

# A Firsthand Account: The 1999 GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting

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I recently returned from the chapter delegates meeting held September 10-12 at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS. Also in attendance was the MAGCS alternate delegate, Don Cross, CGCS.

This annual get-together gives every chapter the opportunity to meet and discuss issues one-on-one with the candidates for national office. It is also an opportune time to discuss relevant association matters, both current and anticipated.

We received updates on the state of the association, which remains good. Some of the other

issues that came up for discussion were the continued public/media relations effort, compensation and benefits surveys, the Food Quality Protection Act, limited budget outreach program, GCSAA 75th anniversary planning and the possibility of an association name change.

The issue that generated the most discussion was the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). In a nutshell, this movement began under the name of Membership Standards. It has involved a significant amount of investigation by standing and ad hoc GCSAA committees and outside consultants. The intent of the PDI is to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of the professional superintendent that will

contribute towards improved playing conditions and enhanced enjoyment of the game of golf. It will likely require a revamping of our current education offerings.

The implications of PDI have generated a lot of speculation. Many of your questions will be answered during a presentation to the membership at an upcoming monthly meeting. We are currently considering the January 2000 MAGCS monthly meeting to accomplish this. Plenty of time for membership input and debate is available prior to PDI's implementation, which is not expected until after the 2001 international conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Don Cross or me.



## **On Course With the President**

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the end the triumph of his achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have known neither victory nor defeat."

My interpretation: Whatever doesn't kill you will make you stronger.

For those who love the game, there is nothing quite like being alone on a golf course at the beginning or end of a day. If nature is God's handiwork, then we are blessed to have the oppor-

tunity to enhance the nature of the facilities that we are entrusted with managing. On the days when I can enjoy the quiet of the golf course, it is easy to remember how lucky I am to participate in this profession. These cathedrals of nature, like churches, continue to be a refuge where people can come, if only for a short respite, to put their troubles behind them, and find that inner peace that we all desire.

Thank you for trusting me enough to allow me to lead this association. It was a privilege I never took lightly and one that I will always be humbled by. I know that by serving, I received much

more than I could possibly have given. Judging by your comments, I believe that we moved forward this past year, but if my direction or opinions incited even one critic who became incensed enough to get involved, then I know that my endeavors were successful. It has truly been a pleasure and an honor. Now onto the ultimate career goal: to survive long enough in this business to be considered a curmudgeon. See you on the first tee.

