

## Chapter Affiliation Agreement

by Roger Stewart, CGCS  
MAGCS Voting Delegate

I have been a member of the Chapter Relations Committee for GCSAA for the last two years. It has been exciting to serve on this committee because the concepts we have discussed and the conclusions we have reached will shape the relationship for GCSAA and its Affiliated Chapters for the next twenty years and beyond. I have served as the Voting Delegate for the MAGCS for the past several years and have witnessed the good, the bad, and the ugly of politics and chapter relations. GCSAA, over the past ten years or so has made remarkable progress in many areas, but it has only been during the last three or four years that a concentrated effort has been made to strengthen and solidify the bond with it's Affiliated Chapters. Chapters, on the other hand, fiercely proud and independent, until the last two or three years, always been suspect of every move GCSAA makes in the area of Chapter Relations. I have always found this to be a puzzling and frustrating arrangement. The strength of any profession is only as strong as the sum total of it's constituents. I have felt strongly for some time that this rocky and sometimes adversarial relationship has been a roadblock for us to advance in our profession. The good news is that on the horizon there is a window of opportunity for our profession to take some quantum leaps in the area of Chapter Relations.

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In September, Bob Maibusch and I will be attending the second annual Chapter Relations/Delegate meeting in Lawrence along with 100 or so other chapter representatives. Among many items on the agenda, we will be discussing several new progressive chapter relations initiatives. These proposals were developed by the Chapter Relations Committee to create a strong bond between GCSAA and it's chapters as a foundation for the growth and progress of our profession into the next century. The key points in the new Affiliation Standards proposal are as follows:

- Affiliated Chapters would be required to be incorporated and submit their articles of incorporation and bylaws with the application for admission as an Affiliated Chapter. This basically is an issue of protection from liability.
- Chapter Bylaws and Membership Classifications should not conflict with GCSAA Bylaws and Classifications, but rather be consistent and parallel with those of GCSAA. This provides consistency and continuity of membership classifications and requirements for the profession.
- Affiliated Chapter's Board of Directors should consist of a majority GCSAA members and the Officers should all be GCSAA members. This identifies the pursuit of common goals and better represents the interests of superintendents.

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(Chapter Affiliation continued)

- Affiliated Chapters would be required to submit annual reports such as financial statements, articles of incorporation, membership rosters, bylaws, certificate of insurance, etc. GCSAA currently makes this type of information available to chapters and the committee felt the chapters should be required to do the same to improve communications, cross referencing, data bases, etc.
- Affiliated Chapters would be required to send an official chapter representative to the annual Chapter Relations meeting.
- Affiliated Chapters would be required to obtain liability insurance for its Officers and Directors as well as general liability insurance with minimums of \$1,000,000.00.
- Affiliated Chapters would be required to maintain the following GCSAA Class A,B, and C membership percentages: Jan. 1, 2000 - 51%, Jan. 1, 2005 - 75%, Jan. 1, 2010 - 100%. This means that over the next 15 years , Affiliated Chapters would be required to bring the percentage of GCSAA membership in classifications A,B, and C to 100%.

The benefits of a chapter being affiliated with GCSAA include delegate voting, cooperative efforts funding research, executive staff benefits for the local chapter, data base accessibility, GCSAA regional seminars, and more. This is a great opportunity for our profession to grow dramatically over the next fifteen years and I hope the MAGCS will support these efforts in the area of improved Chapter Relations.



### Larry Schmidt goes fishin'

Long-term Illinois Lawn employee, Larry Schmidt, will be making a move in late August. Larry, who was a mechanic for the Catholic Cemeteries of Chicago, left there in 1962 to work at Illinois Lawn Equipment. In his 33 years at Illinois Lawn Larry has been a Mechanic, Shop Foreman, Service Manager, Director of Service; and, most recently, he has been using his expertise in the Parts Department.

In September, Larry will become Service Manager for Smithco, Inc., working at their factory in Cameron, Wisconsin. He will be responsible for products produced at Smithco's Cameron facility. Included, among others, are the Trap Rake, Athletic Field Condition, Sweep Star, and the Spray Star.

Larry and his wife, Sandy, have purchased a house on Pokegma Lake in Chetek, Wisconsin. The house is a ten-minute drive from the Smithco factory and is on the same lake that Larry and his family have vacationed on for the past 35 years.

Another recent big event in Larry and Sandy's life was the birth of grandchild number one, a girl, born on July 13, Courtney Condon.

All of Larry's friends, customers and co-workers wish him the best, but we understand that the fish in Pokegma Lake are circulating a petition against letting expert fisherman, Larry Schmidt, become a permanent resident.

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