I am writing my monthly message from a prone position. I sure hope this isn’t an indication of how the new year is going to be. I have had the flu for over a week. This combined with the lack of normal rainfall and the sustained low temperatures is not a real good sign for golf courses in Northern California.

Once again, we are going to have to rely on our skills and experience to keep our courses in playable condition. We also have at our disposal our Information Referral Service, The University of California Cooperative Extension and the services offered by the Northern California Golf Association and the United States Golf Association. This is going to be a tough year for golf course maintenance, but if we work together with all the resources available, we can benefit not only individually, but as an allied turf industry.

After talking to a few of our members who were not aware that our chapter is affiliated with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association, I thought it might be a topic for discussion at one of our future meetings. Maybe February. We are automatic members of the State Association and are represented on the Board of Directors by two delegates. Northern California also pays dues in the form of $10.00 per each A and B member. This is to conduct the business of the State Chapter. Your Board of Directors is of the opinion that the main function of the State Association is as a voting bloc for national elections and the coordination of the California Hospitality Suite at the GCSAA Convention. Some items under discussion at this time are:

1. Eliminating our monthly newsletter and using Golden State Fairways magazine, which would come out monthly.
2. Collect dues from all members or increase dues.
3. Invite vendors to join.
4. Sponsor and collect fees from GCSAA Seminar now going to local chapters.

I think it is important for our members to be informed and would like some feedback. Ask questions and talk to your Board of Directors about the State Chapter.

On another topic, this is the time of year to start thinking about running for your Board of Directors. If you don’t like what direction your association is going, do something about it. Be a part of it. The more input the better.

Have a Happy New Year!

Joseph A. Rodriguez, CGCS