Members afforded more ballot input

**GCSAA to rehash familiar issues in Dallas**

**By PETER BLATS**

**LAWRENCE, Kan. —** With last year's defeat still fresh in its mind, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Board of Directors has developed a new set of bylaw amendments calling for more membership input.

Taking the power to set dues away from members and giving it to the board was one of the most controversial recommendations a year ago. The membership defeated that measure by a huge margin.

According to GCSAA documents, this year's bylaw proposal calls for, "Preserving membership authority to set dues for classes AA, A, B, and C [which covers most working head and assistant superintendents] — but through regular ballot voting procedures instead of the current voice vote — while assigning responsibility for setting other membership classifications' dues to the board of directors."

Associate and Affiliate membership classifications will be an issue again this year. This was a sore spot with many regular members.

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Lucas leads landowners' revolution

**By MARK LESLIE**

**Former Wild Dunes golf course owner David Lucas, who took his state's coastal commission to the U.S. Supreme Court and won, wants to wrest control of land use from what he says is a government of "tyranny by legislative fiat and special-interest groups."**

Lucas, who feels the government has an arm-lock on development, said, "I think we have about two years to stem the tide. Then it will be so entrenched it will be difficult to get out of."

While winning a 1992 case in which the Supreme Court ruled the S.C. Coastal Commission had wrongly prevented him from building homes on two coastal properties, Lucas said the past two years have brought him "a whole new understanding of the political process." Lucas led the charge to reorganize the S.C. Coastal Council to make it more responsive to landowners' needs.

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New NGF study explores operations and revenues

**By MARK LESLIE**

**JUPITER, Fla. —** Golf course managers and superintendents around the country will now be able to compare their apples with other courses' apples. Drawing boundaries around the country according to climate and golf seasons, rather than distinct geographical regions, the National Golf Foundation has released reports that compare revenues, expenses, course characteristics, water supply and equipment.

The fruits of the labor — NGF Golf Course Operations & Maintenance Survey Report — are now available in daily-fee, municipal and private, etc. editions.

"This is the first time we've been able to obtain so much of this type of information in a national survey and it's providing some really interesting new insights," said NGF Vice President of Golf Course Development Richard Norton.

Norton pointed to the average operating margin at daily-fee facilities, which varies from 13.9 to 28.9 percent and averages 23.5 percent. In comparison, the national average for municipal facilities is 23.6 percent.

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GCN to sponsor Golf Course Expo in 1994

**By HAL PHILLIPS**

**ORLANDO, Fla. —** Golf Course Expo, an annual trade exhibition and education conference sponsored by Golf Course News, will be held here Nov. 10-12, 1994, at the Orlando Convention Center.

Golf Course Expo is designed to serve the trade show needs of superintendents, owners, managers and developers in the daily-fee, resort, municipal and semi-private golf course markets. The conference — the outgrowth of Public Golf '92 and '93, Golf Course News' highly successful national conferences serving public-access course owners and managers — will be co-sponsored by the National Golf Foundation (NGF)."