

HOLE NOTES

Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

As Our Industry Changes We Must Change, Too



I want to thank the MGCSA membership for putting their faith in me by electing me President of this great association.

Believe me when I tell you there are more positives than negatives in our industry today. In terms of the environment and local commerce, it is the job of each and everyone of us to let the general public know what we actually contribute. The GCSAA is available to you with lots of valuable information relating to these issues. Use this invaluable resource to aid you in any area where you may need assistance.

While our industry is ever changing, we must also change. I am going to propose to our Board of Directors some new ideas. The first will be to have only three golf outings in 1999: Our Championship, Scholarship Scramble and the Harold Stodola Research Scramble. The rest of our regular monthly meetings will be education-oriented, held in the late afternoon and not necessarily on a Monday.

My thinking in this matter is as follows: Mondays in the past were generally a day off when the course was closed. Now many courses utilize Monday for outside events to generate much needed revenues. The mornings are generally set aside for us to complete tasks that cannot be done around golfers. I have been told by some of our affiliate members that they do not need to take a day off to play golf with their competitors, and, after all, we can all benefit from more education. So a typical monthly meeting may look like this. 4:00 p.m. Registration (before rush hour), 4:30-5:30 Speaker, 5:30-6:00 Social, 6:00-7:00 Dinner and Social.

Another area we need to focus on is generating more revenue. I'm not in favor of us losing money every year or raising dues. We cannot be going into our savings for general operation dollars. I will be proposing to our Board of Directors that we direct all income from mini-seminars and monthly meetings into the general fund instead of scholarship.

Our Scholarship Fund is healthy especially with additional dollars from the Trans-Mississippi coming in. If the Scholarship Fund is getting low and the Scholarship Scramble and interest income is not sustaining, then we will readjust. It is doubtful that we will need to. I look forward to your thoughts and comments.

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The MGCSA would like to thank the outgoing members of the Board, James Gardner CGCS (Ex-Officio), Tom Johnson (Treasurer), and Directors Jeff Backstrom, Leif Erickson and Dave Sime, for their contributions. We welcome our new Directors Mike Brower, Paul Eckholm CGCS, Jim Johnson CGCS, and Mike Klatte CGCS. We look forward to their fresh ideas and contributions.

— Jim Nicol, CGCS
MGCSA President

HOLE NOTES (ISSN 108-27994) is published monthly except bi-monthly December/January, February/March for \$2 an issue or \$20 per year by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617. Scott Turtinen, Publisher. Periodicals postage paid at Wayzata, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to HOLE NOTES, 240 Minnetonka Avenue South, Wayzata, MN 55391-1617.