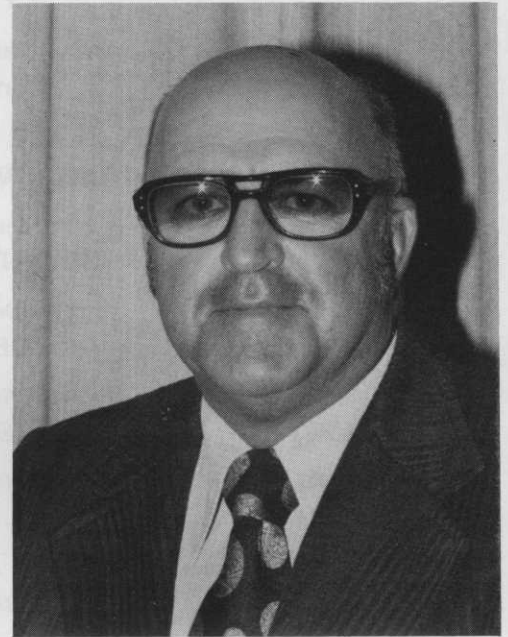


President's Message



As the new President of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents' Association, I welcome the distinct pleasure of addressing my colleagues through this message. Please accept my comments constructively, not critically.

Undoubtedly the results of a whipping can be considered controversial. Many times in a horse race the jockey is accused of using the whip too much or too little. I trust you can stand one more exhortation on the need to join an organization and possibly transform the power of that whip from a device of punishment to one of attention and identification.

I am not a true believer in becoming part of an organization just to be another name on the roster, but we are playing an important numbers game. Without a doubt, the legislature, manufacturers, environmentalists, or any controlling or regulatory group will listen to 1,000 voices more intently than 10. The performance has been chosen, the stage has been set, now it is time for the cast to act — you and I individually and collectively. It is up to ALL of us to join forces — stand up and be counted. You supposedly have chosen the turf industry for good reasons. Now support it. Become an active part of your livelihood. Invest in your present and future.

Join your local Superintendents' Association and expose yourself to "grass roots" education — what is being done in your backyard. As part of the state association you contribute, through numbers, to the sting of the whip. Lend a "Big Brother" hand to the turf industry at large by joining forces through the Florida Turf Grass Association. And as a member of G.C.S.A.A. you collectively impart support to and have an impact on Federal decisions concerning matters which effect our environmentally oriented business.

I believe all of us can afford the dues even, if necessary, out of own pocket. Perhaps it is difficult to see or feel a direct "in the hand" benefit of these investments — but they are worthwhile and your future depends on your present action.

You are important. We need you even if you think you don't need us. Become an active member of the mentioned associations.

Bill Wagner