

Pat Finlen to Chair GCSAA Headquarters Location Resource Group

After putting the issue of GCSAA headquarters location on hold, the study will reconvene with a change in the process according to GCSAA President Jon D. Maddern, CGCS.

The study will be based on the same model that was used in recent years to study and implement the Chapter Affiliation Agreement and the Professional Development Initiative. As part of this process, an independent resource group composed of GCSAA members has been created to study all relevant issues regarding relocation. The Headquarters Location Resource Group will have administrative support and operate under broad oversight, but will have appropriate autonomy with which to act. Its first meeting will be June 1 in Chicago with GCSAA officers and relocation consultant FPL and Associates. Pat Finlen, CGCS of the Olympic Club will chair the group that also includes another GCSANC member, Ray Davies, CGCS of CourseCo.

"As a board, we were and are convinced that it is proper to study the most appropriate location for GCSAA's headquarters," Maddern said. "However, it is clear that our original course of action required amending. This new structure will allow for a more deliberative study."

The issue of relocation was put on "pause" at GCSAA's conference and show in Atlanta when the bylaws amendment changing the principal location of the headquarters was removed from the ballot.

In addition to the independent resource group, the new process will include:

1. The resource group will evaluate all actions taken to date, including a review of the initial and second-stage data collection by FPL and Associates. The group may request additional studies to be conducted to assist in its activities. GCSAA Vice President Mark J. Woodward, CGCS, will serve as the board's liaison as a means to facilitate communication, but he will not be

required to attend or participate in resource group conference calls or meetings.

2. The resource group will present the relocation evaluation process at the Chapter Delegates Meeting Sept. 6-7 at GCSAA headquarters. The resource group will provide updates on the process as deemed necessary.
3. If the resource group supports a member vote on the issue, the earliest a vote could be conducted is at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in February 2005 in Orlando. It has not been established whether a vote on relocation will be taken. It is possible that the resource group will recommend that no vote be taken.

The Headquarters Location Resource Group includes: Pat Finlen, CGCS, chairman; Tom Mason, vice-chairman; Bob Alonzi, CGCS; Ray Davies, CGCS; Kevin Downing, CGCS; Mark Esoda, CGCS; James Fitzroy, CGCS; Keith Ihms, CGCS; Todd Lupkes, CGCS; Sandy Queen, CGCS; and Bob Randquist, CGCS.

Members are encouraged to provide their input on relocation by sending an E-mail to: relocation@gcsaa.org

California CGCSA Update

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

The 2003 CGCSA Annual Meeting was held in Monterey May 18th through the 20th. The new officers for the coming year will be Jessie Creencia CGCS, President, Nancy Dickens CGCS, Vice-President and Pat Finlen CGCS, Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations also go out to Andy Slack who will be the Northern California affiliate representative on the state board for the next two years. The state association continues to serve superintendents statewide with its research and legislative advocacy efforts.

The Economic Impact Study that has been a major focus of the state association was completed early this year. We all owe a lot of thanks to Jeff Shafer, Jim Husting, CGCS, Corey Eastwood, CGCS and a few others who stayed with this project over the last several years seeing it through completion. On the advice of our legislative advocate George Steffes, we are working to pull out and package some of the information from the survey into a format that makes sense to the average person. This may include things such as how efficiently we use our resources to produce significant revenue within California. Once we have a good package put together we will work on distributing it to the appropriate people. I think we have gained some valuable information that will benefit us all in the future when we are dealing with both the public and the various state and local agencies.

The other tremendous benefit of the Economic Impact Study was that we were able to pull together groups representing all of the various

factions of golf and work together for a common purpose. As financial resources become tighter, it will become even more critical for us to pool our resources and work together. In the Northern California area, the addition of Mike McCullough to the NCGA staff has been great for all of us. In the past few years he has started to create some great training programs for not only the golf course superintendent, but also our assistants and equipment technicians. I hope that in the future the local chapters continue to work with Mike and the NCGA in developing even more educational programs. I think there is also a great opportunity for some cooperative efforts at applied research on local courses that could benefit us all.

George Steffes also continues to remind us that water will be a huge focus in the coming years. In California, as the population continues to grow, the battles for water resources are sure to increase. In the coming years the CGCSA will monitor legislation as it is presented in the state legislature in Sacramento. Hundreds of new bills are introduced each year and we are fortunate to have someone like George working on our behalf in Sacramento. I also urge everyone to join Jim Husting's government relations network so you can keep posted on all of the latest out of Sacramento. Just give Jim a call or send him an e-mail and I'm sure he will be glad to add you to his list.