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**LITTLE CONFLICT AWAITS SUPERSTERS IN BIG D**  
By PETER BLAIS  
DALLAS — It may not be all peace and harmony on the eve of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSSA) annual meeting. But it’s a darn sight quieter than during the NAFTA-like squabbles that preceded last year’s vote on the proposed bylaw amendments. Everyone may not agree with this year’s proposals. But most believe the process of communicating with and seeking input from members has gone much smoother than a year ago when even board member George Renault noted, "Many people feel like these [proposed changes] are being rammed down their throats.”

September’s meeting of chapter delegates in Lawrence, Kan., to discuss the proposals left many feeling this year’s board was sincerely interested in explaining the need for the changes and seeking input from the chapter level.

Patty Knaggs, head superintendent at Hazelton National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn., and formerly of Westchester Country Club, will be the new president.  
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**RESERVOIR EASES WATER PRESSURE IN CALIFORNIA**  
By PETER BLAIS  
HEMET, Calif. — The $2 billion Domenigoni Valley Reservoir under construction in Southern California should help ensure water supplies for future golf course maintenance and development through the 21st century in this water-starved region.  
“Knowing the reservoir is there should mean homeowners and environmentalists will put less pressure on politicians to pass bad legislation affecting irrigation water for golf courses,” said Raymond Davies, head superintendent at Virginia Country Club in Huntington Beach, Calif.

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) project is massive. First authorized in late 1991, the 250-foot deep reservoir won’t be completed until 1999. Created by three dams in the Diamond and Domenigoni valleys south of Hemet, it will be Southern California’s largest lake.  
The 4.5-mile-long body of water will cover nearly 4,500 acres and hold

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**CHEMICAL FIRMS JOIN FORCES IN SEARCH OF PROFIT**  
By HAL PHILLIPS  
Hoechst-Roussel and NOR-AM Chemical Co. have combined their respective agrochemical activities to create a joint venture. The Scotts Company has acquired Grace-Sierra Horticultural Products Co. from W.R. Grace & Co. DowElanco has already off-loaded a portion of its specialty chemical division to LESCO, as did Zoecon Corp., following the merger of its specialty pesticide unit with Sandoz Agro Inc.

The chemical industry is reacting to the increasingly adverse economic and political environment by streamlining product lines and, ultimately, entire agrochemical divisions. With each passing day, the 1997 deadline for federal reregistration draws closer and chemical companies make more hard choices

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Mona appointment deemed "Peachy"

Steve Mona, the new executive director of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, may not be familiar to superintendents across the country. Golf Course News went back to Mona's old stomping ground, the state of Georgia, for a few inside insights. Mona served as executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association for 10 years. Representatives of the allied golf associations were also asked to comment on GCSAA's new administrative leader.

KAREN WHITE, executive director of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association:
"They could not have picked a better person. He's ideal for that job. Their [GCSAA's] biggest problem seems to be public relations building with the various entities in golf — USGA, PGA, the allied associations — and the members themselves. Steve is a real people person and extremely talented... He knows the [superintendent's] business. He's been of tremendous support to the Georgia superintendents organizations. It's true, he's from a different background, but he understands this end of the business, which is pretty unique." 

RANDY WALDRON, superintendent at the Golf Club of Georgia, Atlanta, Ga.:
"I think it's a great choice. Everything you hear about Steve is he's very organized and very familiar with the golf industry. Everytime I dealt with him, he seemed to be very informed regarding the superintendent's responsibilities." 

HOBAN, superintendent at The Standard Club in Duluth, Ga., immediate past president of GCSA, president of Georgia Turf Foundation Trust and board member of the Georgia Turfgrass Association:
"I've worked with him on three different boards. He represents the turf business in a different way than does [the USGA]. We agree on a lot of things, but he has a different approach to it... He's ideal for that job. Their organization expansion and international responsibilities." 

PAT O'BRIEN, southeastern regional director, USGA Green Section:
"I have known Steve since 1979, when I first joined the USGA staff, to tell you this... Steve has always been concerned at the Georgia State Golf Association championships that he had a good geog, and good agronomic conditions. He kept abreast of all the latest turfgrass technology, frequently attended USGA regional meetings and Georgia Turfgrass conferences. He was also a frequent speaker at these conferences. I also remember seeing him at the Georgia Golf Course Superintedent Association meetings. A true friend of the superintendent. Always interested in the problems they face.

Employment. Field Service...

These three issues will all be addressed, said Mona, who noted that ballot results from Dallas will weigh heavily on decisions made come April. "There is priority to be the current membership," he said. "Once we've done that, then we can talk about other issues."

• Step 3. Other issues, namely membership expansion and international operations.

Mona acknowledged that both subjects have been contentious and divisive for the association, as evidenced by the bylaw defeat in Anaheim last year and the closing down of GCSAA's Singapore office. He said it is far too early to commit himself on either issue — but he did admit an interest in the Asia-Pacific arena. "I'd hate to see the international venture go up in smoke," he said. The expansion of GCSAA membership categories, defeated in 1993, is back on the ballot in 1994. "If some of those bylaw changes are approved [in Dallas], there could be some real potential for growth," said Mona.

Before their August lunch in Atlanta, Mona said he didn't know the GCSAA job was open further. Mona said he wasn't aware of any internal problems at GCSAA headquarters. By now, he's well aware of the divisions in Lawrence — and he's prepared to address them. "There's no question there are some issues inside the building that need to be addressed: Morale, personnel, direction, etc. I'm not naive. But the one thing, I think there are good people and situations that can be fixed. During my time in Lawrence, the dedication and skill of the staff was confirmed in capital letters. "The larger point, despite what has happened here, is the image of GCSAA has been very good. "The organization has done a great job — I mean, the reputation of the members has risen dramatically over the years. And I want that to continue."