

# FGCSA board opposing some proposed GCSAA Bylaws changes

## Minutes of a special meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors regarding GCSAA bylaws changes

A meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors took place on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 1992, at Palm Beach National GC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed GCSAA bylaws amendments and establish a position statement to be published in the next issues of *The Green Sheet* and *Florida Green*.

All officers were present. Also attending were external vice presidents Dale Kuehner, Prentice Knott, Alan Puckett and John Gallagher. Kevin Downing, who served on the GCSAA Standards Committee, and Gary Grigg, GCSAA board member, were also present.

President Mark Jarrell began the meeting by stating that the FGCSA wants to be open-minded about our views on the proposed amendments. Much time has been spent studying them at board meetings, informal discussions, and at the local chapter level. By coming up with a published position statement, the FGCSA is letting our position be known so that any FGCSA member who is planning to vote with the FGCSA bloc and disagrees with any of our views, will still have time to remove their name from the bloc at Anaheim during check-in.

It is no secret that the FGCSA is opposed to many of the proposed changes and we do not feel that we are the only chapter opposed to the amendments as they are written. We feel that compromises could be made to make them more acceptable and, where prudent, will offer suggestions and changes to improve the current procedures. Our position statement is not to be misconstrued as a vote of "no confidence" to the current GCSAA board. Rather, we feel it is our inherent

right as dues-paying members of this association to disagree with any proposed change to the GCSAA Bylaws that we feel are not in our best interest.

After some discussion, the following was established for each of the ballot proposals. In the interest of space, we have condensed the reasoning behind the decisions.

### Ballot A: Name Change.

Position: Yes

### Ballot B: Majority Vote.

Position: No

Reason: We feel that if the proposed amendment is a good amendment then it should not have trouble getting a two-thirds of the voters to agree that it should pass. If it can not get this type of support, then maybe it is not a good amendment.

### Ballot C: Elimination of Voting Delegate

Position: No

Reason: While we feel there are some problems with the current method of voting at the Annual Meeting, we do not feel that a member's right to vote through either a delegate or a proxy should be eliminated. Rather we propose that it be amended to allow for voice vote or have all vote results published, listing each chapter's vote.

### Ballot D: Legal changes

Position: Yes

### Ballot E: Qualifications for memberships

Position: No

Reason: Qualifications for Class A memberships should be set and approved by member vote.

### Ballot F: Additional Classifications

Position: Yes

### Ballot G: Dues increase without membership approval.

Position: No

Reason: We feel this proposed amendment could merit our approval if it were re-written to include a ceiling for the amount the increase could be in any one year, and perhaps a time lapse period between increases. As far as anyone could remember, the GCSAA has always received approval by the membership when a dues increase was needed.

### Ballot H: Voting Procedure

Position: No

Reason: As stated above, we are in favor of delegate voting. However, we do agree with the proposal to vote for secretary/treasurer rather than having an appointed position. We also agree with having the option of running the president-elect unopposed.

### Ballot I: Majority Voting

Position: No

Reason: See Ballot B above.

The FGCSA board voiced their concerns with the field staffing program. Even though the majority of the board is in favor of field staffing, it was felt that this should be phased in very slowly.

This person should do more than recruit new members. Concern was raised over the type of person that would be hired for these positions.

Would we be creating our own outside consultants? The board is aware that if Ballot G is not approved, there will be a vote at the annual meeting to increase dues to cover expenses of field staffing.

We, the FGCSA, feel that the best course of action on many of these proposed amendments would be to restructure them into member-oriented posi



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tive changes which would merit further consideration and put to rest those proposed changes which offer little value to the membership.

In that line of thinking, we have offered brief descriptions of what some of the changes might be changed for the betterment of the association. To conserve space, we deliberately made them brief and are available for further discussion on the options we feel are open to us.

### TURFGRASS QUIZ

**Answer:** Paul Frank, Hole-In-The-Wall Country Club, had just weathered the 1962 hurricane. Fairways had plenty of water. A jeep was used to check the damage.

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