

By the time you read this article, my term as president of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association will have come to an end. I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am to have served this past year as the leader of

what is truly a great organization. The correspondence throughout my term with other people in and out of industry sector proves that there is a great deal of respect for the FGCSA, and these relationships must continue to grow and nurture. I leave office knowing that Dale Kuehner, CGCS, will continue to enhance these relationships and do a fine job as President for this upcoming year. Dale, I wish you great success during your term.

There are a couple of thoughts that I would like to leave with all of you. First, the relationship between the FGCSA and the FTGA needs to be strengthened. A friendship exists between the two associations, and some common interests and strategies are in place, but overall our alliance can greatly improve. Too many times independent actions are being discussed and finalized without the other organization being actively involved in the decision process. Joint committee work will solve this problem. It has been discussed before between the two groups, and now it is time to implement this idea.

Also, there are currently some superintendents out there questioning the FTGA on actions the association has taken recently. I want to ask those superintendents who withhold their support for the FTGA if they really know and understand what happened in the past, why changes were made within their association, and what the mission of the FTGA is at this time. If you do not know these answers, ask an FTGA board member and stop criticizing their association. The "hearsay" stories on the street need to stop. Join an FTGA committee and air a voice instead of spreading ill-mannered comments that have no merit.

Along these same lines, our association needs more interaction on FGCSA committees. This past year participation in committee work was disappointing. As much talent as there is among the superintendents in this state, our committee work should net a lot of positive results. Decisions are to be made in committee with recommendations from the committee coming to the board for board approval. This is not happening, folks! The FGCSA needs more participation from its members.

The issues that the FGCSA is dealing with today sets the tone for our future as superintendents as well as others entering the field. These issues, such as water conservation, water quality, environmental regulations, product analysis, cultural practices, education, turf studies, scholastic awards and public relations are just a few of the many issues that the FGCSA is actively involved in. And there are more — many more — issues that demand our attention. To continue to be the leaders that we are, it is imperative that the FGCSA find a way to address these concerns. Proactive, not reactive, is the manner in which our association needs to operate. Increased participation from our membership will ensure that the FGCSA remains proactive. I would hope everyone agrees.

In closing, I will say one thing. What a year! Thanks go to everyone who supported me through a year that had some bizarre twists to it at times. I am a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and this belief was definitely applied to a few situations that occurred during the year. One of those situations led to my new position with International Golf Management. The responsibilities that I have with IGM allow me to remain a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. They will also allow me to do something else that I will truly love doing, and that is assisting other superintendents in their professional development. My father was an educator for many years, and I guess a part of me has always wanted to be one, too. What a great world in which we live!

*What a great world we live in!*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Greg Plotner, CGCS  
President  
FGCSA