

I'm not trying to get you to approve or disapprove of GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative. That is up to you. This is to call your attention to the issue, because it is important for you to know that this proposal has the potential to affect your standing in the industry.

If you don't even know the basic purpose behind PDI and what's been happening, then read the article in the Professional Development

section of this issue and shame on you. I'm not going to explain what it is, but I do want to report to you on where it is in the scheme of things. Timing of decision-making between now and the conference and show in Dallas is critical. This is what I know based on conversations and reports from GCSAA Headquarters and the FGCSA spring board meeting.

The Member Standards Resource Group has met and

considered all the feedback from around 95 PDI chapter presentations held across the country. They have made some revisions to the original set of proposed requirements. The revised PDI has been sent to the GCSAA committees which have an administrative stake in PDI: Career Development, Bylaws, Certification, Membership and Education. These committees must discuss and make their recommendations for action to the GCSAA board directors who will meet sometime later this summer and before the chapter delegates' meeting in September.

I can't give you a list of specific changes to the original plan because I have only heard a few of them. In general the proposal is not as stringent as it was before, but I will withhold any comment until the completed revised version is in print.

Several things can happen between now and September. First, if the respective committees

still have too many questions on details of the proposal they may not recommend that the GCSAA board put it on the ballot for Dallas. The committees may ratify the revised proposals and send it on for board action. The board may still have concerns and not move forward to put it on the ballot for Dallas until it has been discussed at the chapter delegates' meeting.

Hopefully we will all have a chance to see the revisions and details of how PDI would function before September. Even if we do, we will not have much time before your local chapter delegates go to Lawrence to discuss the issue. Each chapter must make a concentrated effort to discuss PDI and give your delegate a consensus view so he/she can let GCSAA know how the rank and file membership feels about the new version of PDI. This meeting will go a long way toward deciding whether PDI makes it to the ballot in Dallas and the views expressed in that forum should reflect the will of the members, not one person's opinion.

If the delegates give a thumbs up to the new PDI version and it goes to a vote in Dallas, you still have the opportunity to vote individually for or against PDI. However, it will require you to make the effort to either contact the FGCSA Voting Delegate, Dale Kuehner, directly or through your chapter to register how you wish your individual vote to be cast. While most of you have your votes assigned to the FGCSA for normal GCSAA officer and director elections, the association will gladly total up and cast the yea and nay votes of any individual members who make their wishes known.

That is why it is critical over the next few months to pay attention to all information about PDI and for each member and chapter make extra efforts to communicate and decide how they wish to vote.

Decisions are made by those who show up or step up to be counted. This decision is one of the most important you will make regarding your professional path. Ask questions, pay attention, get involved. It's pretty darn important and time is running out.

PDI: Pretty Darn Important

Green Side Up



Joel Jackson, CGCS Editor