

Greenward

A compendium of news and opinions about government, golf and the environment

The brief items on Page 44 and Page 46 are reprinted from Briefing, a government relations monthly news report of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

GCSAA trains local chapter government relations workers

By Don Brethhauer

GCSAA Government Relations Manager

GCSAA's government relations program is working to increase dialogue with the affiliated chapters, government relations liaison network. As part of this effort GCSAA sponsored a Chapter Government Relations Liaison Training Conference in late January, which attracted more than 30 participants representing 25 chapters.

"We really felt there was a need to pull together those individuals who are responsible for participating in government relations activities at the state and local level," said Robert Ochs, GCSAA general counsel.

"We wanted the opportunity to present a forum to share ideas and ongoing efforts, coupled with training to help these individuals become more successful in their efforts."

To accomplish this goal, the conference included several training presentations, as well as ample time for discussion and exchanging ideas. Shirley Fulton of Capital Communicators, Madison, Wis., explained how to handle and use the media to get your message across.

Kathleen Sebelius, a Kansas state legislator, gave a rundown on state governments and how they work. She emphasized the importance of educating legislative committee members about golf course management.

Jerry Johnson, a former city manager who is now with the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, spoke about how city and county governments work. He explained that the ability to recognize who has the power in a local government is crucial.

"In many cities, the mayor has the power. In most, the city council has the power, and in some, the city manager has the power," said Johnson. "In addition, more and more county governments are becoming more organized and more powerful."

Paul Mechling, CGCS, led the group discussion concerning government relations chapter efforts. Mechling, who is GR liaison for the Northern Ohio GCSA, talked about efforts in his state to secure workable pesticide regulations. Several other chapter liaisons briefed their fellow participants on recent activities within their specific states or regions.

For several years now, GCSAA headquarters has been obtaining input from local chapters, through the government relations liaisons, to develop the comments we submit to regu-

latory agencies on proposed rules.

As of last October, only 73 local chapters had designated a representative to serve as GR liaison, so the headquarters staff contacted all chapter presidents and asked them to designate a representative to serve as government relations liaison. Now, 90 of the 113 chapters have designated GR liaisons.

As GCSAA government relations manager, I would like to have 113 GR liaisons. If you know that your chapter has not named a GR liaison, please urge your association to do so.

GCSAA's goal is to improve upon the present network system so that GR liaisons can contact each other on government and environmental issues that affect local chapters.

GCSAA will be sending out a directory of all chapter GR representatives to the liaison network to encourage direct liaison-to-liaison contact concerning potential problems with proposed legislation and regulations. GCSAA headquarters is also serving as a clearinghouse, coordinating contacts between GR liaisons to promote more involvement in state and regional government relations efforts. ↴

EPA unveils second phase to drinking water pesticide study

Phase II of the National Survey of Pesticides in Drinking Water Wells, recently released by EPA, concluded that there is no imminent health threat. The report confirmed the Phase I findings, but concluded that further research is needed in localized areas.

The study suggested that DCPA acid metabolites from non-farm use of pesticides are responsible for numerous detections. Because of the frequency of pesticide metabolite detection, EPA will likely adjust future studies so that pesticide metabolites are included in sample analysis. ↴

California EPA to suspend pesticide active ingredients

The California Environmental Protection Agency will suspend 57 active ingredients now used in about 3,000 pesticide formulations in that state — if chemical companies do not perform additional health studies.

Chemical companies may file for extensions to complete the required health studies. The California EPA will have the final authority to determine whether extensions are necessary.

Golf course chemicals that may be affected include 2,4-D; 2,4-D dimethylamine salt; carbaryl, chloroneb, chlorothalonil, iprodione, maneb, oryzalin, thiophanatemethyl, trifluralin and vinclozolin. ↴

Show edition of Briefing available

A special edition of *Government Relations Briefing* printed for the annual GCSAA Conference and Show is available upon request. The conference and show edition contains the top 10 government relations stories of 1991 as well as a summary of comments submitted to EPA this past year. Call the GCSAA communications department at 913-832-4470. Quantities are limited. ↴