

THE NEW PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Once again, and for those of you who could not attend the annual conference, I want to thank each one of you for allowing me the honor of serving as your president for the 1979 season. You can rest assured that I will do everything in my power to uphold the good auspices of the office and that of the association.



I have two major interests in the affairs of our association. In my opinion both are vitally important because sooner or later both could affect each of us. These interests are COMMUNICATIONS and RESEARCH.

Communications in an association such as ours must flow in two directions to be effective. In one direction, the officers and directors of the association must keep the membership informed at all times of any impending changes, problems and any other pertinent information that could affect the members of the association.

By the same token I think it is the duty of each member to communicate back to the board when necessary if they expect them to do a good job in their elected offices. All too often a board is elected and receives no input or feedback from the membership. It is very difficult under these circumstances for the officers and directors of an association to give the kind of service that is expected of them.

It is my hope that this year all the members, and I mean members in all categories, will feel free to approach any member of the Board of Directors at any time to discuss ideas, problems and pass along any information you think the board should have.

By definition, gentlemen, we are a group of people banded together for the common purpose of educating ourselves in our chosen field. Please, let's all take advantage of that fact.

I was very happy when the membership voted to initiate our new summer research program. In my opinion this project was long overdue. It seems that each summer we encounter new problems that we are not accustomed to dealing with. Hopefully, as the new program matures, we will learn how to deal with these problems more effectively.

We are sending out memoranda invoices again this year to all the golf courses in the state. It is my hope the response to these invoices will be as good or better than last year. I urge all the members of this association to do all you can to encourage your respective clubs to contribute to this worthwhile program.

The membership of our association increased considerably this past year. I was amazed at the number of members I could not identify as I looked out over the crowd at the banquet. I want to take this opportunity to welcome each of you new members personally to the association. I urge you to become active members and to take advantage of all the opportunities this association has to offer.

In closing, gentlemen, I sincerely wish each of you a most successful and prosperous 1979 season.

George D. Ostler
President
Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents'
Association