

# Get Technical with TETA at the IPTC

*In the midst of falling leaves, football, and the preparations for winter tear downs, it's time to identify the things for which we are thankful. 'Tis the season for reflection on what we have and cherish. Some of us will be thankful for a great golf season coming to an end. Others may be thankful it's finally over. I'm thankful to have a job. Many big businesses continue to make changes that cost employees their jobs. It seems as if every year more and more occurrences of this type happen just before the holidays.*

I have written before on the topic of job security, but addressing only the lighter side of the issue. Machines breaking down, repeated grinding rituals due to top dressing, and fertilizing ever-growing turf keeps a technician busy and content. We should remember the other reason we continue to retain a position at a golf course. Our positions are only as secure as the patrons who pay the membership dues and spend money on rounds of golf, lessons, the driving range, and in the pro shop. Fortunately with another successful season under our belts, we know that the support of the customer is still with us.

We need to look forward and continue to strive for the perfection that is expected next season and in the years to come. The IPTC offers the golf course equipment Technician/Manager many opportunities this year. I have attended many educational seminars in the past when the conference was called the NCTE. Since being a part of TETA, I have enjoyed attending and contributing to sessions that are aimed at the Equipment Technician. We've had tremendous support from manufacturers, our local distributors, and especially their service teams.

TETA has also presented sessions that were produced for Technicians by Technicians. This year we will have an in-depth reel technology session. This is an all-day event not to be missed. It is offered on Tuesday November 28th. When a Technician attends this session he or she will be educated on every aspect of the reel cutting unit. Various designs of cutting units, inspections, maintenance, adjustments, overhaul, grinding, and more will be addressed. This will be a very informal session that invites input and discussion from everyone. Afterwards attendees will have the opportunity to take the Reel Certification exam.

On Wednesday, November 29th, among the many attractions on the trade show floor, the IPTC education committee proudly presents the Solution Centers. One Solution Center will have representatives from TETA. We will be present so you can stop by and check out some of the daily tasks that are in store for the technician. We will have special equipment, tools, and "gizmos" that other technicians have made in order to make certain tasks easier. We will have demonstrations on the proper procedures in squaring up a cutting unit. The hit-list of causes for variances in quality-of-cut will be shown with visual demonstrations. We will also have a general session in a salon titled "TETA Round Table Discussion." Its purpose is to share shop tips of all kinds. This should be valuable for all equipment technicians and managers. So much can be learned by sharing experiences with others. If you can walk away with just one idea—if not many—to take back to the shop, it's worth the trip to the IPTC.

I look forward to seeing you there. Until then I wish you all a safe and special Thanksgiving. 