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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This column is meant for wit and wisdom, but this time I would like to present some questions. These surfaced at the National Conference last February with a proposed by-law change in the National and it has to do with certification. As I understand certification, it is to show qualification and add a form of uniformity in denoting a qualified person in our field. I should state this is not a criticism of our certification program. Also, I should state that I at this time am not certified. Perhaps, these unanswered questions are the reason I am not certified at this time. I want only to raise some questions in hope to get some answers for myself and others that may feel the same way.

The main question is why should a person have to drop the CGCS after their name should they leave their profession? If you stop to consider that this person has spent many years getting the education required to gain their rating. This could mean years of schooling and many more of working experience. Why would the National want to take this away just because they changed their occupation? Then take two examples such as CPA and PhD., these remain no matter what the occupation.

I do not want to carry on on this category because the CGCS has built in some safety guards in their regard and I agree that a person should be retested every five years because of the many changes in the laws due to come in the years ahead. Also, the many new and complex material and chemicals that will appear in the future.

That brings up one more question can a person not employed as a golf course superintendent retake the test to keep on their status? I think anyone who wants to should be able to, even though they are no longer in our profession. In the long run are we tying ourselves to the profession and making it very hard to advance ourself in not being able to use CGCS with our name as a means of stating past accomplishments?

The superintendent is fast outgrowing his position in education and experience. There are a number of you that are qualified to take on much more. This could mean teaching, sales and marketing and even in upper management. It is proven that the average superintendent salary is less than other fields with equal education and responsibility.

These same ideas could be carried over to other things. Class A and B, maybe with a slight change to indicate they are no longer working at their profession. Example: would you not be more inclined to listen to a salesperson that had been a Class A Superintendent or to a professor that continued his education while a superintendent and went on to teach?