

Human Resources and Public Relations Committee Updates

By Rob Panuska
Waseca Lakeside Club

I have been appointed the chairman of both the Human Resources and Public Relations committees of the MGCSA board for 1996. While these two committees are treated separately, they are both closely related in their functions and purposes. Human Resources includes issues that affect our jobs and people and public relations involves issues that affect how others view us and our jobs.

We will continue the work that was started last year by Bill Cox on the MGCSA member survey. The first information from that survey on salaries and budgets was presented at our January meeting at Woodhill. Those results are available by calling Scott Turtinen at the office. Our goal this year is to computerize the entire survey to make the information more accessible and meaningful. If you are a class A or B superintendent and did not return a survey, please call Scott and fill one out. Only those who send in a completed survey will be able to receive the complete results.

The major work we will bring to the board this year is regarding health insurance for our members. Kevin Clunis has been working with this over the past year and will continue to gather information and work with the program. We know there is strong interest on this issue from the survey you filled out last year, so watch your *Hole Notes* for further details.

Public Relations Hits the Ground Running

On January 12, Fred Taylor from Mankato Golf Club and myself had the opportunity to represent the MGCSA at a Minnesota PGA section crackerbarrel session at the Mendakota Country Club. About 45 golf pro's and assistants were in attendance. Fred and I concentrated our discussion on the working relationship between a pro and superintendent. You might ask "what relationship," our point exactly. Communication and understanding can lead to respect for each other and reduce conflicts in our daily work. The group was enlightened about our perspective on their jobs, and they learned from us where our pressures come from. Look for more joint education in the future from both groups.

Our next event took place in mid-February at the Metrodome. The MGCSA was represented at the Minnesota Golf Show. This is a premier opportunity for us to reach out to the general golfing public and explain the importance of our role in their game. A special thanks to the MGCSA members who helped out manning the booth over the three-day show.

Other PR information of interest, this being the political season, not for hunting, but for communicating to your

legislators your concerns at the local, state and national levels. It is important to keep informed about the issues before the various levels of government. The Minnesota legislature has been in session since early January. If you would like information about committee schedules and agendas, legislators' names and phone numbers you can call the House information office at (612) 296-2146 or 800-657-3550 and the Senate information office at (612) 296-0504. I encourage you to write, call or better yet visit your legislators at the capitol and express your concerns. Volunteer to provide them with information about our work and industry; you never know when a "hot" issue may arise

If you would like more information or help with a public relations effort, please do not hesitate to call me. I would be glad to help you out. My goal is to have some information regarding human resources and public relations in each edition of *Hole Notes*. If you have done some things at your course along these lines, please let me know so that we can let others know what works and what doesn't.

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