

Director's Column Education Second to None

by Don Ferreri

Another spring is upon us as we begin to embark upon our "busy season". At least we can venture out of doors, but I don't know how much busier we are in the spring compared to the winter.

As chairman of the education committee and a member of your board of directors, my "off season" did not seem too quiet. Like most of you, I find plenty to do in the winter months. I use much of this time to read our periodicals and catch up on new techniques. As well as refresh my views of old ones.

At the G.C.S.A.A. conference in San Francisco during February, I paid close attention to a wide variety of education offered. While it was a very strong line up, I was pleased to find that we in the Midwest are exposed to much of this all year long. In Chicagoland, we are very fortunate to be on the cutting edge of our industry. I was happy to find through conversations at the convention that this opinion is shared by superintendents across the country.

We have a large library of resources to choose from which includes top educators, seasoned veterans, computer programs, knowledgeable commercial members and our own agronomists. My favorite scenario at the conference, as well as throughout the year is the round table discussion. Many of you know this resource well. They take place in one of our favorite eateries with a cold beverage of choice. The knowledge and experience openly shared by all is to be commended. Golf Course Superintendents have always unselfishly come to the aide of others. Competition never becomes a factor. This is a very unique quality to our profession and makes me proud to belong to such a fine fraternity.

It is your responsibility to yourself as well as your golf course or business to share in this loop of communication. Support your associations locally and nationally by attending meetings and volunteering for committees. Everyone has key information to share with others. We as an association can benefit from you if you could speak at a meeting, write an article for the **Bull Sheet**, or even put me in contact with someone that can. I am also looking for topics of interest that you would like to learn about.

On a recent trip to Lake Tahoe, I could have used two earlier suggestions. Drink management and gambling techniques made easy. They both would have been very beneficial. Call me with any suggestions for education you might have. I would like to continue a strong line-up for the rest of the year.

Remember that communication is the key to success. Our profession is the envy of many, let's keep it that way.



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