A
fter only four short
years in Florida, I find
myself writing your President's Message.
The reason I am in this position so soon is
because when I came to Florida, I made the
effort to get involved.

Four years ago, the state
budget was one half the
amount that it is
today. We have gone
from a part-time
secretary to a full-time
executive secretary.

Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Downing
and the FGCSA Research Committee, we
have constructed a half-acre research green
at the IFAS center in Fort Lauderdale worth
$80,000 and hired Marcus Prevatte as
research technician to assist in the necessary
daily operations. Already the USGA has
given IFAS money to fund two research
projects on this green.

Our newsletter, the Green
Sheet, has vastly improved
thanks to the efforts of Mike
Bailey. The Florida Green,
winner of many awards, has just
gone through a smooth
transition from Dan Jones to
Larry Kieffer.

Mark Jarrell, chairman of our
public relations committee,
continues to spread our word to
the golfing public each month
with his timely articles in
Golfweek.

Let's all
get involved

Walt McMahon and his committee have
expanded our education programs and has
done a great job. If you haven't been to one,
you are missing out.

We have increased our members from
425 in 1985 to 685 today, thanks to Tom
Benefield's work on the membership
committee.

With all the good things that we are
accomplishing, it concerns me that fewer
than half of the golf course superintendents
in Florida are members of this association.

I don't know how in this day and age
anyone can keep up with what's going on in
our industry without continuous education.
The new SARA III laws alone are enough to
boggle one's mind and it's only going to
become more complicated. Water usage is
going to come under close scrutiny in the
future with more people moving to Florida.

I urge each reader to encourage any
superintendent he knows who is not a
member of the FGCSA to become one.
Invite the non-member to a local chapter
meeting to see for himself or herself what
we have to offer.

The more superintendents we have who
are informed, the healthier it is for all. Let's
all get involved.

Ray Hansen