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ENTERING THE SLOW ZONE



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

Rumors of my retirement are just that, rumors. What is true is that I have reached another milestone in my chronological age. It's the same as the number often seen posted as the speed limit on our interstates and the Florida Turnpike. You do the math.

I'm not ready to fully retire so I've asked the FGCSA Board of Directors if I might continue my service with my primary focus as editor of our

publications and the website with the beginning of the New Year. Naturally there will be a salary adjustment, but by waiting I've maxed out my monthly social security benefit, which will help balance out the salary reduction.

This means that the FGCSA Government Relations Committee will need each chapter to step up and respond to Calls for Action on issues that will continue to challenge us. I will always participate with my letters to the editor and emails to regulators and politicians identified as the people to contact. Of course we all should be doing that anyhow. That's one of the main reasons for the FGCSA – unity for advocacy on any and all challenges our profession faces. It's not going to ease up in the near future with local ordinances still being advanced by cities and counties. Water availability is fast becoming the next front burner topic of conversation and regulation.

But it's time for my wife and me to do some more travel and see the rest of the USA. We

haven't made it to Yellowstone or Yosemite yet. Mount Rushmore, the Black Hills are also on our bucket list and we want to do Boston, Maine and Prince Edward Island also. Right now we are also planning on going on a one-month tour of Europe with our daughter next September.

I'm not hanging it up, but I am slowing it down a notch or two. I love telling your stories in the *Florida Green* and *Florida Golf Central* articles and *Golfdom* columns. Also I want to spend more time with our website to keep the information as fresh as possible and share more photos, etc and really make social media work for us.

The current make-up of the FGCSA Board of Directors is a crystal clear picture of the generational change in our association's leadership. It's time for the veterans and founders of so many of our chapters and policies to adapt to and support needed changes for the FGCSA to remain viable and productive and representative of our

profession.

It's obvious by the flagging participation rates across many of our local chapters that changes are needed, so the next slate of long-range planning meetings will be critical. We cannot cling to the old model of operation anymore. We need to get creative and be willing to try new methods and organizational changes to remain relevant to our members who rank more family time high on the list of things to do.

The key to your success and our association's future is participation. Pressures are being brought to bear on green industries on water use, water quality and fertilizer and chemical use. They will only increase. The best way for us all to guarantee fair and factual representation is for everyone who makes a living in golf is to participate in our industry at the local, state and national level.

The clock is ticking. Resolve this New Year to help by being active in your profession. It counts.



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