Prayer Breakfast Sunday, Feb. 26

SAN FRANCISCO — State Sen. Tim Leslie, an active pro-family legislator who serves a sprawling 25,000-square-mile district encompassing 13 northern California counties, will speak at the annual Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 26, during the GCSAA Conference and Show here.

The 52-year-old Leslie has been chairman of the California Prayer Breakfast the last three years and keynoted the Chile National Prayer Breakfast last October. An alumnus of the National Youth Seminary, it’s important to see the way participation has grown in many ways. I’d rather go to the tournament than a conference. The ideas that are exchanged during the tournament and afterward in the clubhouse are some of the most valuable information you take home.

Approximately 50 superintendents participated in the 1968 GCSAA Championship. Almost 500 individuals and 80 teams are expected to take part in this year’s event. The Top teams consist of players participating in the championship flight. Some teams, like Georgia GCAS No. 1, have been together for many years. Others are pieced together during a chapter qualifying tournament.

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Still other teams are established the day before the tournament. Team members compete in the 36-hole individual competition and are awarded team points for a bogey (1), par (2), birdie (3) and eagle (4). Points are tallied at the end of the first round so that a team knows where it stands after 18 holes. Additional points are tallied at the end of the second round and trophies awarded. Last year’s gross division winners from Georgia garnered 248 points to best runner-up Midwest AGCSA No. 4’s 225.

“Winning it is a source of pride for the chapters,” said Leslie. “It’s gratifying to see the way participation has grown in many ways. I’d rather go to the tournament than a conference. The ideas that are exchanged during the tournament and afterward in the clubhouse are some of the most valuable information you take home.”

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“That’s the way we did it in Texas,” said Witt, who recently moved from Bent Tree CC in Dallas to Wynstone. “We had an annual championship. The top four finishers became our No. 1 team and the chapter paid their way to the tournament.”

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"But you get strong teams from other areas, too. There are 20 to 30 guys here in Chicago who are very strong golfers," he added, noting that Midwest AGCSA No. 4 was last year’s gross division runner-up and Midwest AGCSA No. 8 the net division winner. The net unit included Illinois superintendents Robert Maibusch of Hinsdale GC in Clarendon Hills, Les Rutan of Beverly CC in Chicago, Roger Stewart Jr. of Stonebridge CC in Aurora and Bruce Williams of Bob O’Link GC in Highland Park.

In fact, Northern superintendents dominated the competition in its early years, said Frank Lamphier, head superintendent at Aspetuck Valley CC in Bethel, Conn. Led by six-time singles champion Emil Masciocchi, Cleveland GCAS won five consecutive titles from 1946-52 (there was no tournament in 1947). It wasn’t until the Southern California GCAS’s back-to-back titles in 1970-71 that a non-Midwest/Philadelphia association won the event. “There just weren’t a lot of players from the South 30 years ago. But with all the new courses, there are a lot more players down there," Lamphier said.

Many credit Lamphier with turning the GCSAA into a major annual event. The Vermont native coordinated the event every year from 1968-88. Prior to that, there had been no tournament since 1963 and only sporadically held events before that. To show its appreciation, GCSAA named the net division award the Frank Lamphier Net Trophy. The Scottish International Trophy goes to the winning gross team.

“Mel Lucas appointed me coordinator in 1968," Lamphier recalled. “We basically had to decide whether to keep holding it or give it up. Organizing it gave me something to do in the winter. It’s gratifying to see the way participation has grown. In many ways, I’d rather go to the tournament than the conference. The ideas that are exchanged during the tournament and afterward in the clubhouse are some of the most valuable information you take home.”

GCSAA Tourney

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