



ON BOARD

Musing the Monthly Minutes

By Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club

The decision was unanimous; the 75th anniversary Gala and Awards Banquet was a wonderful success. Those in attendance welcomed the chance to share a great evening with their spouses, celebrate the achievements of four turf professionals and embrace their league of peers. It was a fun time and rumor has it that another dinner event will be investigated by the next Board of Directors.

Speaking of the next BOD, the MGCSA will be holding the Annual Meeting on January 9th at the Green Expo, Room 101 at 4:45p.m. Plan to attend and then head over to the All Association Casino Night celebration. It will be a good time to relax after spending a hard day in the educational seminars or out on the show floor. Attendance numbers for the Green Expo should top 7,000. Wow!

The Annual Meeting will also be the time to vote for the next Board of Directors. Candidate profiles and proxy voting materials were sent via email to those on line and snail mail to everyone else. Please, please check your addresses in the roster and make sure your information is relevant. The cost savings of using electronic mailing is over three hundred dollars per mailing. Those recently connected should also send their addresses to Scott at the MGCSA office.

Work at the TROE Center continues. Dr. Horgan and Troy Carson have been busy with several winter cover trials. Besides covering small, side by side plots, whole greens using a variety of products have been blanketed at Rolling Green Golf Club. The progress of the Center is moving along and contributions from the industry continue to come in. Soon however, with the development of more turf test plots and increased maintenance, both operating and capital costs will go up. And thus our association will need to make a more aggressive fund raising effort.

Several ideas have been kicked around. The most popular of which would be a MGCSA sponsored "hole in one" event. The concept entails the stationing of a superintendent and/or their assistant at a par three hole for a WHOLE day, soliciting donations in exchange for a chance to win something big should the participant make a hole in one. Just the day alone would generate huge money, conservatively \$100,000. And just imagine if we caught the attention of a deep pocket willing to contribute in a large fashion. More information about this opportunity will follow.

Also discussed at the monthly meeting were ideas to promote more awareness amongst non-member courses as to the laws regarding pesticide and fertilizer use. As THE recognized representatives of the golf industry, the MGCSA must put forth every effort possible to encourage all golf courses to comply with the rule of law in our state. We must create a "paper trail" so to speak, to show the political powers that we have done all that is possible to bring everyone on board. These efforts will potentially reduce the liability upon our association as well as improve our political relations. We may even gain a member or two.

The BOD is also continuing their review of the member roster. A small three ring binder with tabbed sections seems to be winning approval at this time. It would not be much bigger than the current book and would potentially be a lot less expensive to manage in the future.

Another item of interest is the attempt to create a Community Calender page at the MGCSA website. Should you have any important date of interest associated with our industry let Scott Turtinen know so he can post the information. This will reduce the chance for double dating time slots, especially for the Affiliate members.

On a personal note, the last few months have been fun for me. Participating on the Board and also planning a portion of the 75th Gala have been enlightening. Your association leaders are progressive and professional and I have been very impressed.

Reflecting upon our Anniversary event I cannot help but be proud of my association. We looked and acted damn professional that night. All in attendance were resplendent and manners were impeccable. And to top it off, the night was a whole lot of fun!

*-Jack MacKenzie, CGCS
MGCSA Director*

*The
MGCSA
Officers
and
Board
of Directors
Wish You
And Your
Family
A Season
of Peace
And
A Happy
New Year!*

*James Bade
Michael Brower
Michael Brual
Joe Churchill
E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS
Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
Barry Hines
Greg Hubbard, CGCS
Jack Mackenzie, CGCS
Robert Panuska
Ted Schirck
Steve Shumansky
Dan Swenson
Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS
Scott Turtinen*