

A President's Reflections

by DONALD KOOYER, CGCS

Willow Lakes Golf Club



BOARD MEMBERS

Back row, left to right: Eddie Snipes, External Vice President; Art Cape, Board Director; Gary Dahlberg, Treasurer; Mark Waldron, President. Front row, left to right: Bill Griffith, Secretary; Frank Sbarro, Board Director; Don Kooyer, Immediate Past President; Don Allen, Vice President.

As I took over the helm of the North Florida Golf Course Superintendent's chapter, I wondered how my tenure would proceed through the year. Being a chapter president for the first time, I was hoping for all the support I could get. With the support from all the professional members of the N.F.G.C.S.A., I can say that last year was one of commitment that was challenging and rewarding.

Now that the new president has taken over, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the directors and board members for their professional contributions to our strong organization. I could not have succeeded and our association would not be as strong and viable as it is without their support. All presidents throughout our state chapters and state and national Golf Course Superintendents Association could not serve the needs of our members without their generous support.

Being an officer or director of a professional organization means commitment to your profession. Not only do you have to be willing to give of your knowledge, but also give a lot of

your time. Knowledge and experience are something you will always have once learned. But your time, once spent, is gone forever.

To give of something as precious as your time takes a certain kind of individual. I had these kind of generous people on the board as president last year. I can only say that our organization is stronger today because of their continued commitment to our profession through our chapter, state, and national associations.

This commitment to our profession is not just at arms length. The management structure of our chapter requires that we reach out to many parts of our nation. As officers, we have the responsibility to communicate with our Florida state association. By constant communications with the staff and officers of our state association we keep the knowledge and information we need flowing through to the heart center of our profession. Without our state organizations professional staff working with us, we could not reach out to the national networks that we have. By us giving of our time and efforts and by

being a part of the total turf picture, we will remain strong.

Not only did the leaders of our organization take time to organize and lead our members, but they also reached out to other areas in search of strength and knowledge. By continued contact with our state association through correspondence and telephone communications, the information between our organizations will remain current and up to date. These networks are kept open because of the willingness of the board of directors, the secretaries and treasurers to give of their time and talents unselfishly. We can count on these people to furnish us with information at all times. Not only do these people have to keep the communication lines open, they must also attend special events well away from their work place and homes. We must thank the families for their willingness to give of this time toward our continued success. Our respective companies understand the need of education and ongoing professionalism and we thank them for their support.

Our industry is not only strong in

our communities but reach out to the nation and other parts of the world. To be able to be a motivating force we need the people that are willing to give of their time and expertise. By participating in business decisions and meeting with all areas of industry such as manufacturing, legislation, education and public relations, just to name a few, we will remain a strong organization.

As I saw the staff of our chapter and state in action I can see why our association remains strong. When the turf industry seeks help in education and new ways to advance, our people are at the ready. These dedicated people are always ready to give of their time and knowledge so we can move forward.

Working with and for the Florida Turfgrass Association we have once again gone toward the front in providing educational opportunities to our members and non-members alike. Our education

committees are committed to the development of programs that will not only stop the abuse of our land and water, but will set the standards to use these natural resources so they will be protected far into the future. By giving of their time for research to bring us educational seminars not only at local and state levels, they also reach out nationally so we can all reap the benefits of knowledge through continued education.

On the national level, let's not forget the people from our state that gave their time to organize, prepare and present their professional seminars at our National Golf Course Superintendent's Conference. It should make us all proud to have these people share their knowledge to a group of professionals from all over the world. We have one of the best news magazines in our industry, the *Florida Green*. Continuing to

distribute knowledge and information through an award-winning editor and staff is their goal. Throughout the ongoing effort of giving of their time and knowledge, we will all continue to benefit. Our state association and our satellite chapters have to be acknowledged and thanked for their efforts and time to keep us as leaders in our respective professions. I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank my professional board of directors and officers for their help and support in keeping our organization one that we can all be proud of. I will take pride in watching and helping one of the most professional golf course organizations in the country grow through giving of time, effort, and knowledge. We will all be wiser and better people for making our environment a better place for all things. This is my goal. 🍏

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