

lunch room or at your house.

Currently only about 8% of the private sector (non municipal) workforce is unionized. Recent Congressional Studies have predicted card check will increase union membership by 1.5 million workers but it will also eliminate 600,000 existing jobs.

Under the proposed legislation employers have 120 days after the 50.1% is reached to come to a collective bargaining agreement with the new union. If that agreement is not reached, a federal arbitrator will come in and write a binding contract that will cover the first two years.

Regardless if you are for or against this or any legislation it reminds of us of the importance of keeping our ears to the ground about changes the affect our operations while keeping in touch with our elected officials.

One tip I have from working in the

public sector would be to keep any arguments with your elected official's fact driven and not emotional. Emotion may work at a local level but at the state and federal level facts and concise arguments carry the day.

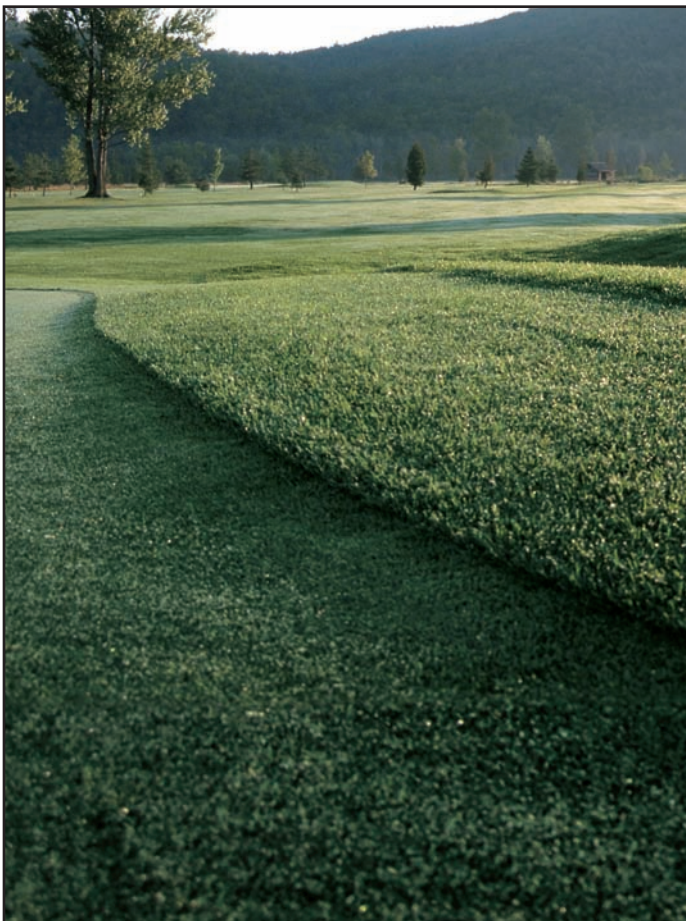
My second tip is you would be surprised how far a phone call can go to express your opinion when calling an official from your area. They actually receive very few phone calls from constituents and take all of them seriously if you have valid points.

We welcome Brett Grams as the new WGCSA Chapter Manager and wish him luck in his goals and responsibilities. Starting a new endeavor is never easy but Brett has the chapter and industry experience to succeed. Brett will be writing a regular column for *The Grass Roots* (the first one is this issue) covering the news of the association. We will feature Brett in a

personality profile next issue. Good luck Brett, you will do great.

Those of you who read last months Editors Notebook are probably wondering what is this fool going to do next! I know my mom is! To answer your burning question I did go with my daughter for tattoos for her 18th birthday, she has a heart and I decided on a cross with a crown of thorns around it on my upper back shoulder.

Not to disappoint you but the year of change has just been normal summer life for the past month. As all of you I have been busy with family and work. Often we become so busy at work we forget the one free benefit we have. Nature! Be sure to take a few extra minutes and watch the sun rise and enjoy the beauty of the properties we maintain.



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June 15th Meeting at South Hills CC in Fond Du Lac, WI

By **Scott Bushman**, Golf Course Superintendent, Fox Valley Golf Club and **Brett Grams**, Chapter Manager, WGCSA

Seasonable weather and sunny skies welcomed 67 attendees to the June meeting held at South Hills CC. Host Superintendent Jim Vanherwynen, CGCS a 20 year WGCSA member and the staff at South Hills welcomed members to the storied club which has undergone major improvements to the clubhouse and practice facility the last two seasons. The golf course was in great shape despite the uncooperative and very wet weather in the area. The course is set on 164 acres of rolling hills with the DeNeveau Creek coming into play a couple times.

The links opened in 1927, built by landowner Mr. A.D. Filiatrault with the help of his farmhands Bill Mullen and Elmer Burleton to the layout still played today. The course was first named Takodah meaning "welcome" after a contest was run in the local newspaper and won by local resident Mary Dana. Filiatrault sold the course in 1951 to Fred Thiel and Nate Manis who then owned the Riverdale Golf Course in Sheboygan for \$77,000. Soon after that a group of residents suggested the club be sold back to become a private club called South Hills Club. The name expanded to South Hills Golf and Country Club in 1986 when the membership voted to become an equity club.

The meeting began with a presentation by Aaron Hobbs of RISE. The Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment is a trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with specialty pesticide and fertilizer products based out of Washington DC. Mr. Hobbs explained the mission of RISE is to



The par 3 Tenth hole at South Hills plays 205 from the elevated white tees.

advocate for responsible use of pesticides at the federal, state and local levels. They stress that communication and proper use are extremely beneficial to our lives and quality of life. They strive to protect the use of pesticides by responsible and professional users. Mr. Hobbs stated that the current political climate in Washington has allowed other organizations with other agendas to pose a threat to pesticide use.

The presentation centered on the significant shift of the current congress focusing on economical issues along with a shift to environmental awareness and anti-pesticide sentiment has made their cause more important than ever at protecting sound, safe pesticide use. He stated several specific cases where RISE is litigating on the industries behalf trying to maintain current regulations.


Mr. Hobbs stated that RISE encompasses manufacturers, users, and professional associa-



Aaron Hobbs of the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment spoke to the lunchtime audience.

tions such as GCSAA and WGCSA in protecting pesticide use. He stated that we need to be aware of all efforts that threaten our use of pesticides. He suggested that we utilize our networking and information sharing to communicate to legislature, public, and special interest

groups. RISE is implementing a National Grassroots Campaign that will be involved at all levels of government in the months to come. Mr. Hobbs presentation was educational and a reminder that many people are working hard on our industry's behalf in Washington as well as in WI.

After a great day on the golf course we gathered in the clubhouse for refreshments, passed hors d'oeuvres and awards. Thanks to the generous hole sponsors the following on course events were won by: Closest to the pin on #4 - Brett Grams, Closest to the pin on #6 - Peter Meyer, Longest Drive on #7 - Seth Brogren, Closest third shot on #9 - Mike Lyons, Longest Drive on #13 - Aaron Kabat, Closest second shot on #17 - Mark Hjortness. In the bestball format gross division in second place was Mark Storby and Scott Anthes with a score of 73. The champions of gross division were Greg Stoeger and Aaron Kabat with a score of 70. In second place in the net division with a score of 62 was Ed Witkowski and Brad Marks. The champions of the net division were Mike Lyons and Scott Bushman with a score of 58. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all the vendor sponsors who make these events a success. 

Coming Events

August 17 - WGCSA Superintendent Guest
Ozaukee CC, Mequon
Colin Seaberg - Host Superintendent

August 17 - 19 WPGA Wisconsin State Open
Blackwolf Run - Meadow Valleys Course, Kohler
Ron Bierwirth - Host Superintendent

September 2 - Rain Makeup - PGA/WGCSA Super / Pro,
Brown County GC, Oneida,
Scott Anthes - Host Superintendent

September 21 - Wee One Foundation Fundraiser,
Pine Hills Country Club, Sheboygan,
Rod Johnson - Host Superintendent

October 5 - WTA Golf Fundraiser Benefiting the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research,
North Shore Country Club - Mequon
Garrett Luck - Host Superintendent

October 3 - WGCSA Dinner Dance
Fox Valley Golf Club - Kaukauna
Scott Bushman Host Superintendent

November 17 & 18 - Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium
American Club - Kohler



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