

GCSAA comes to D.C.

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The GCSAA Board of Director came to Washington D.C. in August for their quarterly meeting. The MAAGCS, ESGCSA, and VGCSA were all invited to attend part of the meeting to discuss our chapter concerns as well as some issues under consideration by the GCSAA. Theresa Baria and I attended on behalf of the MAAGCS and it was a very enlightening experience for me as I have had limited exposure to the GCSAA Board of Directors. The majority of the GCSAA senior staff was in attendance as well and they are a very professional group of men and women who truly seem to be committed to the superintendent profession. We discussed among the group several items including: meeting attendance, membership, assistant superintendent involvement, fundraising, and relationship with the GCSAA. Most issues facing the MAAGCS are universal throughout the country and I hope to follow up on several of the items we discussed with the Board of Directors as we begin to plan for 2006. There were two issues that the GCSAA Board brought up for discussion. The first was the next step in the PDI implementation which involves the "branding" of the superintendent. This means initially recognizing the members based on their classification for press releases, news stories, and cross industry promotion. The second was a little more troubling as it was initiated by the PGA of America basically developing the platform that a PGA professional is the most "qualified" person to manage a golf facility. This statement alone is worth an article for the next newsletter. Anyway, the GCSAA is considering promoting the Superintendent professional directly to the decision makers, owners, operators, etc.

This is evidenced by the GCSAA collaborating with and teaming up with the NGCOA and the CMAA going forward with combined conference and show. There are a lot of good reasons for this alliance, the GCSAA needs to do a better job explaining it to the membership. The GCSAA is still promoting the "team" approach to golf facility management, but it is beginning to explore options to give superintendents who want to move into greater management roles avenues to do so in the future. The results of the August Board meeting are available on the GCSAA web site and I'd be happy to elaborate on any issue going forward. I will revisit some of these remarks in the last newsletter of the year.



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