



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three Great Gatherings In April and May

By Robert Panuska

Many activities have taken place since last month's column. Of course the weather has once again dominated our lives and caused us all great grief! What was to be, a very good start in early April, was not to be in May. Just when we thought the parkas and winter gear could be stowed away, out it had to come again. You all know we are off to a rough start this season and patience is thin and frustration is high. The only advice I can give is to keep the lines of communications open with your staff, club leadership, management, your members and patrons. This is NOT easy, because conditions may not be what we want and there is nothing we can do to speed the process of recovery until our weather turns the corner and helps us out.

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We have had three gatherings in April and May that have provided a great opportunity to network with others in the golf business. Our first assistants-focused mixer was held at North Links Golf course in Mankato on April 25. Many braved the bitter northwest wind and played golf after a very informative presentation by Dr. Janna Beckerman, extension plant pathologist from the University of Minnesota. Thanks to all who attended and to host superintendent Eric Peters. Then on May 6 over 140 superintendents, club officials and interested parties attended the 1st Annual Turfgrass Forum at Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul. This event was co-sponsored with the Minnesota Golf Association and offered everyone in attendance the opportunity to hear Bob Vavrek from the USGA discuss and answer questions related to the severe winter damage we have experienced this season. Finally, on May 16, we held the BASF people vs. the pro qualifier at Stillwater Country Club. Thanks to Marlin Murphy, host superintendent, and to everyone who attended. Please check the events schedule for the remainder of the season and plan to attend as many as you can.

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Who is the most valuable or important player on the team? Is it the pitcher, the quarterback, the center, the CEO or the CFO or the Pro or the superintendent? I guess if you go by the salaries in pro sports then the answers are fairly clear. However, I would argue that if we concentrate on trying to "prove" or "justify" who on the team is "most" valuable or important, then we have missed the whole point. That point being "THE TEAM" as a whole is what really matters. No one individual is "most" if the organization is truly operating as a unit with a common goal, be that goal winning the game or providing a great golf course. Unfortunately, it seems when revenues are down and budgets get tight, the "I" am most important talk starts when it should be "WE" will solve this together. As the saying goes, there is no "I" in team.

Until next month,
Rob

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