

GCSAA + FGCSA + FTGA = POWER

BY RICK TATUM, GCS
The Forest Golf Club

GCSAA, FGCSA and the FTGA. Each of these Associations has its strengths and weaknesses.

The GCSAA is our national association that is strong in numbers of members and money. This association has come a long way in promoting our profession to a higher level.

I applaud the work that these volunteers have contributed to make our industry what it is today. My job is better in many ways due to their efforts.

The GCSAA also has a weakness which is in handling local and state-wide issues. Please do not get me wrong: we have made great strides in

having the GCSAA help with these issues and I am sure we will improve in these areas, but it is a national organization which is mostly concerned with the big picture.

The FGCSA is our state association which also is strong in numbers of members. We use the association to attack local and state issues concerning the golf course superintendent.

I also applaud these volunteers that have donated their time and effort to make my job one of the best in our industry.

The FGCSA does a wonderful job in funding educational seminars to make me a better golf course superintendent. Also, the funding that is used to fight statewide issues has elevated our position in the golf industry.

Support the people who are supporting you.

The weakness I feel the FGCSA might have is that the turf industry is bigger than just golf courses. We need to support the turf industry as a whole. This includes the FTGA.

The FTGA awarded over \$635,000 for turf research in the past six years. I know that all this research is not solely directed at golf courses, but we reap the benefit of 80 percent of this research. The FTGA has an annual conference and show which is set up mostly for the benefit of golf course superintendents.

The FTGA is working with the University of Florida to hire a turf coordinator who has a strong background in golf course turf. There are many reasons why we should support the FTGA, but the biggest would be we are stronger together than we are apart.

Last year the GCSAA summoned the state chapters to put in new bylaws. In order to be a member of your state chapter you also had to be a member of the GCSAA. I felt this was a good idea. Support the people who are supporting you. Well, the FTGA is working hard to improve the turf industry in this state, I feel we should work harder at supporting the FTGA. Remember, we are stronger together than apart.

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On brevity

The Lord's Prayer is 66 words, the Gettysburg Address is 286 words, there are 1,322 words in the Declaration of Independence, but government regulations on the sale of cabbage total 26,911 words.



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