



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Politics as Un-usual

By James Bade

Let's play that word association game where I say a word and you think of the first word that comes to your mind. Ready, here we go.....politics.....It sure would be interesting to print all the answers that came to mind. How about one more word, here we go.....politician.....not a lot of difference in those words, but I am sure different answers might come up for the two.

So what did you think of? Government? Chaos? Corruption? Gridlock? Schmuck? Sleaze, Futility, Corruption, oh I said that word. Or did the phrase "I am not a crook" come to mind. It would be interesting to see which people came to mind, and if they were positive or negative role models.

I remember the day Jim Nicol called and asked if I would serve on the Board of Directors. My first thought was, that isn't for me, too much politics involved. But I was willing to give it a try. My first MGCSA board meeting was quite memorable. It was my turn to give a committee report and I was totally lost and scratching my head; the President and board were quite kind.

At my second meeting I had an "aha" moment. Rick Frederickson was talking about a research fund that earlier superintendents, like Keith Scott, had worked on. I remember thinking, these board members know what they are doing and they have a genuine concern for what happens to these precious donated funds. Quite a different picture from the one we see on the television every night. It was politics as unusual. These guys really cared about the MGCSA and its members.

The culture of politics as unusual existed at board meetings long before I got there and I am sure will exist long after I am gone. Sure there is politicking, but it is usually with other organizations in hopes of getting things done for the "greater good of our association." As people we aren't perfect and we make mistakes, but we try and do our best with integrity as our guide. In other words, we try and do what is right and effective with efficiency, remembering where we came from. All this is to say if you are ever interested in getting started with involvement, join a committee and begin to see how the nuts and bolts of the association work. And hopefully you will find it as politics as unusual and possibly run for a director position.

I had my 2-day summer break in Park Rapids this past week. As I drove by Greystone I thought of the Scholarship Tourney I was unable to attend. The golf course sure looked in nice condition. But the thought of everyone willing to participate in the association is what came to mind. So if you are able to make it to any of the next five events of the season: MGCSA Championship, Field Day, Research Scramble, Fall Mixer and Awards & Recognition Banquet, your involvement is what makes all the board work worth the while.

- James

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Editor

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
jmackenzie426@msn.com

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James Bade
Somerset Country Club
Mendota Heights
651/457-1161

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BUSINESS OFFICE AND HOLE NOTES OFFICE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Turtinen
700 Twelve Oaks Center Dr., Suite 706
Wayzata, MN 55391
952/473-2582 Fax: 952/473-2586
Toll Free: 1-800-MGCSA-27
E-mail: scott@mgcsa.org

www.mgcsa.org

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952-443-2958

GOLF DIVISION

8011 Bavaria Road
Victoria, MN 55386