

A call to arms is ringing throughout the land these days. Superintendents' associations across the country are in desperate need for volunteers to step forward and take charge. While attending the GCSAA convention in Las

Vegas, this was a common topic of discussion among chapter leaders throughout the country. The need for new people to get involved now is becoming an issue of serious concern.

For lack of participation, many chapters have the same board members rotating

among the various positions. For an association to continue to grow and improve, it needs its members to become involved. Volunteering for a position on your local board is a good way not only help your fellow superintendents, but is a good way to help yourself. I can't begin to place a value on the information I have learned or the people I have met and the friends I have made during my time on the Florida and South Florida boards of directors. I can only tell you my association service has helped me become a better superintendent and a better communicator. Serving on a local chapter board usually doesn't require much time. Once you get involved you will be glad you did.

Those of you fortunate enough to have been able to attend the GCSAA convention this year had the

opportunity to access a lot of great educational programs. Whether you took seminars or only attended the open sessions and trade show, the GCSAA conference was an excellent place to recharge the batteries and learn the newest turf management techniques.

If you weren't able to attend the national conference there are still a lot of educational opportunities available to you here in Florida. There will be GCSAA Regional Seminars. The USGA will be holding their annual Florida Regional conferences in West Palm Beach and Orlando in mid-April. The Everglades Chapter will be holding their Spring Seminar with a slate of topnotch speakers on April 25. The Poa will be held during May in the Naples area. The FTGA Conference will be in September. Probably your best source for continuing education is your local chapter. Most chapters have excellent educational programs available at each monthly meeting.

Attending monthly meetings gives you the chance to talk to your peers in the business and find out what problems are happening in your area. Many times during a local chapter meeting, hearing about someone else's problem might help you stop the problem from occurring on your course. If there is a speaker or a topic that you would like to hear about, I urge you to talk to your local board members. Answer that call to arms. Those Education Committee volunteers would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Your organization needs your help... now

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dale Kuehner, CGCS
President
FGCSA

In the Central Florida chapter, as part of your membership dues, a handicap can be established with our golf chairman.

Time to establish your USGA handicap

By the time everyone reads this we will be well into the 1997 season. Along with the new year come chapter meetings, seminars and all the golf-related fund raisers and tournaments. I would like to remind everyone who does not have a

USGA handicap to please get one established this year! When you enter these events with a current handicap, it makes the tournament chairman's job a lot easier for pairing of players and scoring at the end of play.

For those superintendents who work at resorts or clubs that are difficult to get on, and commercial members who travel a lot and are not members of a club or association, I know it is hard to establish a handicap. In the Central Florida chapter, as part of your membership dues, a handicap can be established with our golf chairman. For those who turn in score cards, your scores are recorded and sent to a service

every month or so. If you play other than chapter events, scores can be sent or phoned in to the Golf Chairman. The GCSAA requires verification of a USGA handicap in order to play in the annual golf championship. No letters from your golf professional or handicap chairman will be accepted.

Whether your scores are good, mediocre or bordering on the ugly side, please establish a USGA handicap this year!

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Joe Ondo, CGCS
Vice President
FGCSA

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