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**A**t the recent fall FGCSA Board meeting we were privileged to have a strategic planning session facilitated by Joe O'Brien of the GCSAA. This session was an internal look at how your association conducts itself. After listing and discussing the strengths and weaknesses of our current operation, suggestions were made on areas we can improve or want to improve. Look for

exciting news and discussions with your chapter external vice presidents in the months ahead as the FGCSA officers and directors strive to implement new methods of conducting our association affairs.

One area that our discussions touched on was the dwindling participation at external functions: Crowfoot Open , Poa Annua Classic, educational seminars, golf outings, fund-raisers, etc. At lunch time, several participants took it upon themselves to list all such external functions that the group was aware of. A count was taken to determine the total number of days required to attend all of these functions. To the

group's amazement, the final tally was a staggering 40 days.

No one realizes better than ourselves that the increasing demands of our profession require that we be present at our place of employment as much as possible. However, it is also incumbent upon us to remain educated and up to date on new procedures and technology that is constantly coming into our marketplace.

The proliferation of many of these external functions has grown out of the need for golf course superintendents to do their own fund raising . There are many outstanding fund-raisers that generate much-needed money to support and promote the industry, our profession and our association. Without our support, these functions will not be able to continue generating the money necessary to fund our chapter and state endeavors.

Let's all evaluate our individual situations and decide what is best geared to meet our specific needs. I know I always gain something useful from the opportunity to visit with my peers or from a round of golf at a different facility. Unfortunately, I also learn that my golf game stinks, but that's a another story!

*Things to do and places to go*

**PERHAM'S PAGE**



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