



Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines CGCS

The State of Our State Superintendent's Association

Your Association is changing.

Thank you for your patience as we experience positive growing pains. Stronger and more active, your MGCSA is a proud organization of fine professionals who strive to retain relevance in an ever-changing environment. I thank the Board of Directors for their vision and more importantly, dedication to the greater good of the Association they represent. It has been my privilege to serve you with them.

As you know, your Board of Directors made a significant change in the way the MGCSA is run and operated with the hiring of Jack MacKenzie, CGCS as our Executive Director. 2012 has been a busy year for Jack! Besides assisting Dave Kazmierczak and Bob Porter with the publication of a new and very well received digital magazine The Hole Notes, an updated web site and frequent emails and The Stimpmeter, Jack has been the face of the MGCSA at a variety of functions. His presence has included MGA, MPGA, MGCOA, MNLA and Midwest Society of Executive Association meetings. At a recent MGCOA Conference Jack presented an educational program to help course owners understand the cyclic growth of turf and how management influences its health.

At the state level you are represented on the MPCA Storm Water Management Committee Turf Working Group, MDA Pesticide Management Plan Committee and the MDA Pesticide Recertification Manual Committee. Jack also teaches a short course for the MPCA on turf management and environmental impacts. He has also been working with the DNR Regional Water Management Director regarding our concerns over the restricting of irrigation permits at over a dozen courses in the state...this led to his national participation at the USGA Water and Golf Summit in Dallas Texas.

This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Jack and what he is doing and will continue to do for our association. On behalf of the entire membership thank you for all your hard work and insightfulness in leading the MGCSA.

Soon, the MGCSA Water Stewardship Guidelines will be brought back to the forefront as we tackle an impending challenge... the quality and quantity of water we use for irrigation. We have a great rough draft but need to refine our message, partner with state golf allies and then state agencies such as the MPCA and DNR for their support. This project will take hard work and participation from all of the members of the MGCSA. We

will be called upon to change our irrigation practices. The question will be do we create our own destiny or have one thrust upon us?

Under the guidance of Bill Gullicks, Eric Counselman and Jake Schmitz, the social and educational opportunities have changed and expanded considerably. In 2013 there will be no Spring Mixer, instead we have created two, 5 week long, nine hole 'mini league' golf evenings in the spring and late summer at two courses, Begin Oaks and Birnamwood. A Maintenance Shop Tour has been added in January as well as a Snow Day educational and social event in February and a Research (W)rap and Bowl function in November. We even have a Masters Trip opportunity in April for those who want to see this incredible event with your peers and also an Assistants' workshop in March. Information will be coming soon on the Augusta Adventure. These new destinations will complement our existing Mega Seminar, The Scramble, The Championship, The Wee One and The Fall Shoot Out. Beyond the fundraiser events, the goal of the Arrangements and Educational Committees is to provide solid learning and social experiences at a minimal cost to enhance your membership value.

A dues proposal is going to be voted upon at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Not because expenses are going up, in fact Treasurer Paul Eckholm, CGCS and your Board is confident with our financial health, but to provide you with member-driven research

completed on an annual basis for your use. Roger Stewart CGCS, Vice President and Co-Chair of the Research Committee with Erin McManus, and his team are excited about providing more timely and relevant resources for your use as well as supporting our own University of Minnesota TROE Center, Dr. Horgan, Dr. Watkins and now Sam Bauer the new addition to the U of M Turf Instructors.

Our membership is stable. Membership Chair, Matt McKinnon, informs me that following a dramatic jump in membership during the boom of golf and the ensuing rapid drop in members due to the recession, we seem to have found a comfortable balance of gaining as many new members as we loose in any given year. This year our membership actually grew by just under two-dozen individuals.

The MTGF continues to receive our support through the dedication and representation of Jeff Ische and Roger Stewart. The MTGF's goal of supporting the University of Minnesota Research and optimal education at the Northern Green Expo would not happen without their bimonthly attendance representing the interests of the MGCSA. My hat is off to you Jeff and Roger for your participation.

Jeff Ische and I represent the MGCSA as Directors on the Minnesota Golf Association Board. Last year the MGA implemented a handicap fee increase. It was a minimal

increase but has afforded them to opportunity to assist us in financial support of the TROE Center at the University of MN. The MGC-SA currently donates \$20,000 annually to TROE. This funding does nothing more than offset costs associated with the maintenance and up-keep of TROE. Little to none of this is dedicated to research. The MGA has committed \$10,000 in addition to our funding. The proposed dues increase you will vote on later, coupled with the financial support of the MGA will go along way in providing us with current, local and relevant research. Your support and vote are critical to meet this end. Thank you Jeff for taking on this role as well.

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association Affiliate Members support all of our endeavors through advertising, sponsorships and participation. Without this dedication to the MGCSA we would not be able to offer all the great educational, social and golf events we do. On behalf of the membership, a giant thanks go out to our Affiliate Representatives Joe Churchill and Kerry Glader and the entire Affiliate base.

We say good-bye to Brian Brown as he steps off the Board after several excellent years of support, most recently as Secretary of your Association. Eric Councilman, Matt McKinnon, Jeff Ische and Joe Churchill will also be leaving the Board when their terms expire. Thanks to each of you for your dedicated work in leading the MGCSA. It has been a pleasure and a distinct honor to serve

with you.

One year ago, from Paul Diegnau CGCS, I inherited a fine cabinet and a very dedicated Board. I thank Paul and the entire Board of Directors for their service and dedication. I am honored, flattered and humbled to be working in this capacity with such a talented group of individuals.

At the time I was elected President of this Association I wasn't even gainfully employed and did not know where I might land. I strongly hoped it would be back at Windsong (it was) but I was not sure at the time. To be supported so strongly by my peers, all of you who are members of the MGCSA, and still be elected in this role is simply one of the best things to happen in my career. Thanks to all of you for that support.

Finally, I would like to thank my employer, Dave Meyer, all involved at Windsong and, especially, my family, wife Kristin, son Leighton and daughter Olivia. Your support is crucial to take the time at the state and the national level to serve our great industry. Thank you.

Yes, your Association is changing. 2013 will be another year of challenges and opportunities. We have a lot to accomplish. Your Board of Directors and I are looking forward to meeting these head on.