

Superintendents defeat new classifications, elect officers

By PETER BLAIS

DALLAS — Keep the focus on superintendents and the association moving in a new direction were the messages voters delivered at February's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's annual meeting.

Two measures that would have created new membership classifications for non-superintendents were the only proposed bylaw amendments rejected by GCSAA voters. Thirteen amendments



Gary Grigg

dealing with dues, accountability and other assorted issues were all approved. As for the election of the board of directors, Charles Passios of Hyannisport (Mass.) Club, failed in his effort to reclaim a seat on the board he served from 1990-

92. Voters a year ago turned out then-incumbents Passios and Joseph Hahn of Oak Hill Country Club in Fairport, N.Y., after the two, along with the rest of the board, endorsed placing the controversial proposed bylaw



Tommy Witt

amendments before the membership. "It was the membership's choice and I can live with that," Passios said. "I guess my ideals didn't fit in with those making the decisions."



Bruce Williams

When asked if his apparent linkage to last year's proposals

was just too much to overcome, Passios replied: "It must have been. I was able to put it in the past and look toward the positives in the future. But we seem to be attached to them for some reason."

"I'm afraid that my qualifications as an individual have been overlooked in all this. I'm not bitter. People asked me before the election if I'd still help the association if I lost. I'd be happy to. You don't give that much to something you love and then just walk away."

Heading the list of newly elected officers and directors was President Joseph Baidy of Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

Gary Grigg of Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club bested Bruce Williams of Bob O'Link GC in Highland Park, Ill., in the race for vice president.

Williams was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Incumbents Paul McGinnis of Union Hills Country Club in Sun City, Ariz., and R. Scott Woodhead of Valley View GC in Bozeman, Mont., were re-elected to the board of directors.

Tommy Witt of Bent Tree CC in Dallas was appointed to serve the remaining year of Grigg's term on the board of directors.

Rounding out the board are Immediate Past President Randy Nichols of Cherokee Golf & Country Club in Dunwoody, Ga., Dave Fearis of Blue Hills CC in Kansas City, Mo., and George Renault of Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md. All have a year remaining on their terms.

Continued on page 66

Baidy excited about presidency

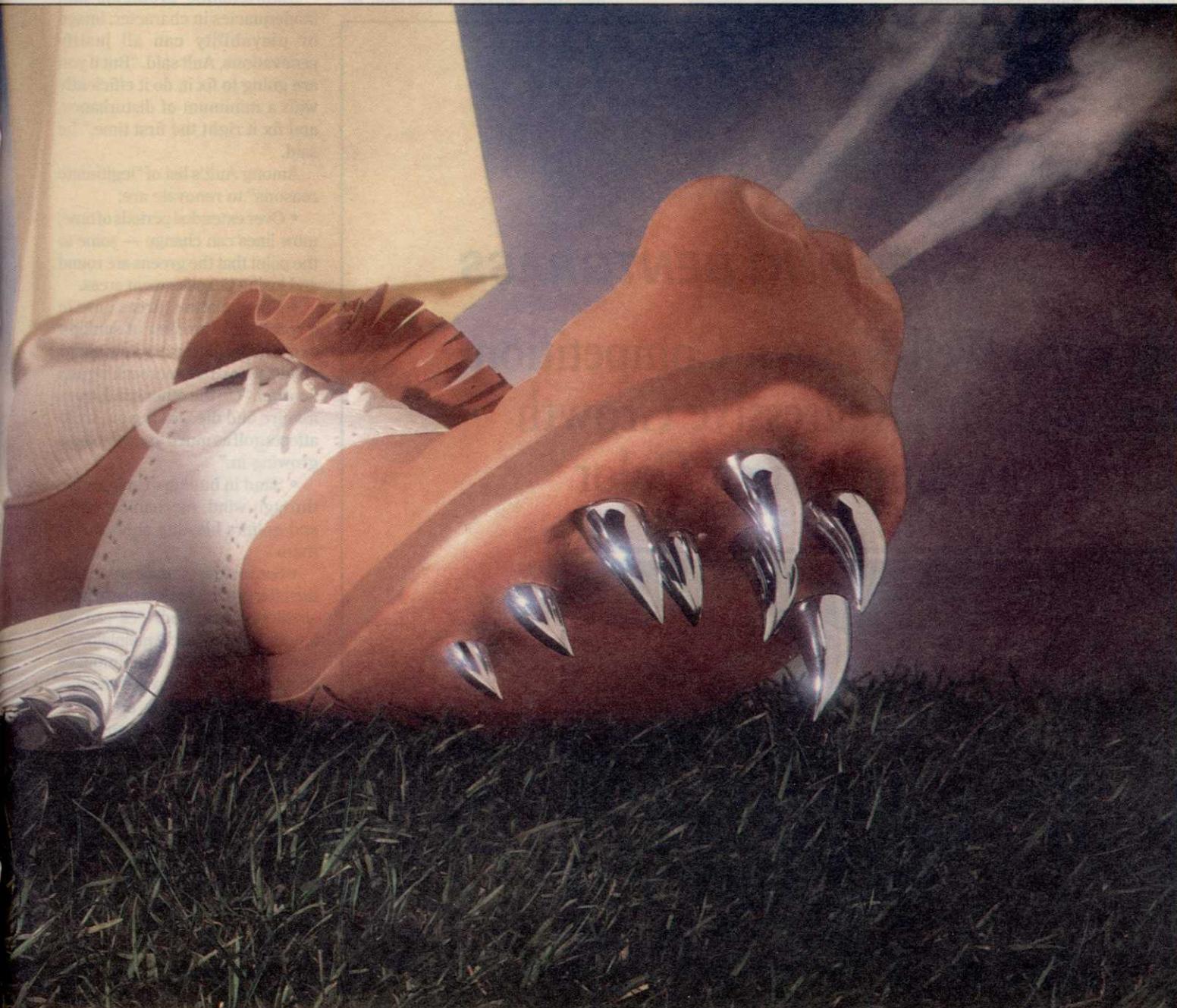
Being handed the presidency by Randy Nichols, Joseph Baidy told the annual banquet audience:



Joseph Baidy

"I am honored to receive this gavel and the responsibility that goes with it. This will be an exciting year for me, representing my peers and a great profession. I pledge to you to continue the open-communication policy set forth last year by Randy Nichols. Randy is to be congratulated for a remarkable year."

"I also pledge to continue to work to strengthen the ties between GCSAA and our allied associations. You have elected an energetic and dedicated board of directors. We have assembled an outstanding management team to work with a highly dedicated staff. Working together with you, we will meet the challenges ahead."



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GCSAA meeting, vote

Continued from page 29

"The meeting and conference went very well," Baidy said. "The membership gave us a sense of the direction they want us to take them with the bylaw vote. And I'm very pleased with the makeup of the board."

Baidy said he needed more time to discuss the defeated membership amendments with members and delegates before commenting on them.

One amendment would have added six *new* membership categories for other golf course maintenance and management personnel currently assigned to Affiliate or Associate classifications. The second would have established *separate* membership classifications for club officials and golf association staff members, also currently assigned Affiliate or Associate status.

The other bylaw amendments receiving favorable nods call for:

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

- Creating a new membership class for education and extension officers who are currently Affiliate or Associate members; allowing the board to lower dues for retired members; making honorary membership permanent; and requiring the board to set rules regarding Affiliate member privileges.

- Requiring two-thirds 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.

- Making submission of false information on membership applications or dues statements an offense punishable by discipline or expulsion.

- 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. If tradition holds, that means secretary/treasurer Bruce Williams will be the nominating committee's sole choice for vice president in 1995 and GCSAA's likely president in 1996.

- 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*.

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