

Over the next couple of months, an important issue concerning chapter affiliations with the GCSAA, will need to be addressed by all local chapters of the Florida Golf Course

Superintendents Association. If the proposed amendments to the GCSAA by laws are accepted at the Conference and Show in Orlando this coming February, each local chapter will be asked to sign an affiliation agreement no later than January 1, 1997 in order to be affiliated with the GCSAA.

My personal opinion is that all of the local chapters should affiliate with the GCSAA. There are a couple of good reasons why. At this time, it does not look as if the GCSAA would recognize local chapters if the only affiliated chapter in the state is the FGCSA. Therefore, all local chapters would *only have a voice in Florida* and all interaction with the GCSAA would have to funnel through the state association. As some chapters are very active in local and national affairs, the sensible choice is to affiliate.

Another important point is that the GCSAA will allow only one delegate per affiliated chapter to attend the Annual September Chapter Relations Meeting in Lawrence. With the FGCSA having over 800 members, it is important to have more than one representative at this informative meeting. If all chapters were to affiliate, we would be able to send 10 delegates. If our only affiliated chapter is the FGCSA, we would be able to send only one delegate.

As President of the FGCSA, I have taken a stand on the GCSAA affiliation process. It is best, that the local chapters in the state sign the agreement, upon its approval in Orlando. However, I do not

want to see the destruction of the FGCSA because of this. I want to remind everyone that the very reason the FGCSA was formed was to unify the golf course superintendents in Florida and give them a strong voice when it came to national affairs. The FGCSA has the largest voting block within the GCSAA and is recognized nationally as a strong and well organized association. From our award winning magazine "The Florida Green" to our own research green, we have come a long way in a few short years.

Something else everyone should keep in mind is that the FGCSA has always taken a pro-active role in finding ways to support and improve our great industry. Our contributions to research funding and scholastic programs continue to increase each and every year. Many industrial leaders are teamed with the FGCSA to ensure that these funds and programs have the necessary money and equipment it takes to keep them in existence.

Most of all, the FGCSA has some truly excellent superintendents throughout the state. They give endless hours in helping make others truly understand and appreciate the profession of the golf course superintendent and our all so very important influences on the game of golf.

Let's keep our *family*, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association, intact. Let's continue to be the proven leaders that we are among our peers. We should accept the affiliation agreement with the GCSAA, but not at the expense of our association, the *FGCSA!* The current affiliation between the state and the local chapters should not change.

In closing, may the love and happiness of the Holiday Season be with you and your families now and throughout the New Year.

Keep the family intact



Greg Plotner, CGCS
President
FGCSA