

Never have so many owed so much to so few. Winston Churchill's famous World War II quote still rings true today as superintendents across the nation wage a battle to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of golf and to showcase the multiple skills of the professional superintendent. Individuals in every local, state, and national association deserve recognition for their time and effort.

Is someone else fighting your battles?

These people have been heard in the halls of Congress, at local water management districts and in town council meetings. They have served on committees, as officers and directors of associations and have led the support and defense of our industry with energy and enthusiasm year after year.

Just as our nation has rallied its support for our troops in the recent Persian Gulf war, the golf community must rally its support for those who lead us in the growth and development of turf management.

Just as American, European and Arabic forces forged a successful coalition for victory, the golf community must participate in coalitions like the FGCSA, the Florida Turfgrass Association, the Florida Golf Council, and the newly formed Coalition for Responsible Pesticide Regulation.

Admittedly united action is sometimes difficult because of the different agendas of private, resort, development and municipal golf facilities. But it is not impossible.

There are approximately 1,000 golf courses in the state. About 680 superintendent and assistant superintendents are members of the FGCSA. Probably fewer than 100 members are actively engaged in any form of activity which is helping guide us through these murky days of increased regulation and negative publicity. And yet, all members of

the golf community are reaping the spoils of the hard-fought victories won by the dedicated few.

They need your support!

Every golf course that is able to irrigate under reasonable regulations written with the input from superintendents, every superintendent who can continue to apply chemicals and fertilizers tested and approved because of research funds raised by superintendents, and every golfer or person who derives his pleasure or livelihood from golf, owes a debt to those who continue to protect and serve our industry.

Those who are operating in the golf industry without paying that debt are undermining the future of golf.

By refusing to join associations, pay dues, attend meetings, donate funds for education and research, they are contributing to the frustration and burnout of those who have sought to preserve for others the right to operate profitably.

If every one of the 1,000 golf courses budgeted a reasonable amount for dues and research as a line-item expense and paid that money to the FGCSA, the FTGA or the Florida Golf Council, we could make significant progress in the ongoing business of turf management and golf course operations.

We are on the brink of a new era in the golf industry. An era in which environmental protection, water resource conservation and economic considerations are shaping the way we continue to conduct our complex business.

Responsible members of the golf community will invest the time and money necessary to become part of the solution. They will reinforce the few who have served so well for so long. Without replacements and reinforcements for our war-weary leaders, our pro-active attacks and our data-based defenses may lose their initiative and face crippling defeats.

We need all of you for a unified voice and a unified victory! Call 407-692-9349 for information on how you can help to sustain the growth and development of golf.

Green Side Up



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