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Charles G. Wilson, Research Director

The President's Message

As I sit here contemplating my first message for 1971 as your president, I would like to wish all the members and their families a happy and prosperous new year. At this time of year most of the members are getting themselves and their workshops in order so they can take off to attend the convention or take a vacation with their family. I would like to let you know what is taking place in my area.

The State of Illinois Conservation Department at the present time has 5634 acres of land. This includes 2120 acres in Starved Rock State Park, 1523 acres in Matthiessen State Park and previous purchase in 1970 of 1991 acres. They still want 1037 acres in eleven parcels of land so that Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Park will be one big state park complex.

The reason I am writing about this land purchase is that Deer Park Country Club is included. The State has said that they will acquire Deer Park CC either by negotiation or condemnation. It will be a sad day for me after twenty-six years as superintendent and ten years as a caddy to see the state park take over. The State has a fight on its hands. Will keep smiling till then.

Joe Canale



EDITORIAL

The educational committee has once again provided the members with a very interesting program. At the January meeting we were able to question Norm Kramer and Dr. Alexander on the subject of certification. There is considerable member interest witnessed by a new record attendance for a winter meeting. I have made comments in previous editorials about certification so I was particularly anxious to hear what they had to say.

For an hour and a half there was a battle for the floor and when the smoke cleared, I think our members had a much greater understanding and feeling for acceptance of the program. The speakers convinced me that they (Norm, Paul and the rest of the committee members for ? years) have thought this program out carefully. Their presentation was excellent!

I had heard of the certification effort for several years before the annual meeting at Houston and was very disappointed at the report given at this meeting. I was uncertain before, but after hearing the report, I was against certification. I don't like being compared to a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) which is, if I am not mistaken a legal distinction, nor to a CPS (Certified Professional Secretary). The fact that the Club Managers and Golf Professionals both have certification programs is important and wasn't even mentioned.

Since the annual meeting, several articles have appeared in the National magazine which answered questions about certification. Although many were answered, some remained unanswered, also, the program presented in the Superintendent was not the same as was outlined in Houston. I now think that the reason for the difference is that since Houston, Dr. Alexander has been retained to head the program. This seems to be one of the more "heads up" moves the GCSAA has made recently.

As indicated, many questions were thrown at our guests (actually Norm is a member of the Midwest) and their answers were to the point and informative. There were some questions, however, that they could not answer. Before getting to the questions, let me relate what I understand to be the program.

There are only three requirements for certification.

1. You must be actively employed as a golf superintendent.

2. You must be a GCSAA member for 3 years.
3. You must pass a written test.

The first two are self-explanatory. The test needs some.

It will be an "open book" type with five parts. I am not sure of all the parts but they will include such subjects as: the game of golf, the GCSAA, agronomy, mathematics, labor management, records and public relations. One section will be on pesticide application. The committee is working with the Dept. of Agriculture in trying to make this section recognized by the state and federal governments in their licensing programs.

Questions:

Q — If certification is realized, will it make any difference to the "employers"?

A — Possibly not at first, however a program will be started to stress the importance of certification to clubs.

Q — If it takes 6 years as a superintendent to qualify for certification, where will one acquire the experience needed if clubs hire only certified superintendents?

A — There are nearly 10,000 golf courses in the U.S. and by 1974, there will be only 2300 superintendents eligible for certification.

Q — Is there planned, any apprenticeship program?

A — No!

Q — Will any credit be given for completing a college course in turf management?

A — Not at present, it is generally considered that 6 years of experience is necessary.

Q — May someone take only the pesticide section of the test if it means being licensed by the state?

A — Yes!

Q — Must the pesticide test be administered by the state?

A — No, and in fact, the pesticide section for certification will probably be tougher than the state's versions.

Q — May someone take the pesticide section before the 6 year limit?

A — Yes!

Q — Won't anyone be able to pass the test since it is "open book"?

A — Not all of the test is open book, and besides, "open book" tests are not necessarily easy. We want the applicant to be able to know much information as well as being able to know where to find information and how to apply it.

Q — Why do we need certification in the first place?

A — We are getting more and more pressure to begin a certification program. The pressure is coming from several local associations as well as from "employers". We also feel that it is time that we show our professionalism such as the club managers and golf professionals have.

I again wish to express my thanks to the educational committee and to Norm and Paul for the fine program. I am now firmly convinced that under Dr. Alexander's leadership the GCSAA will provide an effective and meaningful certification program.



**NORMAN W. KRAMER, President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America**

Governor John A. Love will extend the State's official greetings at the opening session of the 42nd International Turfgrass conference & Show, February 7-12, at the Denver Auditorium Theatre of the Curragan Convention Center in Denver, Colo.

Sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Conference will feature over 40 outstanding speakers, including research scientists, agronomists, golf course superintendents, and officials of other golf agencies, Norman W. Kramer, GCSAA president said.

In addition to attending the educational program, registrants will view the latest equipment, supplies and services offered by some 150 leading firms of the golf industry.

Based in Des Plaines, Illinois, GCSAA has nearly 3,000 members, including the nation's top golf course superintendents who are the pace setters in the production and maintenance of the world's finest golf turf.

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