Naumann’s Norcal News

Ted Horton has left his VP position at Pebble Beach to start his own environmental and human resources consulting firm. He is in the process of moving to Temecula where he will be running this company. Jeremy Lehman is the new Superintendent at Cinnabar Hills Golf Course in San Jose. Jeremy was the assistant prior to his promotion. He is replacing Tom Unruh who has moved back to Carson City. John Martin has left Sun City Golf in Lincoln. His replacement has yet to be named. Some promotions have taken place at Orinda CC. Mike Senneca is now the Superintendent and Bob Lapic has been promoted to Director of Golf Course Maintenance. Mike was the assistant prior to his promotion.

Why is the PDI necessary?

The following are excerpts from the presentation made by the Membership Standards Resource Group at the annual Chapter Delegates meeting held on September 8-10, 2000.

Several years ago, members began to understand that superintendents exist in a changing professional environment. With the increased emphasis on televised golf and the economics of the game, more is expected now from superintendents than ever before. And more will be expected in the future. Our members said and continue to say that golf course superintendents want more appreciation and recognition, compensation, retention and job opportunities.

The Membership Standards Resource Group was formed to look at how to achieve these goals in the future. They were to determine if action was possible to address these issues and determine what process should be followed to pursue the goals if they were adopted. The MSRG needed information to effectively address whether or not we could have an impact on the key problems faced by golf course superintendents – appreciation, compensation, retention, and career opportunities.

We appreciate and encourage your support of these outstanding Sponsors.
Why is the PDI necessary? (Cont’d)

with an assurance that Class A members meet a baseline proficiency within most of the competencies outlined through required experience and education.

The application of pesticides in the golf course maintenance practice often attracts the most attention from governmental agencies, the media and the public. Demonstrating expertise regarding these applications provides assurance that Class A superintendents are knowledgeable about the most recent procedures and methods for the safe handling and use of these products. Furthermore, golf course superintendents are the environmental stewards of the property they manage. By requiring that Class A members have a valid pesticide license or pass the GCSAA-developed pesticide test, GCSAA members will illustrate their commitment to environmental stewardship by meeting and, in most cases, exceeding the requirements of applying plant protectant products. This proactive step will make a large impact when GCSAA meets with environmentalist groups and regulatory agencies.

The ongoing education requirement demonstrates that Class A superintendents are actively seeking education to stay abreast of the latest developments. Service points are given for activities and contributions outside of traditional educational events. Support of GCSAA’s local chapters is crucial to help ensure a vibrant local support network for superintendents. Serving golf-related and civic organizations also help build leadership and management skills; assigning points for these and other service-related activities provides an additional incentive for participation.

The PDI’s mission illustrates the main reason for its proposal:
“To improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of the professional superintendent that contribute toward improved playing conditions and the enjoyment of the game of golf.”

We feel strongly that individual golf course superintendents and the profession as a whole has a great deal to gain from this initiative. By better understanding the link between continuing education and increasing our value to our facilities in the eyes of our employers, our members are positioned to gain appreciation, compensation, retention, and job opportunities.

For a complete copy of the proposal, look at the PDI section under the Learning Center by logging onto www.gcsaa.org or call the GCSAA Service Center at 800/472-7878.

If you would like an electronic version of this document, please contact Judith Ferguson, GCSAA Education Department Coordinator, at 785/832-4469, or e-mail your request to jferguson@gcsaa.org.