

opportunities for meetings and get-togethers than the MGCSA currently holds, but some are struggling for attendance as well. The sour economy surely has a lot to do with this, but it seems to me apathy plays a large part as well. This is not a good trend, and here are a few reasons why.

These meetings are an extremely important component of what the association is. If there are no more meetings, or if you do not attend meetings you are not getting the full experience of belonging to the MGCSA. The scramble supports the University of Minnesota's Turf Research program. This program, which is always in need of funding, produces results that directly affect each and every person in this local industry whether they realize it or not. The scholarship part is a wonderful program supporting students who need money for school more than ever.

These meetings are basically subsidized by our Affiliates. If support dwindles to nothing, where is the incentive for them to keep supporting them? The idea is for the vendors to reach superintendents in a relaxed and friendly setting, and for vendors to show support for superintendents by providing funding for these association events. If the ratio of Superintendents to Affiliates is 3-1 or 4-1 on a consistent basis, there might not be many more meetings, or at least not too many more meetings with an affordable price tag.

If golf is just not the way you as a superintendent want to spend your free

time, there are other ways to be involved, or other events you can show your support at. The point is, now more than ever, the MGCSA needs superintendent's participation, or their assistant's participation, or multiple staff member's participation. The truth is that there were a few people at the scramble who were not association members, as the decision was made to open up the tournament with the requirement that only one member of a foursome be an MGCSA member. That was a solid decision, and directly resulted in the sellout of the event. It would be really nice if that didn't have to be standard procedure just to fill the event's tee sheet.

The next event will be at the end of August- the MGCSA Championship- at New Richmond Golf Club, followed by the Wee One event in October and the increasingly popular fall clay shooting event at the Horse and Hunt Club. I encourage any member on the fence to take part in at least one of these events. The networking and conversation are invaluable, and the more participation the better for the support of the MGCSA. Hopefully, the full room at the Golden Valley Golf and Country Club with the smiling faces will become the norm again, and the future picture will include your happy mug as well.