Reader forum

Roundtable reactions

I feel sorry for the person who stated during your GCSAA roundtable discussion that he got nothing out of the educational meetings. Perhaps if he attended a few of them the story might have been different. He did state that he attended the keynote address. He also stated the only way he could think of to hurt the GCSAA was to withhold his dues. If he had paid attention to the keynote address he might have found out that you do not get things done by reprimand.

This same person also stated, "What do we hire for an educational director but a superintendent?" I would think he would be elated that a mere superintendent got the job. He also used the word "we" and he is not even a member.

Harry Meusel
Superintendent
Yale University Golf Course
New Haven, Conn.

This is the finest magazine in the golf industry today. The GCSAA roundtable article in the March issue was outstanding and very truthful. I believe that GCSAA is a weak organization and drastic changes are needed. I have been a Class A member for 15 years.

Norman C. Denney
Golf course superintendent
Abenaqui Country Club
Rye, N.H.

I am a member of the board of directors of my club and also serve on many other committees, but my real love has been the greens and grounds of the golf club. I have read your magazine for many years and always enjoy the many informative articles in it.

In the article in the March issue concerning the six superintendents discussing their opinions, pro and con, about the workings of a golf course, your panelists had some very positive things to say. I believe that the superintendents' public relations effort must be to the members themselves — after all, most members do not realize that over $200,000 is spent annually on the golf course, and they do not know the breakdown between wage overhead and normal purchase of supplies.

The superintendents should not be a "Jake in the barn," but should make themselves known to the general membership. I think it would be a positive step if the superintendent might attend a portion of a board meeting.

Again, hats off to your panel. I think it would prove very positive if members would read this article.

Bud Brody
First vice president
Lake Merced Golf & Country Club
 Daly City, Calif.

To voice your opinion on the above and other issues, use the Reader Forum Card bound into the front of this magazine or write to Editor, GOLF BUSINESS, 9800 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

Fred Meada
Golf course superintendent
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 Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Yes, we have problems, but our association problems will always be with us because we are dealing with people and their viewpoints. I have been a member of GCSA for 7 years, and our needs are changing from year to year just as our needs are changing from year to year in our own job positions and maintenance programs. The GCSA has made many changes in the association to meet today's needs of the members and will continue to make changes to meet the needs of tomorrow.

I attended the annual business meeting of our national conference in Atlanta in February, and the presentation given by George Cleaver about the association and what it does for the members was excellent. I was very pleased to be a member of the GCSA.

The GCSA is not in business to make profits, but to give a superintendent what he needs to perform his job. The GCSA has been a major force in changing the image of the superintendent.

I was pleased to finally see some people actually discussing some of the basic problems with our profession. I do not agree with all of the points brought forth in the roundtable discussion, but they were exposed to the readers of this magazine, which benefits everyone in the golf business.

The majority of golf course superintendents do not project themselves as the professionals they are and, therefore, do not get the recognition they deserve. Unfortunately the "Old Jake" syndrome is our only recognition in many instances. We can recognize ourselves as professionals and pat ourselves on the back all we want, but if we don't project ourselves further than the confines of our own organization, then we have nobody to blame but ourselves for the lack of recognition by the general public.

Basically much of the educational program at annual conferences is redundant. This unfortunately is the nature of research data. However, it is this very research which has fostered our professional outlook as well as made us aware of the importance of continuing our unending search for modernization of our maintenance practices and techniques.

The educational sessions do seem to ignore the management aspect for the most part. This aspect includes the management of resources (both natural and financial), people, and time. Perhaps we should devote more sessions to this topic.

Some proposals we should consider are increasing the number of talks given by golf professionals, club managers, and general managers. We as superintendents can ill afford to ignore the impact these individuals have on us as managers.

As far as the GCSA putting sanctions on clubs for the dismissal of a superintendent or other unpopular action, no way. Personally, that's a can of worms I wouldn't want opened. We are a professional organization, not a labor union.

In conclusion, I think GOLF BUSINESS is a good sounding board for all opinions on these matters.

Roger A. Stewart Jr.
Golf course superintendent
Riverside Golf Club
North Riverside, Ill.