

Government Relations Update

By KEVIN CLUNIS

Co-Chair, Environmental & Government Relations Committee

Once again, I have been appointed to serve on the Environmental Committee as co-chair with Jim Gardner. Jim's responsibilities will be with the compliance guideline book. My responsibilities will be working on current legislative duties.

You may know by now that the issue most concerning golf courses is posting of pre-and-post application of pesticides. This will affect both commercial and non-commercial applicators. This issue came about from two areas.

First, this issue surfaced last year at the tail end of the legislative session. With quick actions and testimony from Scott Austin of Midland Hills and others from the green industry, we were able to defeat the measure in a senate sub-committee. The bill, authored by Senator Marty, D-Roseville, was promised to be reintroduced in the next session, but with help from the green industry.

Secondly, the Attorney General's office is involved due to a number of complaints from homeowners on advertising claims of LCO (Lawn Care Operators). With the issue now in the open, a December 16 meeting was scheduled with members of the green industry, including myself, the Attorney General's office and an aide with Senator Marty. The meeting was used as an informative session to address several issues in the bill. I do have to inform the golf course superintendents that the majority of this session was directed toward the commercial applicators.

At the end of this four-hour meeting we discussed the non-commercial (golf course). I stated that our Environmental Committee had already recommended to its members to post signs at the entrance to the club house and at the first and tenth tee. This was the same recommendation we gave Senator Marty last year. This is also the same position that the GCSAA has taken. I am sure this information will be on the new bill.

The biggest discussion at the meeting was about concerns of pre-notification. I was amazed through the discussions of the other green industry representatives, how well they did on pre-notification. The bill will likely have wording on something of a 48-hour pre-notification. I explained the situation on the golf course that 48 hours is unacceptable because of varying environmental conditions, amount of play, scheduling conflicts, financial implications and reducing applications.

As the green industry representatives pointed out, they could not always get in touch with their customers, even after adding additional staff to do so. Also discussed was the pre-notification of abutting property owners. Adding this to the issue only causes more problems. The Attorney General's Office is looking into developing a "Sensitivity Register." This would be an official list mailed out annually so the LCO would know whom to notify. This register is in place in at least 20 states. The greatest number of registered people in any one state is about 300. These people who would be most likely to be on this list have already been in contact with you about your pesticide applications. This registry would probably make pre-notification much easier for golf course superintendents. At the conclusion of the meeting, we were given no assurance that any or all of this information would be used in forming this bill. Isn't government wonderful?

As of this writing we have not heard of any action on this proposed bill. We did ask Senator Marty's aide to send us a copy of this bill so we can ex-

(Continued on Page 9)

LAST CHANCE
TO PLAY

HOCKEY

Thursday, March 11

11 a.m. — 1 p.m.

at

Augsburg Ice Arena

Any association member is welcome to play. Ice time is courtesy of Associate members. Join us for pizza at Davanni's after the contest.

RTJ Tourney Nets \$40,000 For Scholarships

A record \$40,000 contribution to the Robert Trent Jones (RTJ) Endowment, a scholarship fund for students planning careers in golf course management, has been announced by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The contribution came from the 1992 RTJ Team Invitational Golf Championship held annually at Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J.

Proceeds from the tournament, including team entry fees, hole sponsorships and other donations, were contributed to the RTJ Endowment, which is operated by the GCSAA Scholarship & Research (S&R) foundation.

In four years, the tournament has netted more than \$120,000 for the endowment.

Both the endowment and the tournament are named for golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr., Metedeconk's chief designer and a longtime supporter of educational opportunities for superintendents.

The tournament is the creation of Metedeconk founder Richard Sambol; his son, club chairman Herb Sambol and superintendent Stephen G. Cadenelli, CGCS.