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THRU THE GREEN

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From The President

The annual Scholarship, Research and Education fund raising event is in the books for 1998. We had some of everything this year. Heat, unusual formats, complaining, great support and fun. Thank you Gary Skolnik for hosting the event. The facility was great and the entire staff should be proud of their efforts. This event is successful because of the efforts of both members and nonmembers. Thank you to all who donated gifts, sponsored tees and donated their time and effort on behalf of our Association. Jim Karrick, Craig Kilcoyne and their "volunteers," great job on organizing and running the event. John Holmquist for his behind the scenes work securing raffle prizes and all of you that participated. Without everyone's collective efforts it could not have happened. The preliminary numbers show us raising about \$13,000. The educational programs and scholarships we present will continue to benefit from this effort. Next year perhaps we can work on the temperature and format to entice a prominent education committee chairman into attending the event.

One final note on the day. Bill Davis was taken to the hospital during the golf. There was a great deal of concern about his condition during the afternoon. I have not spoken directly to Bill, but those that have report he is home, still undergoing some tests and feeling better. Hopefully by the time this is mailed out he will be feeling 100% and back to work.

I know I said I had one final note, but to take a page from the book of Costa, I have one more. We had the pleasure and honor of recognizing one of our own at Fountaingrove. Bruce Williams, CGCS, and a Past President of the GCSAA came to make a

presentation to John Fleming of The Olympic Club for his efforts in hosting the 1998 U.S. Open. It was a thrill to hear Bruce's comments about John and his staff. The comments that hit closest to home though were the ones John made about his staff. John was quick to praise his staff for their efforts and made special mention of his assistant, Bob Lopic. I think that all superintendents are aware that what they do is a team effort. It is impossible to imagine taking on the challenge of a golf course without a team effort. Everyone on my staff has specific responsibilities they must uphold for our efforts to be a success. From my assistant that supervises the daily operation of the crew to the seasonal worker raking traps, each must understand the direction and standard we set for there to be success. The comment has been made at the Board meetings many times that it would be impossible for us to be involved in the Association at this level without the support of our employers and the efforts of our staff.

Remember how far a pat on the back goes in saying "well done" to those that make your job easier to deal with. Our industry is really very close knit. We see the same faces and tell many of the same stories over and over. Remember to look around for a support during the tough times and be prepared to help out when someone else asks. It seems to make the job easier for everyone involved. Come to a meeting and find some allies for that difficult turf problem or that staff issue that continues to drag on. You may find out someone has been through the same things already.

AND REMEMBER . . . keep that sense of humor, it's critical!!! I know I've said it before but it bears repeating.

Office Notes

By Barbara Mikel

Well, Fountaingrove Scholarship Research & Education Tournament is history. And what a way to become a part of history. The event turned in the highest net proceeds for the association to date. The final numbers are not yet in but with success like this we can provide for the Association's members, worthy students, and continuing education for the superintendents for a few

years! Good job by Jim Karrick, Craig Kilcoyne, and all those who ably assisted. A large measure of support for this event comes from our Affiliate members. We will be publishing a complete contributor's list in next month's newsletters. (We are still receiving donations as of this writing).

I just received a GCSAA publication on "Compensation and Benefits for Golf Course Superintendent" Compares 1995 and

Office Notes (Cont'd)

1998 Compensation and Benefits Reports. It is a concise four-page document with salary trends based on experience and education, certified superintendents vs non-certified. Employment activity for 1997-98. Salary increases by state and regions. Charts on compensation for employees reporting to or working for superintendents. Also included a section on Management structure for superintendents. You should have this tool. This information will be released to other associations such as NGCOA, PGA, CMAA, and others. *You can get your copy by calling GCSAA Career Development (800) 472-7878 ext. 655.* Look for important elements in future issues of "Thru the Green"

NorCal Research At A Glance

Dr. Ali Harivandi, well know to all for his involvement in turfgrass research reports that he has several projects in the works and a few on the horizon. Currently, Ali is working on bentgrass trials at Crystal Springs, in Burlingame, which he reports is already showing promise.

Also underway is a salt tolerance study using a variety of different turfgrasses. Part of the research includes work with paspalum sp. obtained from work at the University of Georgia.

For those considering establishing, or renovating tee's and fairways, a study is currently being proposed to evaluate various bentgrass varieties. This study is likely to occur at Poppy Ridge.

In an effort to provide hands on research education, Ali has proposed a field day prior, to a monthly meeting. With Crystal Springs a potential site, the program would include a review of the bentgrass trials, environmental projects and course construction projects.

Quick Quote

"A good leader is a person who takes a little more than his share of the blame, and a little less than his share of the credit."

— John C. Maxwell —

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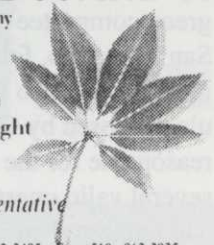
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