I am very blessed at the Monticello Country Club to be able to feel a part of the club and enjoy the camaraderie of the membership. Every year at this time Monticello Country Club holds what we call the Monti Cup. We let as many members or league members sign up as want to play and we have a two-team tournament. Our golf pro (Kristi) captains one team and I the other. We usually get over 70 people to participate, and on the Wednesday prior to the event we line the players up on a sheet by handicap and have a draft. We play two person teams against one another in a scramble format for 9-holes and an alternate shot for 9-holes. Kristi and I also play partnering up with members of a close handicap. It is one of the most enjoyable events we have at our club. It is amazing to see the determination of all the members and the pride they take in who wins every year. Some brag because they have been on the winning team for several years while others are quiet because they have been on the losing team for several years, despite in both cases being on completely different teams each year. What is amazing is the fact that each year we have done this event the separation between the winner and loser is always less than two points. This event builds so much unity among the members and gives everyone the opportunity to play with people with whom they would normally never golf. We also make a point of separating husbands and wives so they are on opposite teams - it makes for some great side bets. We are able to do this because we are a smaller club but it is one of the reasons I love working at the Monticello Country Club. I personally feel it is important to stay in contact with the members so the lines of communication stay open. By the way, we held it on the 26th of September and my team won.

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Thank you so much to Chris Tritabaugh and his staff for allowing us to golf at Northland Country Club for our Championship. It was amazing weather for Duluth. I don't know that in all my visits to Duluth in the summer that I have ever felt that warm. I have also always heard about the greens up there and the difficulty people have putting them because of the breaks toward the lake. It was a fun and unique experience to see how a putt can speed up while appearing to go uphill or on a different green not break on what seems like a huge break. Anyway, the course was fast as can be and while I didn't figure out how to hit a pitch and run until late in the round many were able to score pretty well. I was blessed to play with some great guys, including Chris and it was a very enjoyable afternoon even though my score skyrocketed.

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The U of M Field Day was held on September 10. As I understand it they hit another attendance record. The weather was very nice for this year's event. I want to thank Eric Watkins, Brian Horgan and their assistants, all who put on a great demonstration. There were two tracts you could take, I took the turf track and was able to see some of the new grass varieties and how they handle almost no irrigation over the summer. It is amazing to see how a putt can speed up while appearing to go uphill or on a different green not break on what seems like a huge break. Anyway, the course was fast as can be and while I didn't figure out how to hit a pitch and run until late in the round many were able to score pretty well. I was blessed to play with some great guys, including Chris and it was a very enjoyable afternoon even though my score skyrocketed.

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If you're considering running for the MGCSA Board of Directors, please contact James Bade. He can give you more information on time commitments (which are minimal) and responsibilities. It has been a great experience for me and I am sure you will benefit as well.

-Respectfully, Rick Traver