

President's Message

After my recent comments on becoming active in the organizations which contribute heavily to the life blood of our profession, the following remark may sound contradictory.

"I think there are too many meetings."

"Let's back up and start in the beginning so we can analyze the situation and perhaps realize why those words are not inconsistent with my thoughts on effectual participation—rather they are germane to the fact.

Everyone must, yes must—not should, belong to a local superintendent's association. If you have chosen this profession as your career, then how can you honestly expect to take advantage of all the benefits without offering any contribution in return. "It's not what my country will do for me but rather it's what I can do for my country" may sound square, but it does hold true in all levels of existence. Certainly you don't just take from your family life without offering anything in return. Hopefully, while receiving, you contribute to your community, your church, your work, and anything else of importance and value to you. But how much can anyone give of themselves? And I am talking about a combination of money and time—both essential to the culmination of any cause.

In my opinion, a superintendent must also belong to the State association, the FT/GA, and the GCSAA—all absolutely vital segments in the wheel of successful maintenance of a golf course. That superintendent must make every effort to attend the GCSAA Turf Conference. This association is the outer rim which holds the industry wheel together. It cannot be a successful binder without your money and talent when requested.

That same superintendent must make an even greater effort to attend the FT/GA Turf conference. This association is one of the essential spokes in that success wheel due to the close affiliation with IFAS, our local potential supply of expertise, and the ability to gather and disseminate information of value for us. Again this association needs your money and your time and; your talent to enable it to hold up its portion of the wheel.

The FGCSA and the local chapters are the other essential spokes with the individual superintendent being the hub. The rim is a needless hoop without spokes or a hub. The spokes are useless pegs without an attachment at both ends. And, although nothing can start to roll without the hub, it in itself is confined to rotating in its own tiny circle and would be ineffectual without the spokes and rim. It takes all to be a successful wheel.

Participating in and/or partaking of the GCSAA conference requires at least five days; the FT/GA conference, Golf Tournament, and FGCSA annual meeting four days. These events amount to what should be classified as required meeting time. There are now two other well established and managed golf tournaments—Poa Annua and Crowfoot. These must be supported as they contribute to our social well being and business survival. More required time of the superintendent—time important to both the event and the participant.

I personally think the local chapter meetings should be reduced to four per year—fewer and, hopefully, better. Many monthly meetings have and continue to amount to a social outing, lunch and golf, a very inexpensive and enjoyable day away from the job.

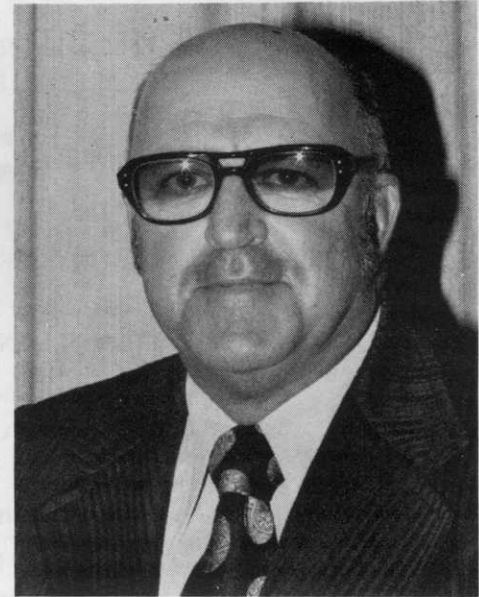
Try on this schedule for a year:
Four good, one day, educational programs
Four informal golf outings (seperate from above)
Two golf tournaments
FT/GA conference and tournaments
GCSAA conference

Six educational opportunities—seven golf opportunities

An individual would be **REQUIRED** to attend three of the educational sessions to qualify him for participation in the golf events. Too drastic, too demanding, too restrictive—I don't think so.

The greatest reward for man's toil is not what he gets out of it, but rather what he becomes from it.

Maybe, just maybe, we all can become slightly better superintendents and better contributors to our society.



Bill Wagner