

STRAIGHT TALK FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

First I will introduce myself. My name is Richard DeSplinter and I have been employed by the City of New Hope for the past nine years. Prior to that I worked one season under Dick Ulrick at the Brookview Golf Course.

I was raised on a farm in southwestern Minnesota and graduated from Jasper High School, Jasper, Minnesota in 1964. I attended the Minnesota School of Business for one year, spent two years of duty '65 - '67 with the U.S. Army, one year at Worthington Junior College, three years at the University of Minnesota and graduated from there with a Bachelor of Applied Studies Degree.

I have served on the M.G.C.S.A. Board of Directors since December 1975. I have chaired the education, membership, finance and research committees.

To begin my message very simply: We must set goals in order to have something toward which to work!

My goal this year as president is to serve the organization in such ways to provide service to its members.

I believe the M.G.C.S.A. was initiated to have its members share their ideas, talk over their job related problems, develop fellowship with other members and gain education in growing better turf. We should have this association serve us as members. The dues we pay, the educational seminars we sponsor, our annual business meetings, our life, honorary and associate members are all an integral part of this association.

We have to continue to develop a good communication system. Our best way of communicating is by conversing. Some people do not want to share in the limelight or feel they are not qualified. Some feel their jobs are not as important as that of the next superintendent which is a fallacy! Each one of us has a job responsibility created by the golf industry and our employers. Our professional duty is to meet that responsibility and as an association we have a responsibility to one another.

Our second best communication device is the HOLE NOTES. Now I can't make people converse; however, I can make a healthy effort to insure that the HOLE NOTES communicates to its readers.

My main goal for the HOLE NOTES is to increase the number of articles written by the members. This should make the NOTES more enjoyable to read and it should increase the reading audience and, therefore, will also be of benefit to our advertisers.

There are a number of people in this association that I personally don't know. I may have been introduced at one time or another but for myself and many others, it's difficult to be certain that every member is receiving the full benefit of the association. Needless to say, we will have some unsatisfied members and some members who may not care, but I think for those of us who do, and especially for the members you have elected to offices and directorships, it is our duty to promote the golf superintendent and his image in the turf industry.

With the addition of electing four board members we have widened our Executive Board interaction possibilities. It would please me if members would request time and voice opinions or suggestions at any of our future Executive Committee Meetings.

Another concern that I have is that we become more aware of the association's history. It's very important to know where we have been in order to construct a road for the future. I plan to activate a Historical Committee to reflect on our past. I think we

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may benefit from knowing who past presidents were and problems that our association has dealt with in the past.

Research and education are prime examples of what our past generations have instilled in today's members. We have a broad base of contributors to our Research Fund. However, in the past few years the total number of contributors has never exceeded forty-five, whether they be clubs, individual members, associations or distributors.

We are the leaders in the turf industry and the research efforts aid all members in providing better turf. We can't sit back and wait for people to develop better ways of maintaining our turf. We have to take the initiative and direct and select people or institutions to conduct our research.

I hope by this time next year we have 300 contributors. Maybe some of our clubs aren't concerned but each association member should be! A five dollar contribution by each member would produce over \$1,500! We have many avenues to pursue in the research area and it is my hope that our Research Fund and the number of its contributors continue to grow.

Another concern is our active communication with the Arrowhead Turf Association, the Red River Valley Association and our many members and friends from South Dakota and Wisconsin. They have generously supported our Research Fund. If at any time these groups would like me or any of the Executive Committee members to attend one of their meetings, they should ask.

One Monday every month we have a meeting and golf, if possible. I would also like to set aside one other Monday each month for me or another board member to visit other superintendents' golf facilities. If for any reason you would like a visit, please call me.

Again it is an honor to be president of our association. It will be a lot of work but I'm ready for it.

My wife, Candy, sees it as an honor also. It's her only chance to be first lady so she calls herself the "First Lady of the Supes".

In closing, a special thank you and appreciation to John Nylund and his committee for an outstanding conference.

When we elected John as Treasurer, he had one year remaining as a Director. I have selected and the Executive Board has unanimously approved the appointment of Jim Lindblad to finish that year as Director.

Also a special welcome to Steve Young, Don Lindblad, Roger Kisch and Jerry McCann as new members to the Executive Committee. They all have accepted important committee appointments and are ready to serve the association in the coming year.

On page 4 you will find a list of committees to be active in the coming year and their chairpersons.

Happy New Year! May your year be prosperous, successful and a "disease free" year!

Sincerely,

Dick DeSplinter