

Kansas City Here I Come!

Chapter Delegates Gather for 11th Annual Meeting

By Vince Keats

All aboard for Kansas City! Kansas City MO, that is, location of the 11th annual Chapter Delegates Meeting. One hundred and three chapter delegates from all over the country met on September 6th and 7th for a day and a half meeting to discuss GCSAA business and to meet with candidates running for the Board of Directors. Gary Carls, CGCS, past president of the CSANC and CGCSA, delivered an eloquent speech as he made his bid for GCSAA Director. Topics discussed at the Chapter Delegates Meeting include:

Organizational Audit

The GCSAA Board of Directors, as representatives of the membership, conducted an independent organizational audit that included a number of findings and recommendations. The audit gave the association high marks for establishing four strong goals and a clear vision held by the board and staff.

Delegates engaged in discussions and small group exercises to provide feedback on how to measure progress in achieving the association's four goals and 34 strategic indicators that have been identified. This is important to help ensure that GCSAA continues to build an association that best meets member needs, clearly defines the direction members want the association to go and clearly defines the roles of the board, chief executive officer and staff and their accountability for results.

• **Chapter/GCSAA affiliation issues**

Delegates supported a one-year extension of the current affiliation agreement, which is set to expire December 31, 2004. This will allow time to address several issues related to how GCSAA can most effectively partner with affiliated chapters in the future. A task force consisting of representatives from the Chapter Relations Committee and the Membership Committee will be appointed this fall to review these issues and bring forward a recommendation at next year's Chapter Delegates Meeting. Issues for discussion include:

Update on the financial status of the GCSAA and discussion of long-term dues pricing structure. The organization remains financially strong, despite the economic times. Delegates discussed a long-term dues pricing strategy that would include communications to the membership about the reasons for a dues increase as they are planned. This feedback will be forwarded to the Membership Committee for further discussion.

Update on the Professional Development Initiative (PDI)

The PDI was launched July 1, 2003. Delegates participated in a demonstration of Member Central. Members who do not have online access can document their points and request their transcript through GCSAA's fax on demand service at (888) 838-4419, or they can contact the service center and request information through the mail.

Certification program and exam update work is continuing on a restructure of the certification exam to a competency-based program that ties in with the 48 competencies identified through the PDI.

Articles of Incorporation and bylaws amendments for the 2004 annual meeting and election

A number of proposed amendments that will bring the association's bylaws up-to-date with the way that business is currently being conducted were presented to the delegates for their input.

Headquarters resource group location process

Pat Finlen, CGCS, he adquarters resource group chair, and Tom Mason, vice chair, presented to the delegates the location study process. Phase I of this process is to identify the stakeholders impacted, engage them in the process, and identify the strengths, weaknesses, risks and opportunities associated with the GCSAA's location and potential new locations. At the end of this process, if the

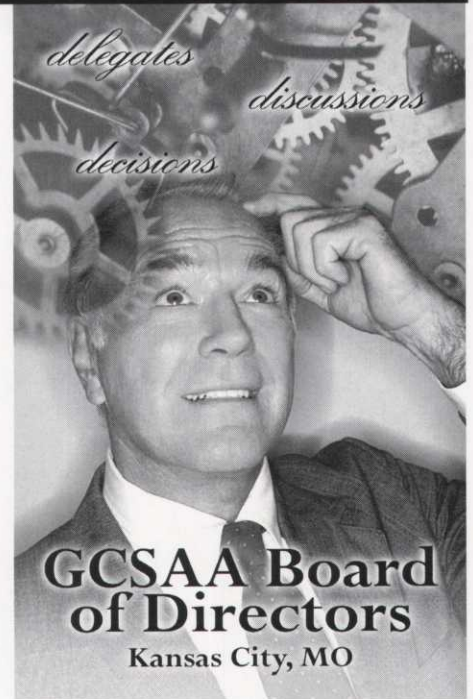


PHOTO MONTAGE BY TRICIA HILL, HILL DESIGN

conclusion is to move forward with the study, then Phase II will be implemented. Phase II is to evaluate locations, costs, positive and negative impacts on operations, and specific risks and rewards. A report will be written and submitted to the board around July 1, 2004. The report will include responses to the questions:

- Where are we now?**
- Where do we want to be?**
- What is the best plan to get from where we are, to where we want to be?**

Questions or feedback for the headquarters resource location group should be sent to location@gcsaa.org. Delegates were encouraged to gather feedback from their members and relay it to the resource group.

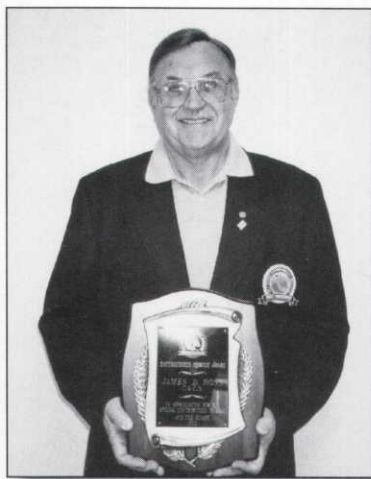
GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference & Show

Changes in the programming and schedule for the 2004 conference and show in San Diego were discussed with the delegates. Ideas for making this a must-attend event were shared. Delegates were reminded that a new GCSAA member receives complimentary registration to the first conference and show he/she attends. Chapters may wish to provide financial assistance to a member to help offset their travel expenses to conference and show, or ask vendors to sponsor this.

Please visit the web site at www.gcsaa.org to view the full set of outcomes from this meeting, as well as the slide presentations, notes and list of chapter delegates.

James D. Ross

San Jose Superintendent bids Farewell after nearly 50 years



James D. Ross accepts the coveted GCSANC Distinguished Service Award in appreciation for his special contribution to Golf and the GCSANC.

James "Jim" D. Ross, GCSAA golf course superintendent at Santa Teresa Golf Club, San Jose, CA., has announced his retirement after 47 years in the golf-course management industry. He has been a member with the Golf Course Super-intendents Association of America (GCSAA) since 1963.

Ross, who has also been a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) since 1965, began his industry career at Fort Washington Golf and Country Club in Fresno, CA., in 1956. He spent two years working for Roy King on the course and one year in the shop working for pro Art Melville.

He moved to Salinas, CA, in 1959 to help build Corral de Tierra Country Club, working closely with Buck and Obie Noonkester.

Ross landed his first position as superintendent in 1963 at La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA., and in 1967 he supervised the construction of The Villages Golf and Country Club, San Jose, CA., where he remained for 14 years. Ross was hired at Santa Teresa Golf Club in 1981 serving as head golf course superintendent and was later promoted to design & construction superintendent. During his tenure at Santa Teresa Golf Club he designed and constructed 18 new greens and also supervised the construction of a new par-3 course at the facility.

"Jim has been instrumental in the mentoring and training of others within the turfgrass industry, many of whom have also chose to serve in the profession as golf course superintendents,"

...said Robert A. Lopic, GCSANC president. "Through his love and true passion for the game of golf, his hard work and dedication serve as a fine example to others in the industry."

Ross has been involved with the California Golf Course Superintendents Association, serving on its Board of Directors and holding office as Treasurer from 1984-86.

Throughout the years, he has been a voting delegate to the national association and has generously given of his time as a speaker at several GCSAA education seminars. He has served on the national nominating, tournaments, research and communication committees.

Ross served as president of the GCSANC in 1973 and 1981. Because of his love for the game, he helped found the GCSANC Superintendent-Professional Golf Tournament, an event where he and his team partner twice-claimed first place honors. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2002 George Santana Distinguished Service Award, the 1985 Excellence in Turfgrass Management Award and the 1982 Superintendent of the Year Award.

Because of his twelve years of dedicated service on the Landscape Advisory Committee for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, Ross was recently bestowed a plaque of appreciation for his efforts in aiding the district in effective decision-making with regards to landscape and water use.

Jim and his wife Barbara are currently enjoying their retirement in a community called Yosemite Lakes Park in Coarsegold, CA., where they have a couple of acres and plenty of time to play golf. When recently asked about his long career in the turfgrass industry, Ross responded, "Golf has been my life, and I have loved every minute of it."

EVENTS & SEMINARS



Brought to you by the
GCSA of NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Management Strategies For The Turfgrass System and Operational Efficiencies

January 6th & 7th, 2004 at Crown Plaza
in Pleasanton, California

Management Strategies For The Turfgrass System

Tuesday, January 6th 2004
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Joe Vargas Ph. D.
113-1-04RS

Operational Efficiencies

Wednesday, January 7th 2004
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Bruce Williams, CGCS
279-1-04RS

Membership fee: **\$130** per seminar
Nonmembership fee: **\$195** per seminar
Education points 0.7 per seminar

For more information or to register,
call (800) 472-7878

GCSAA seminars are presented
in partnership with



2004 California Hospitality Suite

February 12th 2004 at Dick's Last Resort
in San Diego, California
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Dick likes to party and he knows you do too.

FEATURING:

- LIVE BAND 8pm-10:30pm
- Appetizer Station Includes:
Cheese Sticks & Fruit, Buffalo Wings, Cream Cheese Stuffed Jalapenos, Fresh Vegetable Crudités, Spinach & Artichoke Dip with Garlic Rounds and BBQ Meatballs.
- Members Receive 3 Drink Tickets On Entry*

*READ: All Members must show GCSAA Conference & Show Badges or listed on a CGCSA Regional Chapter's Membership Roster, to gain access to Hospitality Suite.

For more info. call, CGCSA Board of Director or Association Mgr., Robert J. Tillema, CGCSA (866) 643-8707 or E-mail: rtillema@comcast.net



5th Ave. between J & K St.
Gaslamp Quarter
(619) 231-9100
www.dicklastresort.com