ASSOCIATIONS

Allied association group is now reality

It was a monumental task to organize, but the first meeting and establishment of the new Allied Associations of Golf (AAG) went off without much of a hitch last month in Chicago.

Two years of conflicting schedules, lack of organization, and indifference on the part of several associations, which eventually decided to join anyway, had blocked any significant effort to get all the groups that deal with the game and business of golf around a table to discuss their mutual interests and problems.

Not everyone showed up in the end, but enough did make the meeting at the O'Hare International Airport that this time it worked.

Coordinated by Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Executive Director Conrad Scheetz and his counterpart in the National Golf Foundation, Don Rossi, the summit eventually included representatives from the Professional Golfers' Association and its Tournament Players Division, the Club Managers Association of America, the United States Golf Association, National Club Association, American Society of Golf Course Architects, and the Ladies PGA.

Marshall Dann, executive director of the Western Golf Association, was brought in as chairman and moderator of the session, which lasted the entire day.

In what served as a getting-to-know you period, each association presented its programs and problems for the coming year.

Speaking for the CMAA, President Harry Gray talked about the membership problem his organization has run into and the expansion project it has in the works. Emphasis is still on the general manager concept, something about which the CMAA has been at odds with the other associations.

Scheetz also talked about the membership problem the GCSAA was having, attempting to get more superintendents into the association. Biggest area of concern for the turfgrass people in the coming year is the growing amount of government regulation on the horizon — most notably OSHA, EPA, lack of greenbelt legislation, and the development of new chemical restrictions.

Restrictive admissions policies were on the mind of National Club Association's Executive Director Jerry Hurley. Hurley discussed his group's attitude on a recent case concerning California's Bank of America and its dropping of all corporate payments for its employees at private clubs. Hurley dubbed this an overreaction to "trial balloons" the Department of Labor has let rise on its policies concerning sex and racial discrimination at private clubs.

Mark Cox, executive director of the PGA, took a mild approach to the problems facing the industry. He said the PGA did not look at the issues as "severe." He pointed to the steady rate of increase in PGA membership, but failed to note the problems the association has had getting jobs for members in the last 2 years.

High costs were also mentioned by Cox, who cited a higher minimum wage as a real evil for the club professional. Cox pointed to the fact that as costs increase,
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