Members afforded more ballot input

GCSAA to rehash familiar issues in Dallas

By Peter Blais

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’s 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 point 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

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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’.

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. They 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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GCSAA reduces Asian presence

Five months after joining forces with Conness and International Management Group, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has greatly diminished its role in Asia-Pacific’s largest conference and trade show, Golf Asia ’94. For story, see page 36.

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What’s new in the marketplace.

CN 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).

“We feel Golf Course Expo fills a clear need in the golf course industry,” said Golf Course News Publisher Charles von Brecht.

“Public-access golf operations are the fastest growing sector of the industry, yet there is no forum for its vendors or its particular educational needs. This exhibition and conference are designed to remedy both situations.”

The two-day educational symposium will be divided into three distinct tracks: Agronomy, Management and Development.

The latter will be led by the NGF, while the Agronomy Program will feature speakers from the U.S. Golf Association...
GCSAA initiates financial aid emergency fund

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A new fund created by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) Scholarship & Research (S&R) Foundation will offer emergency financial aid to association members who are suffering personal losses resulting from natural disasters like the recent Midwest flooding.

“This is a significant new benefit for our members,” said GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS.

Superintendents have always banded together to help when disaster strikes. This fund will allow us to offer immediate help to our colleagues.

The GCSAA Emergency Assistance Fund is designed to provide an immediate grant of up to $2,500 to GCSAA members who need short-term financial help to compensate for personal losses resulting from a disaster.

The GCSAA board of directors unanimously to establish the fund with a $5,000 “seed” gift, and a number of chapters are planning gifts to supplement the fund. The GCSAA S&R Foundation is urging individuals and companies to make “one-time” gifts to build the fund. "Our goal is to raise about $20,000 for this to make it a permanent fund that carries over from year-to-year," said Nichols.

Lakeshore Equipment Supply Company, better known as Leco, Inc., has donated $5,000 to match the “seed” gift made by the GCSAA board of directors when the association established the fund.

To apply for emergency funds, members should contact their chapter presidents or call GCSAA Scholarship & Research at 700-472-7878.

Donations may be sent to GCSAA Development Department, P.O. Box 927, Lawrence, KS 66049-0927.

GCSAA members will vote on amendments to membership bylaw

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ers who feared last year's proposal to expand membership to others in the golf industry was taking the focus away from the superintendent.

This year's proposal is to “maintain the current requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to alter the qualifications and levels of privilege for Class A, B and C, while authorizing the board of directors to develop Standing Rules regarding the qualifications and levels of privilege for other membership classifications.”

Ex-GCSAA President Randy Nichols of Cherokee Golf & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga.: "It's more of an accounting thing than anything else. We're not just talking about people with more money. We're talking about turf superintendents for our association. But we want to be able to recognize and distinguish the non-superintendents. We want to be able to say 'This guy is a mechanic, so we can begin to offer him some services.'"

Other membership amendments call for:

- Simplifying the determination of Class B and C qualifications by making all superintendents with less than three years experience Class B members and all assistant superintendents, regardless of experience, Class C.

- Adding six new membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel, club officials, golf association staff members, golf course maintenance extension officers. All are currently assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications. The board would establish Standing Rules regarding qualifications and levels of privilege for such classifications.

- Last year’s bylaw proposals to change from a two-thirds to simple majority vote on bylaw changes and eliminating delegate voting at the board of directors meeting, one-vote format have been dropped.

But to make delegates more accountable to the membership, the board is proposing an amendment requiring the printing, in a GCSAA membership publication, of an official, post-election report of voting records by chapter name, and by totals of individual votes and totals of proxy votes. If approved, the amendment would not take effect until the 1995 annual meeting.

Other amendments addressing accountability call for a two-thirds majority of the board of directors to approve mortgages or loans that would obligate future boards, and making the submission of false information on membership applications or dues statements grounds for discipline or expulsion from GCSAA.

One other major proposal would change the secretary/treasurer position from a presidential appointment to an elected office. The secretary/treasurer has traditionally been a springboard to the presidency two years later.

A major criticism prior to last year's bylaw committee meetings was that proposed amendments had not been adequately explained to the membership, even though board members personally addressed many, if not all, the resolutions.

To improve communications this time around, the board invited chapter representatives to a late-September summit meeting at GCSAA headquarters here. The proposed bylaw amendments were discussed, along with the many upper-level staff changes that have occurred in recent months.

"A milestone in GCSAA's history," was how GCSAA Vice President Joseph G. Baidy of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio, described that meeting. Baidy served as chairman of both the delegates meeting and the Planning Resource Committee, which first met in May to begin deliberations of possible amendments.

"I was very pleased with the excellent response and discussion from the delegates and chapter representatives," he said.

The "consensus of the delegates was that these proposals go to the Bylaws Committee, they can be brought to the floor at the annual meeting. [The delegates and chapter representatives] are going to take the information back to their chapters and request their input."

Sample ballots, with exact text for each proposal, will be mailed in December to all voting members as part of the official Notice of Annual Meeting.