

Director's Column



A. T. Fierst, MAGCS Vice President

Newly elected MAGCS President Tim Kelly, in his opening remarks, alluded to an early December poll of the MAGCS membership regarding the GCSAA by-laws issues and proposals. The demand for this poll was born as a result of discussions during some planning meetings held by last year's Executive Committee of the MAGCS. It became very apparent during these late summer MAGCS Executive Committee meetings that these GCSAA by-laws issues were far too volatile to be dealt with casually. Numerous details and GCSAA by-laws questions were being handled about at that time, and there was little clarity in defining the details of the proposals. The consensus was to sponsor a November "forum" to clarify and define the GCSAA by-laws proposals. It also became evident that there was the need to somehow accurately and correctly communicate the decisions of the individual MAGCS members, via the Midwest voting delegates, to the annual meeting at the GCSAA Conference in Anaheim.

The desire to accurately accomplish that task best serves the individual MAGCS/GCSAA member. The poll, in effect, is the only way in which the personal, individual wishes of each voting GCSAA member is transmitted to the voting booth at the GCSAA Anaheim convention. The poll shall also serve to remove, for these by-laws proposals and issues, the politics and hazards of misguided influence at the caucus and in other arenas of association dealings. The MAGCS delegates shall, at the direction of the MAGCS poll, vote directly in accordance with the results of the poll and shall not be influenced in any other way.

The MAGCS members who are AA, A, or B members of GCSAA will be given the opportunity to vote on the individual by-law issues via a mailed response poll in early December. These results will be tabulated in early January by a committee chaired by MAGCS Past President Raymond M. Schmitz. The results of the committee's tabulation shall then be communicated to MAGCS voting delegate Roger A. Stewart at the conference in Anaheim, He, as the MAGCS Voting Delegate, will cast the responses accordingly.

So ... Do some advance reading of the proposals, and ponder the GCSAA by-laws issues. The poll shall be a simple, anonymous ballot, listing only the subject of the individual by-laws proposal with a yes or no response. It's up to you, the individual MAGCS/GCSAA member, to have at least some working knowledge of the particular by-laws proposals. And it's up to you, the individual, to vote accordingly and respond promptly.

Look for this poll to be in your mailboxes in early December. And do respond quickly and thoughtfully! It's the only way to insure, point by point, that YOUR personal choice for these by-laws changes is accurately and singularly counted. This is essentially the only way for the individual Association member to send his or her specific message to the annual meeting in Anaheim. Indicate your specific choices for each of the GCSAA by-laws proposals and return the ballot as soon as possible. We want everyone's vote to be heard ...

Not that it matters, but ... GCSAA President William R. Roberts and GCSAA Past President Dennis D. Lyon inform me that the Midwest Association is unique and forward in this approach to the vote for by-laws issues. It is their individual and collective feeling that more chapters should be as interested as we.

Special committee meets on Environmental Management Program for superintendents

LAWRENCE, Kan., Oct. 23, 1992 — A special resource committee formed to look at continuing education opportunities for superintendents on environmental management topics met last week at the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) headquarters here.

The Golf Course Development Resource Committee discussed tentative educational courses which might comprise the Golf Course Development specialization of GCSAA's Environmental Management Program (EMP).

Participants included Dr. Pat Cobb, entomologist, Auburn University; Geoffrey Cornish, golf course architect, Amherst, Mass.; Rick Elyea, national accounts manager, New Construction, O.M. Scotts, Marysville, Ohio; George Frye, director of golf course maintenance, Kiawah Island Golf Resort, Charleston, S.C.; Tim Hiers, golf course superintendent, John's Island Club, Vero Beach, Fla.; Tom Kelsch, Wetlands Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.; and Bob Stephens, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City, Mo.

Because the environmental impact of golf course maintenance practices has attracted increasing scrutiny from the general public and government regulatory agencies, GCSAA has assumed the golf industry's environmental leadership role. The EMP is just one of GCSAA's responses to the environmental management challenge.

GCSAA's EMP consists of six distinct specializations: Underground Storage Tanks, Golf Course Development, Integrated Plant Management, Employee Safety and Right-To-Know, Water Quality and Application, and Storage Disposal and Recycling.

Golf course superintendents may choose to complete one or more of these specializations, each of which is composed of a series of relevant course work. The superintendent who successfully completes the required course work in a specialization receives a certificate from GCSAA and is listed in the *Directory of Environmental Specialists in Golf Course Management*.