Club; Matt McKinnon, The Legacy Courses at Craguns, and Jeff Hartman, Hartman Companies. Thank you, gentlemen, for your willingness to serve.

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As we begin our new year we are looking for members to serve on committees. Would you consider serving our association in this capacity? If your answer is yes or maybe, please contact myself or Scott at the association office and we would be pleased to answer your questions and put you in touch with the appropriate chairman. This is a great way to find out how your association operates and to serve the MGCSA. Thank you for your consideration.

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I have been made aware of a couple of very disturbing situations regarding members of our association. In both cases these fellow superintendents have been told by the leadership at their respective clubs that due to "financial difficulties" they will be forced to take a salary reduction of \$10,000 to \$15,000. In addition they will also "need" to cut their operating budget significantly. But, they must also "keep the course in top condition." There is very little if anything we can do as an association to influence this type of activity. However, as individual members, we can be there for support and offer to be a sounding board to superintendents faced with these circumstances. I have been witness to the care and support the members of this association have for each other. I thank you all for that and ask that you keep it up.

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Make plans to attend the March 9 Mini-Seminar at Brackett's Crossing Country Club. Attending this event is a great way to begin the new season!

— Rob

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