



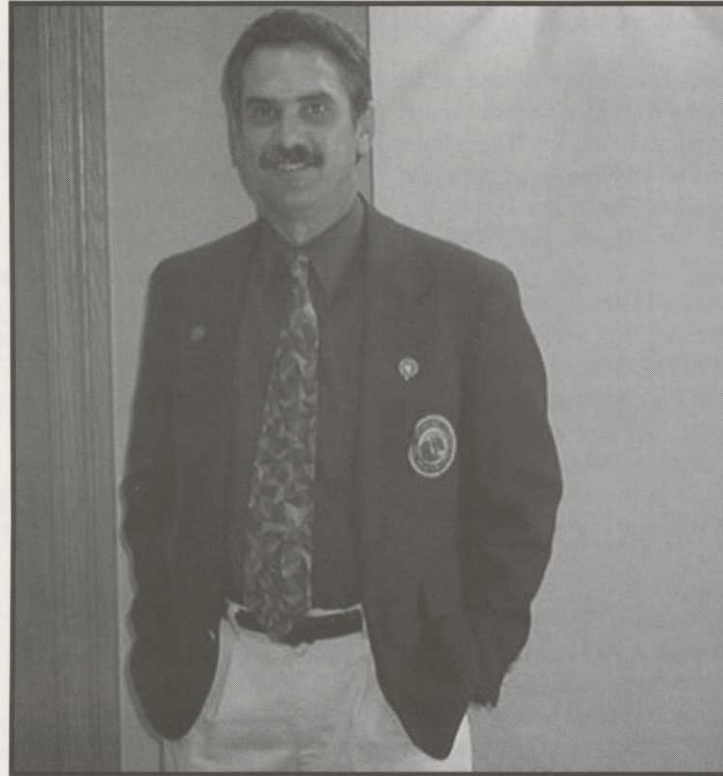
## Final Thoughts . . .

By Bob Costa, CGCS

As I conclude my term as GCSANC president and begin to wind down my association with the GCSANC Board, I find myself reflecting back upon a year that has been very gratifying. In my final, "Final Thoughts" next month I intend to focus on what I believe to be the accomplishments of the current Board, which I believe to be many. For this addition, I decided to focus on the challenges that I believe lie ahead of our Association.

Unlike what we have experienced in our personal and professional lives the cost of operating the association are on the rise. Witness monthly meetings, which now average \$75.00 dollars, newsletter printing, publishing and mailing costs, and general administrative costs. Fortunately, with the support of our affiliate members in the form of meeting sponsorships, advertising and donations and other revenue sources such as membership dues, the Institute, and job notices the association has remained financially stable. With costs expected to continue to rise, it is my recommendation that within the next two years, the Board of Directors must consider a dues increase to offset the increased cost of doing business.

A greater challenge is the issue of member participation, which has steadily declined during recent years. During the last several administrations, my fellow Board mates and I have made this a priority, instituting several changes, such as fewer monthly meetings, reduced fees at the Institute for assistants, Casino Night, the Assistant



tournament, and most recently our attempt at providing assistants the opportunity to serve on the Board. For those that may be questioning the sudden attention directed at Class C members, its intent is to involve a segment of the membership that someday will be the future of this organization. The failure of the bylaw

amendment at the recent special meeting was particularly frustrating in this regard. In addition, I believe we must continue to focus on providing value to each and every member. Although our name suggests we are an organization of superintendents, we are in reality a collection of various turfgrass professionals. Partici-

pation can only be achieved if there is perceived value at all levels. In the upcoming years I hope the Board will continue to make this a priority and the association will continue to prosper.

Speaking of which, I would like to thank a host of Superintendents and Equipment Technicians for their participation at the recent Institute. Cliff Wagoner, CGCS Ray Davies, CGCS, Jim Husting, CGCS, Terry Grasso, Armondo Sanchez and Jerry Holcomb. Each did an outstanding job with their presentations, injecting a practical perspective into the program. Also making a significant contribution was host superintendent Ed Bale, CGCS of Northwood Golf Club. From all reports golf was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your families a safe and memorable holiday season. Please join us at our final event of the year hosted by Fort Ord's Brian Netz and Pat Finlen, CGCS.

## Office Notes

By Barb Mikel

As I write this, we have had over 3 inches of rain. Fall is finally here!

Board members I have worked with through the years are now "moving on." New members are in place to pick up the slack. It's tough for everyone to participate, but sometimes we get into habit of letting others take the lead. I have been reading some of the returned surveys noting the good reasons some have for standing on the sidelines. The reasons run the gamut but include family responsibilities, jobs, hobbies,

and family medical problems. I say this not to chide but to point out that service to the GCSANC Board of Directors is really a dedication to the industry and fellow superintendents.

You (and I) have been extremely fortunate to have the long-term service association of Gary Carls, CGCS. I have to go way back to remember Board meetings without this face being around! No member really knows what goes on without having served. This guy has answered the call way beyond and I will miss having him to handle things for your organiza-

tion. I know Gary continues to serve the industry as VP for the California Golf Course Superintendent's Association and participates nationally in GCSAA Committees. Volunteer effort and excellence such as this can't be recognized and acknowledged enough!

Membership renewal is proceeding better than ever! I am getting back surveys with 99 per cent of the renewals so far. This really does help the Board determine how to maintain and mold your association activities. Thanks to Bob Costa, CGCS for not allowing this important project fall by the wayside.