

Ballot question summary: Dues authority to membership

It's Showtime!

Voting on the proposed GCSAA bylaw amendments will take place at the organization's annual meeting Feb. 7 at the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Dallas.

Each issue will appear on a separate ballot, allowing voters to make their wishes known on individual issues, without unrelated riders.

Sample ballots with exact text for each proposal were mailed in December to all voting members as part of the official Notice of Annual Meeting.

Following is a brief summary of the 15 proposed amendments:

DUES AUTHORITY

- Preserving the membership's authority to set dues for Classes AA, A, B and C, but through regular ballot procedures instead of the current voice vote. The board would set dues for other classifications.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

- Maintaining the current requirement for a two-thirds majority vote to alter qualifications and levels of privilege for membership classes AA, A, B, and C, while authorizing the board of directors to develop rules regarding qualifications and privileges for

other classes.

- Simplifying Class B and C qualifications by making all superintendents with less than three years' experience Class B members, and all assistant superintendents Class C (regardless of experience).

- Adding six new membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel currently assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications. The board would establish rules for privileges.

- Establishing a separate membership classification for club officials and golf association staff

members currently classified as Affiliate or Associate members. The board would establish rules for privileges.

- Creating a new membership class for educators and extension officers currently included in the Affiliate or Associate classifications; allowing the board to lower dues for Retired members; making Honorary membership permanent; and requiring the board to set rules regarding Affiliate member privileges.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Requiring a two-thirds majority of the board to approve any

mortgage or loan that incurs financial obligations for future boards.

- Requiring an official post-election report of voting records by chapter name, total of individual votes and total of proxy votes. The report must be printed in a GCSAA membership publication. Because of current balloting requirements, this amendment would not take effect until the 1995 annual meeting.

- Making submission of false information on any membership application or dues statement an offense punishable by discipline or expulsion. Eliminating the reinstatement provision requiring payment of all past-due amounts.

OTHER ISSUES

- Updating the organization's mission to reflect the importance of environmental awareness in golf course management.

- Changing the secretary/treasurer position from a presidential appointment to an elected office.

- Clarifying the secretary/treasurer's official duties.

- Naming the president, vice president and secretary/treasurer as trustees of the Benevolence Fund.

- Retitling the association's chief executive employee *CEO* instead of *executive director*.

Bylaw voting

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sured. Superintendent members expressed concern last year that allowing too many non-superintendents into the association could eventually dilute the superintendents' authority.

Accountability is a major issue this year. The board has sponsored an amendment requiring a two-thirds rather than simple majority of a current board to approve any mortgage that would incur a financial obligation for future boards.

The vote for a new wing on the headquarters building in Lawrence, which split the board down the middle a few years ago, was the major catalyst behind the board seeking this amendment Grigg said. Although the wing may be needed someday, it is largely unoccupied today. The two-thirds requirement would also be consistent with the two-thirds vote of members needed on major issues, he added.

Two other important amendments are on the ballot.

One would make delegates more accountable to their chapter members by requiring a printed post-election report of voting records by chapter name, total individual votes and total proxy votes.

The other would make the secretary/treasurer an elected rather than presidentially appointed position. The secretary/treasurer has traditionally been the stepping stone to the presidency two years later.



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