

After only four short years in Florida, I find myself writing your President's Message. The reason I am in this position so soon is because when I came to Florida, I made the effort to get involved.

Let's all get involved

Four years ago, the state budget was one half the amount that it is today. We have gone from a part-time secretary to a full-time executive secretary.

Thanks to the efforts of Kevin Downing and the FGCSA Research Committee, we have constructed a half-acre research green at the IFAS center in Fort Lauderdale worth \$80,00 and hired Marcus Prevatte as research technician to assist in the necessary daily operations. Already the USGA has given IFAS money to fund two research projects on this green.

Our newsletter, the Green Sheet, has vastly improved thanks to the efforts of Mike Bailey. The Florida Green, winner of many awards, has just gone through a smooth transition from Dan Jones to Larry Kieffer.

Mark Jarrell, chairman of our public relations committee, continues to spread our word to the golfing public each month with his timely articles in Golfweek.



Ray Hansen

Walt McMahon and his committee have expanded our education programs and has done a great job. If you haven't been to one, you are missing out.

We have increased our members from 425 in 1985 to 685 today, thanks to Tom Benefield's work on the membership committee.

With all the good things that we are accomplishing, it concerns me that fewer than half of the golf course superintendents in Florida are members of this association.

I don't know how in this day and age anyone can keep up with what's going on in our industry without continuous education. The new SARA III laws alone are enough to boggle one's mind and it's only going to become more complicated. Water usage is going to come under close scrutiny in the future with more people moving to Florida.

I urge each reader to encourage any superintendent he knows who is not a member of the FGCSA to become one. Invite the non-member to a local chapter meeting to see for himself or herself what we have to offer.

The more superintendents we have who are informed, the healthier it is for all. Let's all get involved.