

Update on GCSAA Spring Membership Committee Meeting April 27-28

Rick Bowden, Bob O'Link G.C.

Well, I do not really know where to begin with this report. I would like to thank Bruce Williams for having the confidence in me to ask me to serve on the Membership Committee. The first comment that I would like to point out to everyone is that after spending a weekend at GCSAA headquarters, I left there with a proud feeling. I can assure you that every aspect of our association is run and presented in a truly professional manner. I cannot say enough about the staff, leadership, and the facility. We are honestly set up to move into the twenty-first century as an association.

OK, now let's get to the meat of things. During the course

of sixteen hours of discussions, many topics were discussed. Some of these topics included:

- *Golf Course Management* magazine complimentary subscriptions
- Chapter relations
- Education and educators
- Career development
- Creative services
- Publications
- Marketing
- Membership classifications
- GCSAA business plan
- GCSAA standing rules for membership
- Membership recruitment
- Fiscal year discussion
- Student chapter program

I really want to key in on one particular discussion. There was long debate pro and con on the possibility of establishing two Class

C memberships. The following recommendation was agreed upon by the Membership Committee:

	CLASS C1	CLASS C
Dues	\$105	\$210
Vote	No	Yes
Hold office	No	No
Card	Green	Gold
Membership	No	No
Experience	3 years or less	3 years +

Now, let me explain some of the thoughts and comments from the meeting. It was brought to the committee's attention that some Class C members felt they were no longer a real part of the association because of recent bylaw changes. Around 1989-90, an assistant superintendent with more than three years' experience was a Class B member. But then that was changed, and all assis-

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tants became Class C members. Last year, another change took place, and Class C dues were lowered to \$105. At the same time, they lost their voting rights. The whole idea behind this dues reduction was to recruit more Class C members. We, as the Membership Committee, are asking the board, Bylaws Committee, and voting delegates to look at this issue again.

OK, so what does this all mean. In my opinion, everyone wants to be recognized and feel needed. So, I ask all members of both the GCSAA and the Midwest to get Class C members involved. Every golf course can truly benefit from trying to get your assistant or

assistants involved in association business. I ask Class A and B members to take assistants to meetings and offer them the chance to take a seminar. If money is the issue, I would think that every golf course can collect enough aluminum cans to support a Class C member.

Now, last, but not least! **ATTENTION, ALL ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS!** You must speak up and get involved. I ask all superintendents and assistants to please let me know your feelings and thoughts on this matter. I need individual input pro or con. This is a great chance to be recognized and heard from. I need input on how this matter should really go. But time is short, so don't sit on your hands.

Get hold of me, and let's hear what you have to say. Please remember that this issue was printed last year in many publications, and only a few people from Ohio have fought to give this a second chance. We need to speak up, or this issue will die at the hands of a few.

Enclosed is a letter that I read to the Membership Committee at our April 27-28 meeting. We, as Class C members, are a very important asset to the golf course maintenance operation. We need to remind ourselves and others that the title "Assistant Superintendent" includes the word "Superintendent." My hope with this is to try to get more Class C members involved and not to upset too many people in the process.

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I can be reached at 847-432-0088 or Fax: 847-432-2417. ■

North Shore Country Club
Jerry Dinelli
Asst. Superintendent of Grounds

To whom it may concern:

I have been an assistant superintendent for ten years and am fourth generation of a family of golf course superintendents. My job responsibilities have increase tremendously in all aspects of managing a golf course, including compliance with environmentally sensitive issues. I enjoy my position.

As we move towards the twenty-first century, we at North Shore Country Club feel the assistant superintendent position has risen to a level of management much like the superintendent of the past.

We also have seen the superintendent position become more administrative, which has not been recognized until recently.

I have supported the Golf Course Superintendents Association for the past eight years and have attended numerous GCSAA educational seminars. After accomplishing all of this, I am appalled at the position the GCSAA has taken towards the assistant superintendent. I am extremely disappointed to find the GCSAA has removed privileges from these professionals instead of recognizing their value to our industry. It is also my opinion that money is not the issue, but the lack of opportunity is. With all the past support and effort, we should have an opportunity to obtain some type of certification and not be pushed to the back of the bus.

Sincerely, Jerry Dinelli

Kudos

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for providing all of us with very timely information. The Midwest Turfgrass Foundation also sends out informative items. The Chicago District Golf Association and Dr. Kane always provide "ammo" to help us explain why the turf is not growing right. I make it a habit lately to copy all of the info sent out and give it to my Board of Directors. Kudos to all!

Finally, Kudos to all of the members of the MAGCS. The last year and a half has been very trying, indeed. Hang in there everyone. The white stuff will be coming down soon!!! ■

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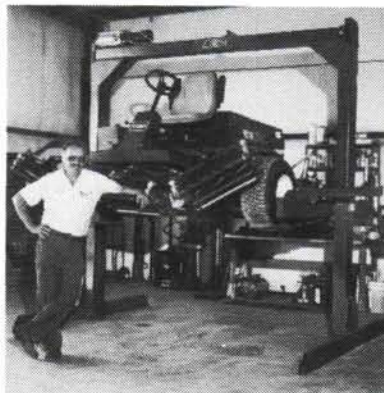


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