

# JOE MORIS: A Man Who Cares

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## Tartan Park Superintendent Elected President of MGCSA

Joe Moris, the MGCSA's new president, obviously is a man who cares.

He cares about his family, his home, his community, his fellow man and life in general.

And he cares enough about his profession not only to be actively involved but to target specific humanistic goals and work hard to achieve them.

Moris, 50, who was elected to succeed Greg Hubbard as president during the association's annual conference and business meeting at the Minneapolis Convention Center, has declared human relations and social issues as his top priorities during his forthcoming year in office. (See *President's Message on Page 3.*)

**This approach parallels his basic interest** regarding life in general, that being "to help people and non-profit organizations." Away from the golf course he's active in the Lions, VFW, Hill-Murray High School, the Knights of Columbus and his church, and when there's time, he likes to go fishing, particularly in Wisconsin. As for playing golf, he smiles.

"My 32.5 handicap doesn't demonstrate much proficiency in swinging the clubs," he said, "but I do enjoy organizing and helping out in various competitions."

For a man who traveled quite a bit in the U.S. Navy, including a tour of duty to Viet Nam, Moris hasn't roamed far from home ever since he became involved with turf maintenance and management at 3M Company's Tartan Park in Lake Elmo.

**Born in that St. Paul suburb** on July 19, 1943, Joe was graduated from Stillwater High School in 1961. In 1947 his parents began farming the area that eventually became Tartan Park, with Joe starting to work for 3M during the summer of 1959. His father, Ray, was Tartan's first superintendent and held that position from 1959 until he retired in 1975.

From 1961-64 Joe served as a diesel mechanic in the Navy, then returned to work at 3M. He's been there ever since, having started as a laborer while his father, Ray, was head superintendent. Later Joe became lead groundskeeper, then assistant superintendent in 1970. Five years later he succeeded his dad, now a life member, as head superintendent, then was named maintenance manager in 1991.

**An MGCSA member since 1966**, Joe served as a director in 1989-90, then was elected vice-president in 1992. He has served on the scholarship and research committees, was one of the leaders in the "Golf in the Gulf" program when the MGCSA gathered miscellaneous golf equipment to send to the servicemen during the Gulf War and has been available to assist superintendents coping with drug and alcho-



**MIKE LEITNER**, Leitner Co., gives MGCSA President Joe Moris a \$500.00 donation for the MGCSA Scholarship Fund.

holic problems. He also has been a member of the GCSAA for 10 years.

Joe and his wife, Bonnie, are the parents of daughters Kari, 22, a graduate of Mankato State University now planning to attend graduate school, and Kristin, 17, a student at Hill-Murray High School. Their home is right at Tartan Park, the only residence on the golf course.

Moreover, his parents live only a half-mile away. "It's great having a mentor so near," Moris said.

As noted earlier, he cares about his family, his home, his fellow man, his profession and the MGCSA.

"I urge all superintendents to take an active role in our association as well as the communities in which they live," he said. "Life sneaks by rather rapidly, and helping others can be so fulfilling."