



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Always Look Forward to Where You are Going*

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

This time of year always finds me with mixed emotions. A little happy because the season is at an end and we had a pretty uneventful one, no major problems with the turf, staff or members, which is actually about as successful a season as one can have. I am also a little sad because the members and a large portion of the staff are gone for the winter, many of them becoming memories until spring. I also find myself reflecting on the year, wondering if since everything was going good was I too willing to just "ride the train" or did I do everything I could have to make the course the best it can be?

**This leads to a whole list of other questions.** It's a good thing I have plenty of time to ponder such topics this time of the year. The reason I bring this up is it can be easy to get on oneself for things left undone or issues that might have been created. Don't fall into that trap, and dwell on the year, focus on the next year and move forward! I always think back to a football player being chased by some tacklers, he looks back and trips only to fall two yards short of the end zone. The best runners never look back, while the worst are always looking back. So always look forward to where you are going; if you turn to look back you might stumble and fall.

**As we move into 2009, it appears we will be losing two great board members,** Jack MacKenzie, CGCS and Mike Knodel. They both have served the board and the MGCSA with a lot of energy and excitement and will be sorely missed. We wish them well with their lives and hope they will consider serving the MGCSA more in the future.

**Congratulations to our award recipients** for their contributions to our association and industry. Our Distinguished Service Award winner this year is Larry Vetter. Larry has been active in our association for over 40 years, serving on the board in many different capacities as well as past president in 1973 and 1974. Thank you Larry for your service to our association as well as the industry.

**Michael Brower and Minnesota Valley Country Club** received the MGCSA Environmental Award. This is the first year we have given out this award and are excited to have the opportunity for such strong candidates and what this says about our association.

**This year's Watson Award went to Bill Gullicks** for his contribution to the *Hole Notes*. We would love to have more people get involved and write articles for the *Hole Notes*, so if there are any budding journalists out there, please submit an article.

Thank you all for the kind words and support. I hope to see everyone at either the Awards & Recognition Banquet on December 8 at Windsong Farm Golf Club or at the Minnesota Green Expo in January.

-Respectfully, Rick Traver

# HOLE NOTES

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