benefit analysis.

Continued from previous page

informed membership, the articles should
in any healthy organization, it is incumbent upon the leadership to
consent is not to be feared.

Thomas got his first superintendent job at Oak Creek Golf Club in 2000.

Thomas was hired as the Appraisal Institute. A graduate of Penn State University, he has served as past president of the Central Pennsylvania chapter of the Appraisal Institute and the Society of Golf Appraisers.

Thomas hired 13 years of golf property expertise to its advisory board. He founded Golf Property Analysts in 1988 and is a member of the Counselors of Real Estate and the Appraisal Institute. A graduate of Penn State University, he has served as past president of the Central Pennsylvania chapter of the Appraisal Institute and the Society of Golf Appraisers.

Relocation process sound

Continued from previous page

favorable real estate transaction, the area
was a hub for two major airlines and it was
centrally located to facilitate communica-
tion with members in all areas of the
nation. Lawrence has been a good home for
GCSAA and the association has strength-
ened since establishing the community as
its headquarters location.

However, times have changed. Other ar-
eas of the nation have become more acces-
sible, communication technologies have
made physical location practically irrelevant
and geographic/ climatic characteristics make
a re-examination of the headquarters loca-
tion a sound business exercise. By engaging
this study, we will determine what opportuni-
ties exist in terms of operational efficien-
cies, a potential relationship with a golf
facility and/or hotel and conference center
and in expanding our activities with golf's
governing bodies.

In the final analysis, the study may indi-
cate that Lawrence is the best place for
GCSAA's home, but all of us deserve the
thoughtful consideration this study will pro-
vide. Relocation is not a new subject. It has
been discussed numerous times, as a re-
sponse to offers made on the current head-
quarters facility. Those discussions, while
based on considerable thought and integrity,
did not employ the thorough analysis that
will be required during this re-examination.
If we decide not to move, the study will
provide the data for us now, and also for the
foreseeable future if the subject is ever
brogued again. Without the study, we would
be left making a decision in a vacuum, now
and in the future.

Associated with the relocation feasibility
study is an amendment to the articles of
incorporation that will be voted upon at the
annual meeting. If approved, the amend-
ment will remove 1421 Research Park Drive,
Lawrence, Kan., and the state of Kansas as
the resident agent from the second article of
incorporation and allow the board of direc-
tors to act on behalf of the membership in
regards to its location.

By allowing the board of directors to
vote on relocation, the association would
have the ability to negotiate and act expe-
diently on an offer that may or may not be
available for a future vote at an annual
meeting.

I am confident the GCSAA leadership
has approached the subject thoroughly
and professionally. We have engaged ex-
perienced professionals with expertise in
these matters. The process could have been
stopped at any point (and still can) if the
information does not support further in-
vestigation. We have reached a point where
we have received enough data to support
continued exploration. I am also confident we have and will
continue to allow members to provide input
on this subject. In the early phase of the
study, much of the research had to be
done without public disclosure due to the
sensitive nature of the information. How-
ever, as the study moves ahead, the pro-
cess and the information will become more
public. The GCSAA leadership has pledged
to communicate early and often as it moves
ahead in the study.

Additional information on the relocation
study can be found by accessing the recent
GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting presenta-
tion at www.gcsaa.org. You will also have
a chance to communicate your thoughts at
the GCSAA annual meeting, 8 a.m., Friday,
Feb. 14 in Atlanta. If you are attending
Conference and Show, I encourage you to
participate in that forum.

Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS, is superintendent at
the Country Club of Darien (Conn.) and serves as
a director for the GCSAA.

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Steven Cook, CGCS, is superintendent at Oak-