

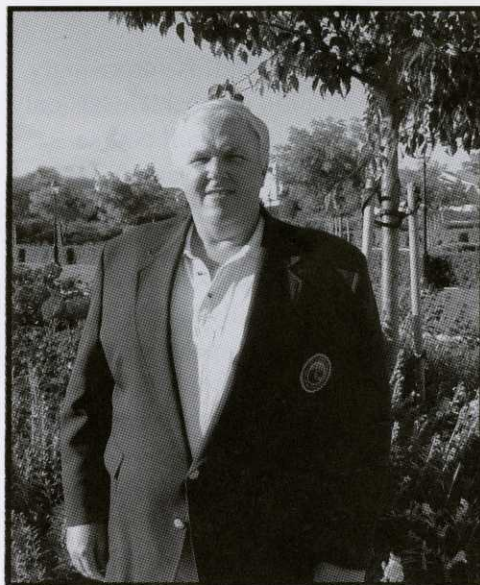


President's Message Happy Holidays to All

By Gary Carls, CGCS

The holiday season is upon us and it is a great time to reflect on the important things in life, our friends and family. We are all fortunate to be part of many families and share in the joy and hardships that they each face. We have our own personal family. We have our staffs that are in many ways another family. We also have the family of our fellow Superintendents. Everyday we face challenges from one or all of these groups. There are moments of great joy. There are moments of great sadness. We all make each other a little stronger.

At home I have a small family, just two of us. It is understood that my job is different than most and there aren't a lot of long summer vacations or late evening adventures. The sacrifices are made because I get to do something I enjoy doing. If you stop enjoying what you are doing, it is time to get out of the business. Most years we travel during the holidays to visit brothers and sisters and their families in distant places like Colorado or Michigan. Despite the distances and short amount of time we are together, we all feel quite close. We share stories of what has happened over the last year or two and laugh and have a good time. We also have disagreements but would never turn our back in a crisis. Even after almost 25 years in this



business, I don't think my family really understands what I do. Nor do I understand their jobs. The key is to try and make the most of the time you do have with your family because it is so limited.

At work we have our staffs who are in many ways our second family. We spend a large portion of our time with them, and like a family, depend on them to help us in good times and bad. We create strong ties and have a genuine interest in their well being. We ask them to follow our lead and we try and set a good example for them. Without their strong backing we would almost certainly fail. Take the time and show your crew that you appreciate them during the holidays.

Your fellow superintendents are also another family. There are many strong ties among our group because we understand each other's jobs so well. Over the years I have always been impressed with how well superintendents

work together to share and solve problems. Egos are left at the door and we all openly share ideas about how to make our courses better. We all share the common goal of making our course the best it can be for our players. As a board member your goal is to make GCSANC the best it can be. It makes

me feel good when a member comes up to me and thanks me for something I have done for them. I also know that if they were in the same position they would be doing the same thing. We all know stories of how our members have stepped up during tough times to assist a fellow member.

On January 23rd, Sunnyvale G.C. will host the 2001 GCSANC Annual Meeting. I hope everyone can attend. We will be electing our 2001 Officers and Board of Directors. There will also be some bylaw changes to be decided relating to Affiliate members of the board voting during board meetings.

Hope to see many of you in Monterey at the Holiday Party. It's a great time of the year to visit the Monterey Peninsula and visit with others and their spouses. It's a chance to spend some time in "Gods Country", as Bob Costa would put it, and relax with friends and family. There are plenty of activities in the area for every member of the family to enjoy.

To all, here's hoping your holidays are filled with joy and good times. Until next month.....Gary

Casino Night

Friday,
December 8, 2000

The Monterey Beach Hotel

2600 Sand Dunes Drive

Monterey California

Reservations: 831-394-3321

Rooms are available Thursday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

For the following rates:

Gardenside Single or Double Occupancy \$79.00 ++
Oceanside Single or Double Occupancy \$109.00 ++