

Greetings. Here's hoping that you will have a more prosperous and productive new year than the one just completed. They say that as you get older the years get shorter. I gotta' believe, however, that last year couldn't get over soon enough.

What a miserable year. The economic downturn that politicians were eager to call a recession is getting closer every day to a depression, especially if you are the one who just lost his job.

It has had an impact on the operation of many clubs and companies in the golf industry with several of them

having to curtail their involvement in the support of our association. This publication itself has gone through tough economic times and witnessed the loss of several key advertisers. Subsequently we have now a smaller version of our flagship publication, still full of useful information for the superintendent, but not as extensive. Hopefully, the economic cycle will soon swing back the other way and things can get back to normal.

Things could be worse, however, if not for the diligent efforts of groups such as the Florida Golf Council, the FTGA and the FGCSA. Taxation of memberships, minimum spending and other aspects of normal club activities was

successfully fended off by the vigilant Bobby Brantley of the Florida Golf Council.

The end run by the utility industry through the DER to force golf clubs not only to take wastewater but to pay dearly for it has been slowed down by the work of the FGCSA. This is, however, an issue that won't go away. Pressure from the regulatory arena will intensify and much remains to be done on this subject.

The FTGA has been successful on many fronts. One of the key efforts has been working with the Florida Golf Council in securing funds for a survey for a survey of the economic status of the turfgrass industry in our state. This survey is long overdue and it is through the financial support of the FTGA and its members and through twisting of arms in Tallahassee that we are able to begin this important study this year.

As you can see, we in the golf course industry are extremely busy in working with the regulatory and political machinery in this state to create rules and implement projects we all can live with and benefit from.

We cannot do this alone. We need your support.

If you are not a member of the FGCSA, FTGA or Florida Golf Council, you should join. Even if you don't have the time to participate, your membership fees will work for your own benefit. So please do the right thing and give us a call and put your money where your needs are.

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Tom Benefield, CGCSA
FGCSA President