

# HOLE NOTES

Official Publication  
of the  
Minnesota Golf Course  
Superintendents' Association

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT'S DESK

# MGCSA Board Votes To Recommend Dues Increase at Annual Meeting



(Editor's Note: This month's "From Your President's Desk" was written with the help of MGCSA Treasurer Rob Panuska.)

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After several months of discussion the MGCSA Board of Directors voted to recommend a dues increase of \$15 for Class A, B and C members. This would bring the cost of dues to \$95. Other member classifications would remain at present levels. The change in dues will be brought before the members of the association at the MGCSA Annual Meeting to be held December 9th during the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Conference and Show. If approved by the membership, the new dues would not take effect until our new fiscal year beginning June 1, 2000.

**We have been very fortunate to have been able to hold our dues at the \$80 level for so long.** The last increase was passed ten years ago and was required because the Minnesota Golf Association was no longer able to provide our association with an office and support to manage the day to day business of our membership. Over the past ten years strong membership growth has kept pace with and ahead of increasing costs but it was only a matter of time that increased revenue would be needed to continue to provide current as well as expand our level of service to the membership.

Dues from our members is the No. 1 revenue source to fund our association. Many of the activities we sponsor are a service to the membership and are budgeted to break even. Examples include our annual golf tournament and the March Mini-Seminar. However, we did make money for our association with each one of these events every so often and we also lost money on them as well. The profits were often placed in savings for a "rainy day." The other two major golf events we sponsor are dedicated to raising money for scholarships and research, both of which have been managed very well over the years and do provide for these areas.

You may ask about this publication *Hole Notes*. This is also budgeted to be a break even revenue source for us. The monthly advertising is supposed to cover the cost of production, printing and postage. However, we have come up short the last few years. This is partly due to an IRS audit and ruling that we must pay income tax on the advertising revenue because they classify it as unrelated business income.

**All of the other member services we provide are funded directly from dues.** These include: Employment assistance job postings and mailings; the membership roster and cards, which are updated and mailed out annually; the environmental guidebook, which is updated and the changes mailed out every couple of years, and the monthly meetings, which end up costing us money because of lower than expected attendance.

We have two new member services we are working on at this time — one is our new Web page, which is in the early stages of development. The other is a public relations program to promote the green industry. Mike Brower and Tom Fischer are working with the MTGF Board on a partnership to benefit all in the industry including golf courses.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I hope it helps you understand the decision to raise dues a modest amount. If you have questions, please feel free to call myself or our treasurer Rob Panuska. We will do our best to answer any questions you may have.

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**At the September 16th Board Meeting,** Gary Gardner, from the university and Bob Mugaas, MTGF Executive Director, attended. Gary explained the new turf position at the University.

— Thomas Fischer, CGCS, President

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