

GERRY FINN, Contributing Editor of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc. wrote the following:

TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF

Take a look at yourself. No, I don't mean rig up a full length mirror and drink in the All-American individual you think you are. I mean look at yourself as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England (but let's substitute the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California)

All right, now proceed with this piece and check off the type of member you actually are . . . not what you think, hope or fanatize your association actions are. Be honest and know thine own self.

Are you the complete fade as a member? This species joins the association simply for the sake of being a member of a professional organization. It doesn't attend meetings, uses the Newsletter to housebreak animals and is usually late paying dues. He takes pride, though, in noting affiliation with the organization when applying for a new and more lucrative position. In a word, it uses the association for personal gains and advantage while contributing nothing.

Or are you the "pick-em" meeting member? This species usually has the organization at heart by professing, "I go to as many meetings as I can which is more than a lot of people I know." However, this member has only himself in mind when he somehow makes a meeting at a renowned golf course or an appearance at a function where a "free cocktail party has been arranged.

Which brings us to the "golfing" member. He makes only those meetings held in conjunction with some kind of golfing event. Not only that, he usually arrives too late if the meeting is scheduled for before golf or leaves too early if the session is set for after play. He, too, is famous for begging out of any dinner, lunch or whatever at the specified club and can be seen at a highway or turnpike restaurant on the way back to the old home club.

Then, you could be the fair-sited meeting going member. This type draws a boundary . . . usually a 10-mile circumference around his club and never crosses it. It all depends, too, on where he is located. If, for example, he's in the Holiday Inn chain area, he makes most of the winter sessions. But, as a rule, he thinks anything over a 10-mile trip constitutes a safari and he makes two-three meetings a year.

Or are you the member who attends according to the projectory of the sun or some other weather-oriented measure? it's raining, snowing, the temperature goes above 90 or below 25. This bird is interested in the Association . . . but only on meeting days when it's 75 degrees with a

wind from the southwest and the sky a spotless azure blue.

You might be the perfect attendance type . . . the one who sits in the front row without uttering a word while the session is underway. But then becomes the culprit who retreats to the bar or some other away place to express his opinions and often shout his complaints, "about the way our association is being operated."

Are you a volunteer-type? Do you run for office, perhaps get elected and then spend the rest of your office tenure avoiding making suggestions and offering constructive criticism? Sad to say, there are such members. Flashy on the outside . . . dull on the inside.

Or are you the member who tries to make as many meetings as you can . . . joins in on discussions of topical subjects . . . attempts to understand the other fellow's outlook and opinion . . . reads the Newsletter and lets his reaction be known to the proper persons . . . and doesn't take every opportunity to downgrade the association?

Which member are you out there? You don't need any mirrors to determine your status. Just go over the list and see which descriptive applies. And then do something about it . . . if need be.

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The January meeting was held at The Villages, San Jose. Jim Ross, Host Superintendent went all out as usual to provide us with good food and a great golf course--a little wet but there were no complaints from anyone.

Ron Fream's presentation with slides gave many of us the opportunity to see how difficult course building can be under some very adverse conditions.

We wish to thank Ron, Jim and The Villages for a very good meeting.