



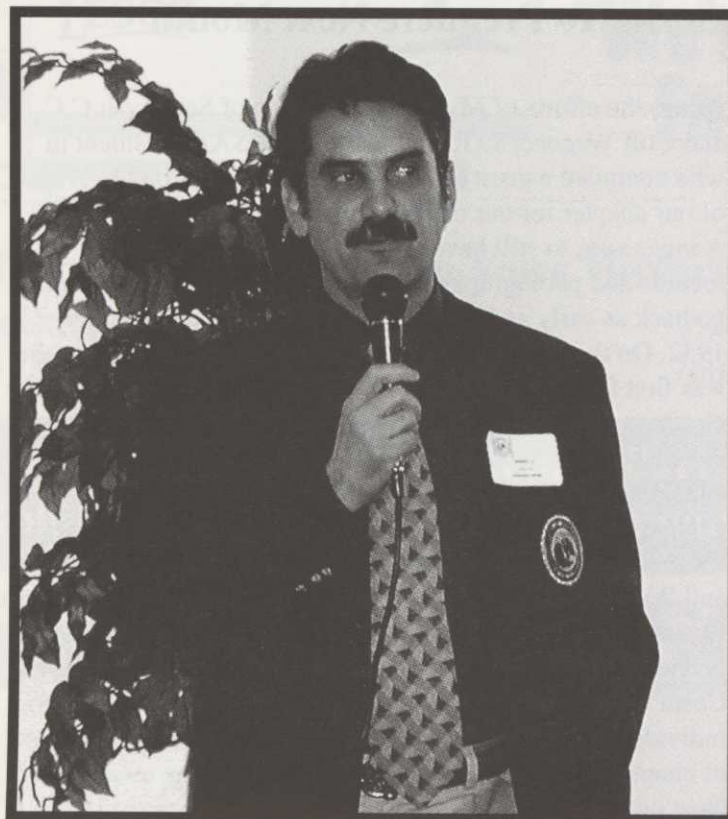
Final Thoughts . . .

*President's Message
by Bob Costa, CGCS*

Most of you are now aware that the proposed amendments to the GCSAA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation (the Professional Development Initiative) passed. Although one could conclude the support was overwhelming (75% of the votes cast were in favor,) a quarter of the membership chose not to support the proposal.

I was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to serve as our Chapter Delegate this past year and I gained exposure to the attitudes and opinions of many of the members across the country. Much of the opposition to PDI appeared to be directed at GCSAA in general, rather specific issues related to PDI. Some of the more common statements I heard were; GCSAA is only concerned with high profile clubs and members, several references were made to GCSAA as "big brother" and there were a variety of comments that suggest GCSAA is trying to create a membership of the have and have not's. Although I certainly encourage and respect the opinion of others, and personally have some issues with GCSAA, I submit that no one, or organization is perfect.

In my assessment of GCSAA, I prefer to acknowledge the numerous resources they provide for their members, none of which I find discriminatory based upon club type, membership status, or class. Attendance at the annual Conference, always serves to remind me of the wealth of information that is available in areas such as; career development, government relations, the environment,



education, public relations, publications and research. Most all of which I might add, is merely a phone call, or click away.

Furthermore, without the efforts of GCSAA strategically promoting all members as well as the profession they represent, who, I ask, would fulfill this necessary and vital role of which we all clearly benefit?

Like any organization, including our very own, its value to its member's increases proportionately, based upon the level of participation. Although the GCSANC doesn't provide nearly the level of services as the GCSAA, there are numerous educational, scholastic, marketing and networking opportunities available.

The GCSANC enters 2001 with an educational focus, beginning with the USGA/ NCGA regional seminar on March 26th followed by the 3rd annual Superintendents Workshop on April 30th. In addition, for our affiliate members, we

recently made available a variety of sponsorship/advertising programs that are designed to increase their visibility.

Regardless of your membership classification, I encourage you to take an active role with each association during the upcoming year, either by attending monthly meetings, participating in various programs, or by taking advantage of the numerous resources, which are currently available. By engaging yourself in the resources provided by your professional associations, you are likely to experience greater personal benefit and your perception and the value of belonging to a professional organization may change as well. /

Office Notes

By Barb Mikel

We need more newsletter articles! Ken Williams does a great job each month with the newsletter but he can ALWAYS

use interesting articles about your course, special projects, and special interests. I am looking forward to hearing about Ken's recent trip to Japan. Anyone else out there have stories of "golf in foreign lands" or how about something about your Club?

I know Terry Grasso has discovered some interesting things about Sequoyah Country Club in preparation for the April 30th meeting and had some very interesting conversations with former superintendent, Walt Boysen regarding the history of that course. Courses in the San Francisco Bay Area have historical interest. San Jose Country Club, Claremont Country Club, Bayonet & Black Horse Golf Courses, Presidio Golf Course, Green Hills, The California Golf Club. At the March Board of Directors meeting, Roger Robarge was sharing some interesting facts he discovered about the California Club. Articles about these courses would make great reading! There is still a budget item for the "best article" written for the newspaper.

Okay, the board made it official., credit card payment for meeting reservations! I know all you "city folks" will be using this new member service. First step will be via "virtual terminal". Just give us the necessary information from your credit card, and we'll do the processing. For all you "internet literate" folks, you will be able to register on line next.

The GCSANC Web site does need to be constructed. Is anyone out there in "cyber-land" looking for a challenge? Seriously, the host company we are using allows web page construction by the client. So if anyone wants to offer some help, please let me know. I know there are many talented folks in the golf community, and this would be a great way to help your association. /