



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keep Your Eye on the Legislature

By Richard A. (Rick) Traver, CGCS

While this may not be the correct forum for politics, everyone has an opinion about politics today, and I am no different. Between the election of our new president, the recounting and subsequent legal battle in the senate race and finally the economy, everyone's life has been or will be affected in some way. The economy is why I am writing this portion of my column, specifically the state economy and, or shortfall in the state's budget. Given this shortfall and our politicians, propensity to do what will make them look good and gain them the most votes, rather than what is right for our state, your Board of Directors is more than a little concerned with the fees that could all of a sudden appear in the omnibus bill that will surely close this legislative session. Fees much like the ridiculous surcharge we all pay for our water could be snuck into the omnibus bill like they did several years ago. The legislature will be looking for ways to make up the deficit and while the governor is against raising taxes, *(something I admire)*, he isn't nor are any other legislators against instituting new fees, *(which is in essence a new tax anyway, but let's don't go there)*. I just wanted everyone to be aware that we will be making every effort to try and watch the legislature closely this season. Eckholm has been our personal watchdog with the help of the MGA lobbyist, and I want to thank Paul for all his efforts. If you hear of something that is in the pipeline, Paul is not against fielding a few e-mails or phone calls on any legislative matter. More often than not, issues can easily be handled with a simple phone call.

How did everyone who attended the EXPO like the programming? I personally felt the education committee did an excellent job again in getting us some quality speakers. Please keep in mind that the MGCSA does not have final say in the time slots or when the speakers have their sessions, so there is some overlap and this issue has been discussed with the MNLA. It sounds from the preliminary numbers that the attendance was down, and booth sales were down as well. We don't have the breakdown so exactly where the numbers are down is not yet known. The MNLA is worried about next year and is asking for us to try and tighten our belts a bit in getting speakers from out of state. Knowing our Education Committee, I know they will make every effort to bring us the best educational programming our dollar will buy.

Congratulations to Eric Counselman, Jeff Ishe and Shane Andrews for their elections to the Board as well as Tom Proshek and Brian Brown for their re-elections. I would like to thank all the guys who ran this year and hope we see them again next year on the ballot.

Thanks again to Jack Mackenzie, CGCS, Mike Knodel and Jeff Hartman for their service to the board these past years. Their participation was greatly appreciated.

As I start the second year of my term as president I would once again like to let everyone know that we are here for you. Please feel free to contact me if you have an idea, complaint, concern etc...

- Rick

HOLE NOTES

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