



*The time is here. Many of us have either opened our courses or are ready to by now. The winters are getting too short lately. Courses are staying open later and opening earlier, except in the case of Geneva Golf Club, where my good friend doesn't have to open until June this year. (Just kidding, Eddie.) As a municipal superintendent, the early openings and late closings are having a major effect on my budget. I am told that the increased revenues offset the expenses, but we rarely see a dramatic increase in the bottom line for the club. I sometimes wonder if it is all worth it. Should we stick to the season that we budgeted for or try to generate as much revenue as we can and forget about the budget?*

*I also discovered that we, as members and chapters, do not use the GCSAA enough. Headquarters features a fantastic staff just waiting to assist the membership. I would suggest that when you have a concern with anything from public relations to membership, give them a call.*

I would like to thank the membership for electing me to the secretary-treasurer office. After spending my last four years on the Board as chair of the Golf and Arrangement Committee, the change to my new position is welcome. I am very lucky to follow in Brian Bossert's footsteps. Brian did a great job in the position last year and didn't leave me to inherit any huge problems. However, we do have one small problem. In order to maintain our not-for-profit status with the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, we must have a certified audit performed. The Association's budget has grown to more than \$250,000. When a not-for-profit organization has a budget in excess of \$250,000 in operating expenses, the Attorney General wants to be sure that everything is on the up and up. The state requires a certified audit. In January, the Board of Directors voted to hire the firm of Arnold N. Schorn & Co. to perform the audit. The firm will also be taking over the bookkeeping duties, which will make my job a little easier. The secretary-treasurer will still be responsible for check-writing, bank deposits, meeting minutes and other miscellaneous duties. I will keep the membership informed on the status of the audit.

Back in January, Don Ferreri and I attended the Strategic Chapter Planning Conference at the GCSAA headquarters. I must admit, I was NOT very excited about giving up part of my weekend to go to Lawrence, Kansas. I was mistaken. I found the conference to be extremely educational. Not only was it very interesting to see how other chapters operate, but I think Don and I discovered that the MAGCS is a very well-run chapter. Many chapters had difficulties with membership participation; for example, they could not get the minimum number of attendees to a chapter-sponsored GCSAA seminar. The opportunity to network with other superintendents from across the country was also

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In 1988, Jim started Master of the Links with a small investment of \$1,300. Over the past 43 years Jim has logged more than a million miles in a variety of vehicles, which included, of all things, a bread truck before the advent of minivans. Jim is very appreciative of his customers. "The loyalty and comradeship of the golf course superintendents have been the most wonderful parts of this business," Jim reflects. Jim has seen many changes in the industry but feels "the biggest change is in the education and professionalism of everyone involved."

Art Benson, who Jim called on at Butterfield C.C. for many years, states, "The thing that I really liked about Jim was that he didn't try to do the greenkeeping for you. He had several products that he offered for a particular use and let you decide which to use." Dudley Smith of Silver Lake C.C.

adds, "Jim's biggest attribute was his service. There were times where he would make a delivery at 10 a.m. on a Sunday. Once when area superintendents were feeling a need to lower their soil pH, there was no local source of granular sulfur. Jim located a source in Louisiana and drove there overnight in his truck to bring back a truckload of sulfur."

Jim and his lovely bride of 40 years, Marilyn, plan to stay in the area. Their retirement plans include a trip to Hawaii this March, church activities, home remodeling and playing cards with their many friends. Jim also plans to help Mike O'Neill develop new products if his busy schedule allows.



quite valuable to me. We all share many common problems and issues regarding our courses.

I also discovered that we, as members and chapters, do not use the GCSAA enough. Headquarters features a fantastic staff just waiting to assist the membership. Each department gave us short presentations describing what they have to offer. I would suggest that when you have a concern with anything from public relations to membership, give them a call. Remember that the GCSAA works for you. While I don't want to sound like a commercial for the GCSAA, do remember—the GCSAA works for you.

In closing, I would again like to thank the membership for entrusting me with the responsibilities of my current office. It is a trust I do not take lightly. If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me.



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