



The Little Tournament That Keeps on Growing

We started having a gathering of vendors and staff members in 1995. We invited our vendors and asked them to bring a gift worth no more than \$10 (preferably something with their company logo).

These were to be selected by the staff (kind of like a raffle). During the event the staff and vendors will play a 9-hole tournament, for bragging rights mostly. I will cook lunch while they are golfing. The first event showed me a lot about the appreciation that vendors have for our staff. This told me it needs to also go the other way.

In 1996 we talked about the party all year long. We added a new twist to it that year. We decided to involve our greens committee members.

I would say about six or seven members came to the party. I received a lot of positive feedback from everyone: staff, vendors and members

In 1997 the Men's Golf Association became involved and supplied key chains with our club logo to the staff. We had more involvement by the greens committee. This event had developed into an information exchange and camaraderie event.

Last year we eliminated the vendor prizes. We just wanted them to come and have a good time. The staff and members' involvement has increased tremendously. We now have members coming that are not on any committees.

We had about 75 to 80 participants in 1998. The event has evolved into an enjoyable and much-anticipated good time. We went from fewer than 30 people to more than 70.

This tells me it is working, especially when people start asking about the event in June, wanting to get their names on the list. This event has helped change the members' perception of the staff and our department.

This year the members changed the name of their annual "Tree Tournament" to the "Golf Course Maintenance 'OUR COURSE, OUR PRIDE' Beautification and Appreciation Tournament." The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the GCM Employee of the Year.

The award comes with a nice bonus, certificates and plaques to be displayed in the 19th hole etc.

The great thing about it is the evening festivities are held at our GCM facility not the clubhouse. Staff members have the opportunity to stand up and introduce themselves and give brief descriptions of their duties here at San Jose.

I feel this member appreciation is a direct byproduct of the small event we started in 1995 with one or two members, 15 staff members and 10 vendors. This has become one of our biggest events of the year.

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