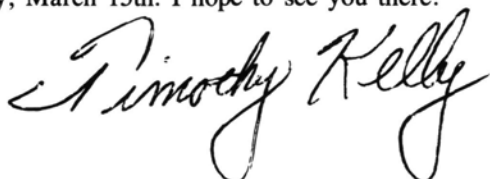


After his election President Nichols stated that he would defer at this time the appointment for the open position on the Board of Directors, until he has conferred with all elected and standing Members of the of the GCSAA Board of Directors. There was not any further new business, no proposed dues increase. Two new members were elected to the Board, while two incumbent members were voted off the Board. I congratulate the entire newly Elected Officers and Board Members of GCSAA. This new Board will be involved in making important decisions, upon the various issues that are facing GCSAA. These elected individuals need our support and input, so that they can make the best decisions for GCSAA and its Membership.

Our next MAGCS Monthly Meeting will be held at Nordic Hills on Monday, March 15th. I hope to see you there.



Editor's Comment: Randy Nichols, President GCSAA has appointed R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, Valley View Golf Club, Bozeman, Montana, to fill the one board vacancy.

Director's Column



by Joel Purpur
River Forest G.C.

Wow! What a conference and golf tournament. This is the first time in a while that we have had great weather almost all week. My forehead (which seems to be growing) actually got sunburned during the golf tournament.

I don't understand why more people don't take part in the golf portion of the conference. It is a chance to play excellent courses with superintendents from throughout the country. The tournament is set up on the point system for all of the flights except the championship flight, so you don't have to worry about being out of contention if you have a real bad hole. Everyone in my division is as bad as I am!

Even with all of the rain and flooding prior to our arrival the courses I played on were in very good shape with only a few wet spots. Eastlake and Mt. Woodson Country Clubs were the two golf courses the second division had the opportunity to play. Eastlake Country Club had some beautiful holes with waterfalls which I particularly enjoyed, and Mt. Woodson, well, I'll talk about later.

Just a brief summary of my rounds. Not playing golf since October I knew my game would be grooved, and I did not have a practice round. This was evident when I got to the practice tee and hit the first ball. If the tip of the toe on the club had a sweet spot, I got it! Instant proof. Proof that they did not put up the netting around the range high enough on the right side.



I looked around and saw some pretty ugly shots by others too, so I removed the dirt clod off of the club and continued to loosen up. The round was a lot of fun and we saw a variety of golf shots because everyone else was as bad or worse than I was, so we had a lot of laughs.

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The second day started off real early, tooo early! We shouldn't have gotten those Pacers V.I.P. cards. After a 50 minute drive to Mt. Woodson and the bags under my eyes didn't go away, I realized it could be the start of a rough day. The sun was now up enough to see that there was frost on the golf course and a significant delay was inevitable. An hour and a half later the first group was on the tee. The first hole on Mt. Woodson is short so I chose an iron for the first tee to play it safe from the O.B. right, the pond, and because of the delay a crowd was watching on the first tee. I did not disappoint them. I hit it so fast the ball could not even carry the little pond that I could throw it across! My first "X" was out of the way, double bogey 6.

Standing on the elevated second tee, it was a beautiful view. Rocky canyons and hills painted with patches of green that we were to play this game on. My next observation was that these patches of green that we were supposed to play on were too small for me, and why are the tee markers all the way back again? The others went first of course and after hitting a rock and bouncing back in, we were on our way again. This golf course was a construction wonder. All rocks! How did they build this place let alone find enough soil to grow grass on? I bet that the irrigation system was also a joy to put in. The wooden bridge between 2 and 3 which crossed a canyon was amazing and cost close to a million dollars alone!

As the round went on I developed a real appreciation for the golf course design and the land it was built on. It was too bad that they had to tarnish the experience by tricking up the course. Why they felt a need to trick the course for the 13-16 handicap golfers is beyond me. I would rather have people score a little bit and have fun rather than get beaten by the course, leaving them discouraged and negative. I scored well enough to have fun and finish 7th in the flight. Playing with superintendents from all over the U.S. was interesting,

they were a lot of fun to golf and talk shop with. I would encourage anyone to talk to their club to include the tournament in your conference package. Seeing how others manage golf courses throughout the country is a learning experience and I always take an idea or two home with me. It is a worthwhile activity that more superintendents should take part in and I hope to see you there next year.