As I write this message, Hurricanes Fay and Hanna have dumped rain all over the state. I hope most of us got by with much-needed rainfall and not a lot of damage. We have made it halfway through another hurricane season thus far without any major storms hitting Florida. With our summer beach-vacation season up here in the Panhandle winding down and your fall golf season preparations under way, I hope Ike doesn't spoil that record.

With the year ending in exciting fashion with the Presidential election, government relations seems to be front and center with our association. As I go through hundreds of e-mails, the subjects are not that mole crickets are bad, or this disease is taking over, or this new mower is the way to go. It seems like year-round water restrictions on residents are getting tighter and we could experience some backlash on golf-course uses. The City of Sanibel is taking a second look at its fertilizer ordinance with respect to golf courses instead of the original mandate to just follow the new Golf BMPs for nutrient management. With restrictions on residents applying nitrogen or phosphorus during the rainy/growing season, what may be in store for golf courses?

Our executive director, Joel Jackson, tries to stay on top of these issues around the state. What we need, though, is for everybody to do his part locally. We all need to get more involved — including me. I see reports on meetings or letters being sent and it always seems to be the same names and faces that are carrying the load for all of us.

When grass-roots letter-writing efforts are called for, we try to provide talking points and templates so all you have to do is change the name and send it or email it. As far as attending commission meetings, hearings and forums, You do not have to go and argue with anyone; just being there means something. I see reports on our advertisers, these changes do not materially affect the magazine, but do lower costs to produce and distribute the publication.

One final note: last year was the first year I played in the GCSAA golf championships and I highly recommend it if you ever get the chance. You don’t have to play like Seth Strickland in order to enjoy yourself. It gives you a chance to really network with people that you might never meet at the show. Try something new this year. The courses this year are in the Gulf Shores, Ala., area and the time to sign up is now.

I hope to see you all in New Orleans.