

GCSAA Voting Delegate Meeting

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MAGCS Voting Delegate

The following is a recap of the GCSAA Voting Delegates meeting at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS on September 25-26, 1993. I attended this meeting as the appointed Voting Delegate for the MAGCS. There were approximately 60 Delegates in attendance out of a possible 113 chapters. While this represents a little over half of the Delegates, the number of votes represented were substantial.



This meeting, in my opinion was a giant step forward in improving a failing relationship between chapters and GCSAA. It provided a platform for open discussion of ideas between the GCSAA BOD and Chapter Delegates and representatives. I feel President Randy Nichols and the current BOD were more than open in their discussion of issues past and present. No smoke and mirrors here, just frank, open, discussion.

The meeting began with President Nichols giving everyone an update on what has been happening at GCSAA. He discussed in general the results of the study undertaken by Arthur Anderson and Associates to assess and evaluate staff and the way GCSAA does business. The recommendations for reorganization have, for the most part, been implemented. Many of you may know that these recommendations included the elimination of two senior level management positions held by Robert Ochs and Diana Green. John Schilling has resigned and will start his own business with Ochs and Green. The search is on for a Chief Financial Officer that will report to the Board of Directors and a new Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director to replace John Schilling. Other minor reorganization in

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staff and staff responsibilities are currently being implemented. The BOD feels this reorganization was necessary and will improve the operation of GCSAA in many ways. The body of Delegates were in agreement on this issue. The Publication department is currently occupying a portion of the third floor of the new wing of the Headquarters building and they think they have a tenant for the other floors. The bad news is that GCSAA still owns the other building and is having a difficult time selling it. This may take some time as the commercial market is slow right now.

Following the update, Vice President Joe Baidy gave a presentation about the Resource Committee recommendations for By-Laws changes at Dallas at 1994. He then turned the meeting over to Director Bruce Williams who chaired the session on By-Laws revision for the rest of the date. A vote of hands was taken on each issue and the body of Delegates present at this meeting approved presenting these changes to the membership in Dallas by a strong majority. A brief description of these proposed changes follows.

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1. Preamble part (b)

To advance the art and science of turfgrass management; to collect and disseminate knowledge of golf course management emphasis on efficient, economic, and environmentally sound management of golf courses.

Preamble second paragraph

insert "environmentally sound management" after supervise the construction, maintenance, and ... of a golf course ...

2. Article I MEMBERSHIP Section 1 (addition)

The Board of Directors of the Association shall adopt standing rules for membership, and with the exception of Class A, B, and C, shall have the authority to establish qualifications above and beyond those described for membership classes

3. Article I MEMBERSHIP Section II Membership Classes

Class AA — no change

Class A — no change

Class B — change to superintendents with less than 3 yrs. experience and eliminate assistants from this classification

Class C — change to assistant superintendents only with no minimum time requirement and add the right to vote

Class D — new category consisting of the following:
D1 Golf Turf Manager — groundskeeper/golf turf manager at driving range or similar.

D2 Equipment Manager

D3 Foreman — working under GCS supervision

D4 Irrigation Technician

D5 Spray Technician

D6 Maintenance Staff Member

Note: none of the above would have the right to hold office or vote.

Class E — Educators new category — can't hold office or vote

Class F — Club/Golf/Association Official new category - can't hold office or vote.

Associate — no change

Affiliate — no change

Honorary — no change except they will not be required to pay assessments or dues

Student — no change

Retired — add Associate category and the dues shall not be more than half the amount paid for the immediate previous classifications before retirement

Inactive — no change

4. Article II DUES & SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Change Section 1. Annual Dues: the annual dues shall be the sums fixed by the Board of Directors except for classes A, B, C. Payments of dues procedures and the amount thereof, except classes A, B, C shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

(continued page 13)

5. Article III CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

Addition to Section 2.

Part (d) ... Submitting false information for membership or on dues statement.

6. Article V VOTING

Addition to section 6 as follows: to publish vote of chapters in appropriate member.

7. Article VI OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Changes:

1. Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected by the membership.

2. Vice President office shall consist of one or more nominee.

3. Section 6 — first paragraph — strike the first two sentences.

third paragraph — change to the following: This officer shall be responsible for all monies, bills, notes, bonds and similar property belonging to the Association, subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall keep such financial accounts and records as may be required by the Board of Directors, as well as make an annual report and such other reports that may be required by the Board of Directors.

4. Section 7 — Give the Board the right to title the position of Executive Director or Chief Executive Officer by changing the word Employee to Officer.

8. Article IX BENEVOLENCE FUND

Change this to: The President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer shall act as trustees of the fund ...

This concludes the proposed changes to the By-Laws that the Delegates approved putting to the membership for a vote.

President Nichols also proposed a Chapter Affiliation Fee or Chapter Dues concept to help fund programs that would increase communication and cooperation between Chapters and GCSAA.

The proposed fee would be based on a per Chapter member basis.

The proposed fee would be based on a per Chapter member basis. This concept was generally well received and most of the people present felt the concept was viable and that the members of their chapters would be in favor of it. The discussion centered not around whether there should be a fee attached to Affiliated Chapter status but rather how that fee should be implemented. President Nichols indicated the BOD would refine the particulars of this concept for presentation at the Delegates meeting in Dallas.

Environmental Friendliness Key Issue With Modern Golf Courses

The increase in golf's popularity and concern for the environment have spawned the need to develop golf courses that are not only challenging for players, but also "friendly" to residents and nearby wildlife.

According to Jerry Matthews, president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, golf course designers are geared to produce a course that is as environmentally sound, as it is challenging.

"Our members take a proactive approach when designing a golf course and can help analyze the environmental impact and prepare appropriate documentation for regulatory agencies well in advance of public hearings," says Matthews.

He adds that proper planning is the key to making the course a success.

"The key is to plan ahead and work with the environment, not against it. In the long run, everyone benefits."

Matthews suggests the following environmental considerations be addressed when considering a golf course design:

❑ Does a golf course constitute the elimination of open or green space by making use of a site which is currently undeveloped?

❑ Will the proposed golf course alter or eliminate wetlands and other sensitive environmental areas that may exist on the site?

❑ Are there significant historical or archeological

areas on the site that will be affected by the golf course?

❑ Is there potential for water pollution from earth disturbance and erosion during the construction of the golf course?

❑ How will the golf course affect the existing character of a site through alteration of the topography and vegetative cover?

❑ Will the long-term application of chemicals for turfgrass management on a golf course cause water pollution from surface run-off of infiltration into the ground?

❑ Will the irrigation requirements of the golf course lead to the reduction or depletion of water supplies, especially in areas experiencing conditions which limit water resources?

❑ What impact will the golf course have on ecological systems of the site, such as plant life and wildlife habitat?

Matthews says considering the growing popularity of golf and the increased environmental awareness among the American public, today's golf courses need to be designed to work within the environment, not against it.

For more information on this subject, a special 48-page booklet, *An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development*, is available for \$10 (per copy) from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.