

Florida: There are more local ordinances being formed to propose restrictions as opposed to statewide ordinances. At this time there are bans on certain fertilizer applications in over 40 counties. This has been confusing. Superintendents are advocating on golf's behalf.

Labor and Immigration

- Support for H-2B Visa Program
- This is a federal government program for businesses to get temporary visas for immigrant workers
- This has not been used very much in Illinois

Pesticides

The main concerns are:

- Safe and responsible use of pesticides
- Continued use and availability of effective products
- Methyl-bromide and chlorothalonil are products on the "radar" to eliminate usage



Value of Golf

- Activists have been "busy" with Endangered Species Act Litigation
- Example: Sharps Park Golf Club in California

GCSAA has taken part in an advocacy message program:

- WEAREGOLF
- Golf has a profound economic and charitable impact
- We are on the leading edge of environmental sustainability and stewardship
- Americans enjoy health and wellness participating in golf
- Golf provides a leading role in efforts to support our troops
- We want the golf industry to be treated "fairly and equitably" as a business

Water Management

- In Illinois we have the NPDES Pesticide General permit
- This is a permit required for any pesticide application made to "waters of the state"

Chava wrapped up her presentation with what the GCSAA Government Relations Program was going to be moving forward in 2014 and beyond. The key statements are:

1. Develop a "key contacts" program. This is an actual job that they are looking to fill. The goal is to create relationships with our members and all members of congress.
2. Create a government relations web portal on the GCSAA web site.
3. Create a government relations e-newsletter.

In conclusion Chava presented a list of upcoming "hot topics in government relations.

- FCC regulations - This pertains to mobile radio systems that will limit frequencies from a wide band to a narrow band

- Affordable Health Care Act - This is also known as Obama Care and will affect businesses that will be required to provide health care coverage to workers working over 30 hours per week.
- Globally Harmonized System of Pesticide Label - Creates changes to pesticide labels, MSDS (SDS) sheets & Written hazardous communications programs

Chava was very informative and provided a lot of information. She has been working on our behalf in government relations as a Staff Member of the GCSAA for quite a while. Government relations are all about networking and contacts. Although her physical stature does not cut an imposing presence, just to give you an insight on who we have working for us, her nickname on the "hill" is "the velvet sledgehammer." We all should feel pretty good that we have someone representing us that "has our back." Thanks Chava. @

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