GCSAA elects new officers and directors

ANAHEIM, Calif. — R. Scott Woodhead will take to the podium as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America two years from now following his election as secretary/treasurer of the national organization during February's Annual International Show and Conference here.

Woodhead, superintendent at Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont., bested Tommy Witt of Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington, Ill., in the election for the secretary/treasurer post. Witt will continue on the board as director, completing the second year of his two-year term. George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., and David Fears of Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Mo., ran uncontested and were elected president and vice president, respectively.

Winning two-year seats as board members were incumbent Ken Mangum of Atlanta Athletic Club and Jon Maddern of Elk Ridge Golf Club in Atlanta, Mich.

Also running for the board were Joseph Emanuel of Hurstbourne Country Club in Louisville, Ky., and Wayne Remo of Rock Spring Club in West Orange, N.J.

Calif. board rejects Hearst course plans

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — In a stunning rejection of the most controversial coastal development plan in more than a decade, the California Coastal Commission has denied the Hearst Corp.'s plan to build a 650-room resort and 18-hole course on scenic lands near Hearst Castle.

The decision means the project must go back to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors for revision. The Hearstis and the county must reconfigure and downsize the project and then return for another vote, possibly later this year. Hearst officials have said their plan would be financially viable without the large number of rooms and the course.

The Hearst Corp., a privately held New York-based media company, has been working for 20 years on the development plan, which called for a $120 million project built in four locations on both sides of Route 1 north of Cambria. The area is part of a 57,000-acre ranch left to the Hearst Corp. by legendary newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst. Hearst built a 165-room castle in the Santa Lucia foothills. After his death, the family donated the castle and about 100 acres to the state parks department. The Hearsts own 16 miles of ocean front, the largest coastal ranch in the state. The rugged and undeveloped shoreline stretches from Monterey County's border nearly to Cambria.

More than 1,000 people attended the hearing at which the Commission made its decision. Hundreds of people were turned away and watched almost 12 hours of proceedings on closed-circuit television. In a dramatic twist, two members of the Hearst family wrote and spoke out against the plan, including the former wife of Hearst Corp. Chairman George Hearst, Jr.