

The GCSAA annual chapter relations meeting took place on Sept. 9-10 in Kansas. The meeting was attended by most of the GCSAA's 114 chapters. This gathering occurs every year to help the board of directors decide the course the membership wants to take.

The major topics at this year's meeting were the chapter affiliation agreement and the desire to begin enforcing this agreement once again. Every chapter that is affiliated with the GCSAA has filled out this agreement.

Now the GCSAA wants to update the language in the agreement and add some additional requirements. Some of the new requirements include the incorporation of each chapter, liability and D&O insurance and tax exempt status.

But the issue that drew the most fire was the time table for 100% GCSAA membership for class A, B and C members as a requirement for a chapter to remain affiliated with the GCSAA.

It was voiced by all in attendance that 100% membership in both the GCSAA and a local chapter was an ideal goal. The difficult part of this meeting was how to achieve this goal and how long it should take to get there.

The time table that was originally proposed would require all affiliated chapters to have 51% A, B and C membership in the GCSAA by the year 2000, 75% by 2005 and 100% by the year 2010. For some chapters, this seemed an impossibility; for others, it did not reach 100% quickly enough. Some delegates at the meeting accused the board of "scheming," and concocted grand tales of GCSAA plots to rule the world.

I am here to tell you I saw no evidence of "scheming" in Lawrence. The board was very open to all the concerns and issues raised by the new affiliation agreement.

They genuinely were looking for guidance on what to do with this proposal, as opposed to springing this on us at the national. By bringing these issues out at the chapter relations meeting, they were able to receive alternative ideas on how to approach this *ideal* that all chapters and members could live with.

After two days of intense meetings, it was proposed that after July 1, 1997, all new members wanting to join the national or a local chapter would be required to join both. This will require a bylaw change for the GCSAA and for local chapters.

**GCSAA**  
*sealing relationships with local chapters*

**Kuehner's Corner**



Dale Kuehner, CGCS Vice President



Gathered in front of the GCSAA headquarters are Florida GCSA representatives, from left, (front row) Dale Walters, Geoff Coggan, Marie Roberts and Dale Kuehner. In the back row, from left, are Craig Weyandt, Roy Wilshire, Paul Crawford, Ed Guzman and Chip Fowkes.

All current members of the GCSAA or a local chapter would be grandfathered in, unless they move to a new chapter or try to rejoin after letting their membership expire. This approach seemed to be the best way to achieve 100% local/national membership without alienating any of our current members.

The bylaw issues to implement this approach at the national level will most likely come to a vote in Orlando. Florida and most, if not all local chapters, already meet most of the other new affiliation requirements. Each local chapter wanting to affiliate with the GCSAA will need to change its bylaws to require new members to join the national.

I personally think that having 100% local/national membership throughout the country will only make us stronger and better-equipped for the problems our profession faces in the future.

I will be representing Florida as your voting delegate in Orlando in 1996 and need as much input on this issue as you can give. The chapter affiliation agreement issues will be discussed at the next state board meeting in October.

Please feel free to call me or your chapter's external vice-president to discuss any ideas you have concerning this matter. This will ensure that your views will be represented at the board meeting.