



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Perspective

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Sometimes it takes a life-changing event of some type to jar us from our day-to-day programming, our "full-speed ahead" mentality, as we attempt to provide the golfer with the best playing conditions we can with the resources allocated to us. Well, earlier this week, I experienced one of those events. Dick had worked for me for 10 years mowing the rough here at Keller GC. Dick was one of those nice people who never complained, was on time and dependable, and always had a smile on his face. He truly enjoyed mowing grass at the golf course.

**Monday morning started out like any other morning at the golf course.** Dick warmed up his wide-area rotary mower, coffee in hand and took off to mow some grass and mulch leaves as they accumulated. Little did he know that this was his last run. Staff members found him slumped over the steering wheel of the machine he operated so deftly. He had no pulse and paramedics tried in vain to revive him. My staff stood in the rough of the 16th hole, stunned, as they watched the flurry of activity intended to bring him back. The finality of the event hit everyone when the white sheet was placed over his lifeless body.

**Life is too short.** We are caretakers of golf courses, the grounds upon which a game is played. How important is that project at your golf course when your family is waiting for you, wants to see and spend time with you? We are our own worst enemies, always striving for better, obsessed to improve. I know I am a hypocrite. Over the years, I have been as guilty as the next person, always trying to get one last item completed before calling it a day. When you experience the finality of death in such a compressed and unexpected time frame, it forces you to look at your life, your job and your family. Sometimes it takes a traumatic event such as this to put things in perspective.

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**In case you missed the email I sent to the MGCSA membership late in September,** let me bring you up to speed. Several months ago, your Board of Directors decided it was time to test the waters of the current association management market. Even though Turtinen Communications has faithfully served our association for the past 21 years, we feel a fiduciary responsibility to you, the membership, to ensure that we secure the services we require at a fair market value.

By the time you read this we will have received proposals from all interested parties, including Turtinen Communications. We have no preconceived notions on the outcome of this process and we will consider proposals from all companies, both large and small. We will then interview a select number of applicants as we move forward, ultimately making a final decision prior to the beginning of next year. Please feel free to voice your opinion or comment to me or any Board member as we move through this process.

\* \* \* \*

**I had the pleasure of participating in the 2nd annual Minnesota Wee One** event held at North Oaks GC. What a fabulous event with a purpose that is near and dear to our hearts. Attendance was a little disappointing but sponsorship was phenomenal! We had 56 players and 37 sponsors. Thank you very much to all who participated in one way or another. I know all had a wonderful experience on an excellent golf course prepared by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, and his staff. The food was first class as were the raffle prizes. Maybe next year I'll win the iPad...oh who am I kidding...I might as well just buy one.

Enjoy the rest of the season. The holidays are fast approaching.

Until Next Month,  
Paul Diegnau, CGCS

# HOLE NOTES

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