

## Springing Into Action

By Greg Pheneger

A long, hard winter has passed with many memories. I always sit down in the early spring to examine the operations in my department. Once I have checked my facilities it is time to get out and see others and determine how they survived our “busy” season.

Congratulations to Mike Perham who is the 2003

Distinguished Service Award winner. Mike is currently the superintendent at Jonathan's Landing in Jupiter. Mike has loyally served the state association over the years and continues to work for the state as the Florida Green business manager and chairman of the state reception every year. Congratulations Mike

for a well deserved award.

At our winter board meeting the board approved the retention of a reputable financial management company to manage our reserve funds. Companies used and recommended by several allied industry associations (FFAA, FFVA and Citrus Mutual) were interviewed. With professional management, our money can be invested in low-risk, accessible funds that will earn more interest than our current simple bank certificates of deposit. A key part of this action will be to draft a board-approved investment

policy that will dictate the strategy and percentages of recommended investments. The policy will also create investment discipline and protect our funds from wild market swings in certain sectors. No change in allocation or investments can be made with the approval of the full board. The financial advisors will report to the board at each quarterly board meeting.

The objectives of our investment policy will be to preserve capital liquidity and optimize the investment return within the constraints of the investment policy. Preserving capital is very obvious in that we do not want to lose money. Nobody wants to lose money. By saying we will “preserve capital,” we are stating that we will be conservative in our investing. We want all of our assets to be available to us. Last but not least, we want to make money so operating funds do not have to be used to help maintain the reserve account at proper levels.

The Poa Annuu Classic at the Naples Beach and Golf Club is just around the corner (May 13-15). The

Everglades Chapter always puts on a wonderful family event. The setting offers events for the whole family while the spouse is working hard in the classroom and toiling on the golf course. If you have never made the Poa you have missed out on one of the highlights of the year.

The weekend begins on Thursday afternoon with our FGCSA spring board meeting. All members of the association are invited to attend the board meeting. Many Past presidents have attended the spring board meeting and have been very helpful. Results of the members-needs survey should be tabulated by that time for review. I hope the results of the survey will lead future boards in the direction that will best serve our membership. Feedback from membership,

even negative, is needed for an association to function effectively.

On Thursday evening the board will host the Past President's Dinner. All past Presidents are invited for dinner with the current board. This is only the second year for the dinner and last year I had the pleasure of talking with past Presidents Scott Bell and Darren Davis. That conversation helped generate ideas for this year's agenda.

I strongly believe that discussing actions and decisions from previous boards can help future boards to make intelligent decisions. Ideas from previous boards can be examined to determine what worked and what didn't and why. Ideas and projects discounted before do not necessarily mean that they should be discounted now. Times change and good ideas should be reexamined for relevance. I look forward to another enjoyable evening and hope I can soak up even more information.

Friday the formal educational aspect of the Poa event swings into action with a GCSAA Superintendent Leadership Series

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seminar secured by Buddy Keene, our education chairman. This year's speaker is Pat Schwab and her topic is “Dealing with Jerks.” I have not had the pleasure of attending one of Pat's seminars but those who have speak very highly of the presentation.

We all have our “war stories” of dealing with people who might fit the “jerk” description. I know I have often wondered if I could have handled things better. Hopefully, after taking this class, I will come away better equipped to handle a “jerk” should he appear during any given day.

Friday afternoon and Saturday morning bring golf and camaraderie. These two tournaments fill up very quickly and sandbaggers are lining up to take home the trophies. These days can also be used to play on the beach or just relax by the pool if you so desire. More relaxation and networking is in store for all on Saturday evening at the Luau where adults can have as much fun as the kids as they nosh on the traditional roasted pig and other culinary delectables.

On May 24, the Treasure Coast Blue Pearl Tournament is scheduled back at its original home, Loblolly Pines in Hobe Sound. The proceeds are earmarked for area youth and environmental organizations in an attempt to help our Blue Pearl, the planet Earth.

After a long winter hibernation at your course, come on out and live a little.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greg Pheneger