



GCSAA and the Assistant Superintendent

On April 11 and 12, the GCSAA Assistant Committee met at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. There were six assistant superintendents including yours truly from every region of the country, and one from Canada. Sandy Queen, CGCS was the GCSAA Board Director who chaired this committee. Staff members Dave Fearis, CGCS, and R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, were integral participants in the meeting.

*... the theme
that took the day
centered around
subdivisions of
Class C.*

The main discussion continued from a topic begun last year. The question posed: How can we help assistants distinguish themselves and still keep them in the Class C realm?

After several hours of discussion, the theme that took the day centered around subdivisions of Class C. Obviously, these divisions would be based on years of experience, level of completed education, and number of continuing education points to name just a few requirements. Further details will follow in the coming months about how each of these divisions may break down.

Many of these ideas are utilized today with the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative for Superintendent Members (SM) and Class A members. The system would be very similar for Class C members. The rationale behind the idea is to help elevate the status of the Assistant Superintendent. When a superintendent has acquired certification through GCSAA (CGCS), they are recognized for this achievement. Similarly, if you were to reach the highest level of classification in the assistant ranks, it would distinguish you as a leader in our industry by the GCSAA.

This and many other topics were discussed in Lawrence. One other topic that seems not only to be an issue in our area but, across the country, is Assistant involvement. As I explained some of the resources MAGCS has created for the Assistants, I realized that most members of the committee had not heard about our shoptalk series. In discussion, I think everyone was very impressed with how the MAGCS works hard to help engage its assistants. As a reminder, note there are three more shoptalks coming up this year (Bryn Mawr CC, Merit Club, and Hinsdale CC).

In meeting with the people of GCSAA, I did realize that the MAGCS is cutting edge in encouraging their assistants to get involved. We have a committee solely comprised of assistants (from what I have gathered this year, no other chapter has this). We have our Annual Workshop that many of you attended this year. Planning is already underway for next year's Workshop, and I know it will be one of the best we have had. There are opportunities to author articles for *On Course*. There are opportunities to network. The list goes on and on. Opportunities do not come everyday, but having the foresight to get involved will only make you and your facility better.

