

WHAT DO "THEY" DO FOR ME?

By Dick Viergever

Most of us, as members of one organization or another have heard this question a number of times; indeed some of us have asked it ourselves.

"What do they -- The Association -- The Officers -- or whoever -- do for Me?

First of all, who are "they" who are supposed to be doing something for me? As an association, we have organized together as a group of professional people for the purpose of increasing our effectiveness in our work and thereby improving our own welfare. The question might, therefore, more appropriately be, "What are WE doing for US?" That puts part of the responsibility on ME and now we're getting somewhere. So come to think of it, what have I contributed lately?

But to get back to the original question, "What do "They" do for me?" of maybe it should be re-phrased now to read, "What Benefits do I get from the Association?" I find, on really thinking it over, there are many. Let me enumerate some of them:

1. A date, time and place are arranged for me to meet with most of the people in my profession; discuss our mutual problems, often arrive at solutions, observe the results of the work of other superintendents and generally keep up with progress in golf course maintenance. This happens about twelve times a year and I feel it is highly valuable to me.
2. A speaker is provided nearly every month who is usually a specialist in some part of my work, If I listen to him, I am almost certain to gain some worth while knowledge.
3. Surveys have been taken every few years to help keep me aware of how I stand compared to other superintendents in salary, benefits, budget, labor force and other points pertaining to my job.
4. The Association is affiliated with the National Group which publishes an informational magazine, promotes public relations for me, provides educational services and performs many other functions which, in the long run, add greatly to my prestige and welfare.
5. Purveyors and manufacturers of equipment, supplies and materials which we use in our work are able to meet with us and gain a better insight into our requirements so they can do a better job of meeting our needs.

Or if, by "They" we mean the officers and directors of the Association specifically, let's take a look at what they do for us if anything. Whether it does anything for us or not, they spend a lot of

their time and sometimes quite a bit of their own money doing what they think will benefit the members. They arrange for these meetings and programs every month and have not failed to do so in my recollection. They conduct the business of the Association and if they are not doing it well, I hope everyone is offering constructive suggestions. They have written our by-laws and if there is anything wrong with them, any member can initiate changes.

I think any member, if he has any ideas at all about how the Association should be run or what services should be provided, should make it a point to explain his ideas in detail to a member of the Board, or better yet, sit down and write a letter to the secretary or president. He can be assured that all suggestions will be discussed, seriously considered, and adopted if they appear to be beneficial to the majority of the members.

I can't think of much that "they" individually and personally, have done for me individually and personally but I do feel that because I have been a member of the Association I have personally received the following benefits:

1. I make more money than I would if it were not for the Association.
2. I enjoy more prestige and recognition in my work.
3. I know more about my job and am able to do it better.
4. I know more nearly where I stand in comparison with others in my field.
5. I know a hell of a lot of real good guys that I would never have met if I had not been a member of the Association.

Given more time and space I could think of more but, by and large, I feel that "they" do about as much for me as I could expect and maybe more. I think I'll give some more thought to how "WE" can do more for "US"

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Correction--In the page mailed last month to bring the Membership Directory up-to-date under address changes please correct.

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The 44th Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show will be held January 7-12, 1973, in Boston, Massachusetts. The Golf Superintendent publications schedule will be changed to August, October and December (special show issue).