

REPORT OF DELEGATE TO THE GCSAA NATIONAL MEETING

The results of the annual election of officers and directors of the GCSAA are as follows:

President — Edward Roberts (New Jersey)

Vice-President — Walter Boysen (Calif)

Directors — John Spodnik (Ohio), Norm Kramer (Mich.), Richard Blake (Mass.)

Holdover members of the board of directors are:

James Brandt (Illinois)

Tom Leonard (Texas)

Richard McLaughlin (Michigan)

Robert Shields (Maryland)

Each passing year brings to light more and more extremely well qualified men who are nominated for election to office in the GCSAA. This year we were again fortunate in having some real talent on the slate, including our Midwest candidate, Ed Stewart.

We regret to report that we were unsuccessful in getting Ed elected but we did run a strong fourth place out of eight candidates but unfortunately only three candidates were to be elected.

As a Monday-Morning-Quarterback, I would observe several factors that influenced this year's election. First, this was the first year when all affiliated chapters of GCSAA were privileged to vote by delegate without having the previously required 60% quota. This increased the total voting strength this year up to 1559 votes. A few years back we used to record about 700 to 800 votes. This heavy vote gives the smaller chapters a better opportunity to pool their votes and decreases the chances of two or three larger chapters dominating the entire election as was the case many times in the past. We also had a unique situation this year with two holdover men on the GCSAA board from the midwestern area, and two more being up for election.

On the brighter side, we were particularly pleased to see our former Midwest member Norm Kramer make it on his second try at it and we know from his past performances he will continue his fine efforts on the behalf of golf and the superintendents.

For the information of those who did not attend the conference, our Midwest president, Adolph Bertucci called a caucus meeting prior to the election where a briefing was held to review the situation and to instruct the delegate as to the wishes of our group. The room was packed with our members and everyone seemed pleased to hear of the ins and outs of the situation.

Incidentally, our final voting strength for the Midwest Association was 120 votes.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Williams, Delegate
Ted Woehrle, Alternate

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In reviewing the **GUIDE FOR PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION**, a booklet by H. B. Musser, J. M. Duich and J. C. Harper, all of Pennsylvania State University, the best explanation of its purpose can be given by quoting the preface:

"Many of the most serious problems encountered in maintenance of satisfactory turf on golf courses are the direct result of faulty construction. Failure to provide for adequate surface and sub-surface drainage of greens, poor root-zone mixtures that are subject to severe compaction, inadequate soil preparation on fairways, and shoddy seeding methods are among the "built-in" mistakes that create future maintenance problems. These very often require major reconstruction or renovation to correct. Not only is this expensive but it also seriously interferes with normal use of the course.

The preparation of a complete and concise set of specifications is the first step in protecting a very substantial initial investment against future unnecessary outlays of additional funds, and of insuring against permanent mediocrity of playing conditions. The building of a modern golf course is a specialized operation. A wealth of practical experience and an ever increasing fund of experimental evidence is available to everyone who has the desire and ability to use them. But unless the right materials and construction methods are properly fitted to each specific job, results can be far less than anticipated. Apparently, most of the difficulties arise from a failure to prepare a complete and firm directive which specifically outlines each phase of the construction operations. This should be so organized that the provisions are definite and capable of reasonably exact interpretation by everyone concerned.

This "Guide for the Preparation of Specifications for Golf Course Construction" presents an outline for the organization of a complete set of contract specifications. It has been developed in such a way that any provision or section which is not applicable to a specific job may be deleted without affecting the remainder of the contract. It is presented in the hope that it may be of assistance to those who have the responsibility of specification preparation, and that it may provide a better understanding, on the part of those for whom the work is being done, of what an adequate set of specifications should contain."

This publication can be obtained from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 3158 Des Plaines Ave., Des Plaines, Illinois 60018 for 85 cents per copy.

Notes

Hubby Hubjan, pro of Onwentsia, will be our speaker at the April meeting.

Pat Ryan (Greenshire Golf Club) is back on his feet after his recent operation.

Al Hintz (White Pines) found out that you need more than a piece of plywood to fly. He is now recouping, at home, from some broken ribs.

Bob Williams will be a speaker at the Michigan State Turf Conference.

(Continued on next page)