

Club Managers undergo shake-up

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Club Managers Association of America (CMAA) has undergone organizational changes as a result of a recent strategic planning process.

Those changes will include the separation of CMAA departments into two primary divisions which will both be managed by vice presidents. One division, to be headed by Dr. Bob Hassmiller, will oversee the areas of membership and chapter services, education and certification.

Vice President Kathi Pernel Driggs will oversee the other — a

new club services department, legislative and regulatory resources, executive career services, communications and marketing functions as well as allied association relations.

Hassmiller will return to CMAA after a brief leave of absence from his director of education position. He managed the development and introduction of the association's Business Management Institute program.

Driggs has served as CMAA's director of public affairs for the past six years.

CMAA taps Sweeney

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Les Sweeney has been appointed director of membership/chapter services of the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA). He replaces Steve Swafford. As Director, Sweeney will administer CMAA's membership and chapter programs, as well as student development. Sweeney had been CMAA's manager of professional development.

Medical liabilities for course owners

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themselves clinical ecologists — and who have become spokespeople for this syndrome — are regular physicians who have created this specialty, a specialty which is not recognized by any medical regulatory program.

"I see that the biggest problem for golf course owners isn't going to be from the general public, but from their employees," said Tallahassee toxicologist Dr. Bob Budinsky. "The employees who handle pesticides and herbicides could claim chemical exposure because of poor work-

place practices. And even if this employee doesn't become a patient of a clinical ecologist or even claim that they have the syndrome, they may claim that chemical exposure caused their illness under Workmen's Compensation.

"Golf course owners, who use pesticides and herbicides to maintain the course are susceptible to litigation. This is a real serious problem."

Budinsky said in an interview that, "This is an evolving area of medicine right now. Is the syndrome real? Is it not real? We don't know. As far as the clinical ecologists are concerned, we know they are physicians, usually immunologists or allergists, but their type of medicine and their treatment program is highly questionable."

He noted the treatment could include "neutralization" techniques, whereby the patient is given a small dosage of the allergen. When a patient has been exposed to a chemical, there are guidelines to determine whether or not the problem is chemically induced. However, he added, "clinical ecologists don't have these guidelines."

"Right now," Budinsky continued, "We don't see any lawsuits involving golf courses. It is more likely that the people who claim to have the syndrome would be targeting a building, claiming the 'sick building' syndrome is causing their problem."

"To the extent possible," he said, "the owner should encourage the employee who is complaining about a possible chemical exposure problem to go to an independent doctor who treats thousands of patients, rather than going to one of these clinical ecologists."

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Employers — ADA

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people who are trying to get into your facility. It also means that the disabled cannot be placed in one area and those who are not disabled in another," she continued. "Your dining facility, for instance, must be accessible to everyone."

"Some of the areas that may be covered would be ramping for wheelchairs, Braille markings on elevators, widening doorways, having lower shelves for merchandise and providing grab bars in the restrooms."

The law not only covers modifications to existing buildings, but remodelings and the construction of new buildings.

There is help for golf course owners who need more information, O'Neal said. West Virginia University has a "Job Accommodation Network" at 1-800-526-7234. The Building Owners and Management Association in Washington, D.C. has an ADA checklist and the Department of Justice also has ADA information. In Atlanta, there is the Southeast Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center, which has several helpful booklets. They can be obtained by called 1-800-949-4ADA.