

Environmental, privacy and tax laws put clubs on alert

BY MARK LESLIE

Private clubs nationally are facing a critical time in the next several months in areas from privacy laws to taxation, and George S. Squibb intends to be heavily involved.

Squibb, retired from the Squibb and Sons pharmaceutical company, has been elected to a two-year term as president of the National Club Association.

Joining him as officers elected at the NCA's annual meeting in June are Vice President Victor Mauck of St. David's Golf Club in Pennsylvania, Treasurer Jim Maser of Club Corp. International in Texas, and Secretary Ron Patterson of West Lake Country Club in Georgia, according to NCA Executive Director Gerard F. Hurley.

"I'll be spending a lot of time in Washington. We have some very active cases coming up in the next six months," Squibb said from his Saunterstown, R.I., home where he served 17 years as president of The Dunes Club in Narragansett and six years as commodore of the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club. "It's a very busy time for the club community and we're trying to be sure that the people who are running these clubs have a place to go to find out what they should do."

Various levels of government around the country are redefining what a "private club" is, and maintaining the private status of clubs is the highest priority for NCA, Squibb said. "If we fail in maintaining the private clubs we fail completely," he said.

"The judgments (by legislatures and community governments) have been so subjective," Squibb



George S. Squibb

said. "Our job is to advise and protect, as best we can, the privacy traditional to private clubs. In doing that, we prepare model bylaws and follow up on local legislative and legal matters all around the country... Basically the Supreme Court case in New York City gets (the privacy law) back to local regulations. The approach now is to leave these issues to the communities where the clubs are located."

Squibb said maintaining private status and keeping income up at the same time is difficult if a club can't allow nonmembers to its dining room, golf tournament or regatta.

"Somewhere in the middle there's a sensible, balanced ground," Squibb said, "and that's what we're trying to find all the time."

Clubs are facing other important issues, including environmental and tax regulations.

"One of the newest and most significant things in the immediate future is the environmental regulations, particularly applicable to golf clubs that use pesticides and herbicides, and that use underground storage," Squibb

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said. "The EPA is forming new regulations all the time. We have to protect these clubs, advise them what to do, how to use pesticides.

"Clubs have made mistakes more of noncommission than commission, not knowing what is going on. And it is our mandate to keep them informed."

Squibb, a graduate of Harvard College and the New York University School of Law, said the NCA is preparing a proposal to bring uniformity to how private clubs are taxed because there is such discrepancy from community to community.

Because of his experience with The Dunes Club and Larchmont Yacht Club, and his expertise gained as vice president for marketing and vice president for legal affairs at Squibb and Sons, Squibb was elected at just the right time, according to Hurley.

"We are confident the excellent leadership NCA has enjoyed during the past two years will continue," Hurley said, referring to Fred L. Somers Jr., Squibb's predecessor. Somers, partner in the Atlanta, Ga., law firm of Somers & Altenbach, is now a member of NCA's Executive Committee.

"Mr. Squibb brings a wealth of experience and creativity to the association and to the nation's club community," Hurley said. "He has a remarkable understanding of challenges facing private clubs, and is well prepared to deal with situations at all types of clubs."

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Jones tournament nets \$27,000 for students

A record \$27,000 was raised in the inaugural Robert Trent Jones Invitational golf tournament, held to benefit the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's university scholarship program.

Teams of club superintendents, officials and members from 15 selected golf courses in the Northeast contributed \$1,500 each to support the Jones Endowment Fund, and members of the host Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, N.J., added donations to bring the total to \$27,000. Metedeconk is Jones' latest New Jersey design.

The invitational was "a very meaningful way in which to recognize the unique relationship between the golf course architect and ... superintendent, as well as an excellent opportunity to support the development of future golf course managers and the game of golf," said GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer Stephen G. Cadenelli, who coordinated the event.

When fully capitalized the fund, established in 1987 with a substantial donation from Jones, will help pay college tuition for turfgrass management students considering careers as superintendents.

CMAA certifies seven

The Club Managers Association of America has accredited seven club managers "Certified Club Managers."

Designees are Jay Di Pietro of Boca West Country Club, Robert P. Fordham of Woodfield Country Club, Michael L. Kaplan of Boca Lago Country Club, Raymond A. Lisa of Mount Vernon Country Club, Kenneth W. Mayes of Willow Brook Country Club, Richard P. Smetana of Thunderbird Country

Club, and George J. Wolf of Riverton Country Club.

All qualified for the CCM certification by fulfilling specific requirements over a period of years of management, experience, education and association activity.

The CCM exam contains 13 subject areas, such as private club administration, managerial accounting, food and beverage operations and principles of management.

IA schedules classes

Two-day courses in Landscape Contracting/Installation, Designer Preparation, Water Management, and Landscape Irrigation System Operation Maintenance will be conducted Nov. 11 and 12 at the Anaheim (Calif.) Marriott.

The Irrigation Association is coordinating the courses, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

each day.

The 10th Annual International Irrigation Exposition and Technical Conference is being held Nov. 12-15 in Anaheim.

People interested in taking the courses should contact the IA at 1911 North Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1009, Arlington, Va. 22209; 703-524-1200.

PGA donates 63 scholarships

The PGA Scholarship Fund board of directors has chosen 63 young people to receive \$98,000 in college scholarship assistance this fall.

Recipients, chosen largely through recommendations from officials of the PGA's 41 geographical sections, are the children, grandchildren, stepchildren or adopted children of PGA members. Selection is based on high academic achievement, leadership in the community, extracurricular activities, and financial need.

Roland Saylor of Vienna, Va., was the national award winner, earning a \$5,000 scholarship. The son of Donald Saylor, head professional at River Bend Country Club in Great Falls, Va., he graduated from Paul VI High School in Fairfax, Va., and will be a freshman this year at William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Va.

The balance of the scholarship fund was distributed to section and special award winners, and each section had at least one winner.

This is the fourth year of the PGA Scholarship Program. There were 46 recipients in 1986, 52 in 1987 and 57 in 1988. A total of \$313,500 has been awarded through the program.

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