



## ON BOARD

*Musing the Monthly Minutes*

*By Rick Traver, CGCS, Monticello Country Club*

Wow, if anyone had told me being secretary for the MGCSA Board meant writers cramps, I may have been less than enthusiastic. Actually it has been fun thus far, even if your Board of Directors meetings have been relatively long.

We met on Monday, March 10th at MTI Distributing. All but two members were present. The highlights to this month's meeting were the Power Limited Technician training and license, as well as ways to fund The TROE center and the possibility of a new membership category to boost membership.

As the many of us who took the PLT training class are painfully aware, the state passed a new law requiring us to have a form of electricians license. This license, while it encompasses a number of professions, is a State of MN requirement for all people planning to work on or add irriga-

tion to your existing system. President Rick Fredricksen, CGCS invited John Schultz, the Executive Secretary for the State of Minnesota, Board of Electricity to attend this meeting. Mr. Schultz explained that this law was not new, however it actually was a lessening of previous requirements. Currently non-compliance is a misdemeanor and carries a penalty of up to \$1000 fine and 90 days in jail.

He went on to explain that over 5000 exams will be given during the months of March & April, and that the legislature was introducing a bill to allow the extension of the April 29 deadline, into September. While Mr. Schultz did not touch on this, one thing we did learn in our training class is that the test will get tougher in July due to an expansion of the license.

Mr. Schultz also informed us that one option if you are only going to do "mainte-

nance only" to an existing system, you can contract a licensed electrician to supervise. For maintenance, the licensed individual does not need to be "on site".

Mr. Schultz also informed us that future individuals would be able to gain their needed three years of experience under a licensed Power Limited Technician, it does not need be a master electrician.

While Mr. Schultz said that most of the policing of individuals would be by their peers, if an inspector were in your area, he could stop in. I have heard many superintendents talk that this sounds a lot like the whole "roll bar" program from OSHA, but you each have to make your own decisions. For those whom are planning on getting licensed, I wish you all well as you take your training and test.

While I don't want to get too deep into the TROE Center funding, Jack Mackenzie, CGCS presented a "Hole-in-One" program where-by superintendents would sell chances on a par 3 at your course. I am sure Jack will elaborate in future issues and you will be getting a flier promoting the program with more details. It does sound like it has been thought over very carefully and the Board did have some input regarding details.

As mention earlier we were also looking at a new category of membership. Mike Nelson presented a proposal to the Board of Directors to allow clubs to be members without having to fulfill the dual membership with the GCSAA. It would be to have a Course or Club membership. We still would encourage everyone to be a member of both organizations, but some clubs cannot because of budgetary concerns. There are many details to work out and it would require a bylaws change, but the idea is to attract more members to our association. Currently we are sending out copies of the latest Hole Notes as well as invitations and applications to those courses that are not currently members.

Greg Hubbard, CGCS, reported on the MTGF and that the U of M is currently interviewing candidates to fill Dr. White's vacant position. He also reported that while candidates are being interviewed, and that the Dept. of Ag. is proud of the turf program and what is happening with the TROE center, they do not know what is happening with the state legislature and some programs may not get necessary funding. Therefore, the MTGF is taking a wait and see approach to funding in an effort to see which direction funds should be dispersed.

Rob Panuska reported on the Research Committee and echoed Greg Hubbard's statements. For now the research committee is taking a short wait to see how everything turns out at the U of M.

I hope you all have an excellent spring.

**JRM has the Right Tool for any Situation**

Over the past 5 years JRM has established itself as the source of the longest life times available. Our Dillennium™ tines have set a new standard in quality and uselife. We warranty our conventional Dillennium™ tines for 130,000 Sq. Ft. Try a set today to see how many greens you will get.

For more information call  
**Superior Tech Products**  
 952-546-3678  
 Fax 952-542-9187

**JRM, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 15678, Wilmington, NC 28408