



President's Message

It is quite a challenge to become the president of the Florida G.C.S.A. at a point when our association can begin to investigate new areas of involvement while at the same time the G.C.S.A. is implementing new programs for the golf superintendent. My predecessors have done a marvelous job in coordinating our local chapters, promoting the Florida Green and an overall first class revitalization of what used to be a "dead horse." Because of our solid Executive Board and proven operating procedures, I feel that we have the capability to prepare different ventures for the State Association. Any new endeavor will succeed when the individuals get behind the program and make it work for the betterment of our profession. These ideas will be discussed at future board meetings and will be reported to the individual superintendents at your local chapter meetings.

The space set aside for the president's message gives me an opportunity to focus on different topics that face the Florida G.C.S.A. or items that affect the superintendent in his day to day environment.

The mediator between the individual member and the State Association is your chapter's External-Vice President. Make sure that he is called on to give a report at each local function, so you have a chance to look at the minutes of the Executive Board meetings or make suggestions to the Florida G.C.S.A. Please remember that you are invited to attend any of our quarterly meetings which are held at:

Florida Turf-Grass Conference
G.C.S.A.A. Convention
Poa Annua Classic
Crowfoot Open

Your lines of communication are also open to the Executive Officers at any time. ** (See Page 12)

One of the factors that has helped us grow into a well respected and better paid profession has been the ongoing work of the association. Some of the newcomers in the business are unaware of the benefits of a strong organization plus the numerous individuals that have been involved before, need to lend a hand to put some "spunk" back into your local chapter.

It has been brought to my attention that the superintendent can better assist the functions of the golf club by being more involved in the game itself. I am not professing that you need to arrange five or six golf outings a week, but I think you need to make an honest effort to play and improve your talents. A golfing member will have more confidence in your maintenance programs if he or she knows that you view the course as a golfer and not just as a turf manager. Involvement in the "game of golf" does not just mean playing; you should take time to get involved with local Rules Committees, Amateur Associations, Course Rating Teams of Junior Golf Programs. I honestly feel that these types of efforts will enable you to gain the respect and admiration of club members and officials.

Until next time. ■

Kevin Downing