



Presidential Perspective

by Roger Stewart, CGCS Superintendent at TPC Twin Cities

I am very excited to begin my term as President

of MGCSA and I want to thank the membership for their support and confidence during my tenure on the Board of Directors. I also want to thank Scottie Hines CGCS for his leadership and guidance over the past two years in his term as President. Much of the success during his tenure is due to the programs he was able to put in place. I also want to recognize our Executive Director, Jack MacKenzie, who works everyday on behalf of our membership to make MGCSA a leader in GCSAA Chapter management.

I am very fortunate to have very capable board members to work with and they continue to provide innovative and creative ideas that benefit our membership and push MGCSA forward as one of the most progressive chapters in GCSAA. I

am looking forward to continued success in 2014 as we grow MGCSA to provide even more for members and our profession.

One of the initiatives that I feel is most important is engaging our members to participate in their association at the highest level they can. We are going to be more active in recruiting members at large to help MGCSA by participating and serving on committees. I have asked each of the committee co-chairman to enlist our members in serving on their committees. This commitment is minimal in terms of your time and in some cases will involve one or two planning meetings or possibly even participating via email. The more members we engage through the committee system, the more ideas that will be generated and the more connected the Board of Directors and our management will be with our membership. We want committee service to be rewarding for those who participate and it is a great

avenue to give something back to your association and your profession. Naturally we are also hopeful that by serving on a committee you may also become interested in running for the Board of Directors. Please think about volunteering and give any board member or Jack MacKenzie a call and get involved. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Ongoing initiatives that were begun in the last two years continue to show good results and ultimately will help continue to grow MGCSA into the future. They include our proactive work with regulators to develop a certification and recognition program for golf courses that may lead to considerations in the event we find ourselves faced with state enacted water restrictions. This process has shown progress but there is much more to be done. Jack has done the lion's share of the work in this area as well representing us with a number of other government agencies and allied golf associations.

We have seen very successful growth and response to our outreach

initiative with our members out state. We have been able to bring MGCSA to them using the outreach events and attendance at those events continues to rise. The Education Committee continues to provide outstanding continuing education opportunities and remains at the core of our association's values. The member driven research has already provided valuable research data on winter recovery and wetting agents and those projects along with the growth regulator study are just hitting their stride this season.

There is so much more that MGCSA is involved with and I will make sure you hear about all of those things in my future Presidents Messages. Perhaps what is most rewarding about what is happening in your association is the noticeable uptick in the interest of our members and the positive feedback we have been receiving about the direction we are headed. My pledge to you from the Board of Directors and as your President is to keep our foot on the pedal and continue to move MGCSA forward into the future.