

Builders meet by the Bay; banquet Feb. 25

SAN FRANCISCO — A seminar, board of directors meeting and membership conclave will serve as prelude to the year's climax, the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA) Annual Awards Banquet, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Feb. 24-25 here.

GCBA Executive Director Phil Arnold has announced — from his Chapel Hill, N.C., office — that the awards dinner will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 25 at St. Francis Hotel. That will end two days of meetings conducted during the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show.

On Feb 24, The St. Francis Hotel will be site of the GCBA board meeting at 9 a.m.;

builder members meeting at 3:30 p.m.; and private reception from 5 to 7 p.m.

At the Moscone Convention Center on Feb. 25, a general membership meeting at 11 a.m. will be followed by a 1-to-3 p.m. GCBA seminar at the GCSAA conference.

A certification meeting and interviews are scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 26.

Highlighting the awards dinner will be presentation of the Don A. Rossi Humanitarian Award to Dr. Joseph Duich, retired Penn State University professor of agronomy. Also presented during the banquet is the *Golf Course News*' Builder of the Year Award to Paul Clute of Paul Clute & Associates (see story page 71).

Record numbers expected at show

SAN FRANCISCO — Record attendance is expected when the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) holds its 66th International Conference and Show, Feb. 20-27, here at the Moscone Center.

The week will include nearly 80 educational seminars, sessions and forums; a three-day trade show, which is expected to fill 190,000 square feet of the center; and a gala banquet featuring the presentation of GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award to agronomist Dr. James Watson. Conference week opens with

the annual GCSAA Golf Championship, to be played Feb. 20-21, at five courses on the Monterey Peninsula.

Many of the educational and professional development needs of golf course superintendents will be covered in the 60 one- and two-day seminars that will be offered during the first four days of the conference, Feb. 20-24. Seminars will address issues ranging from environmental responsibility to personal stress management.

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Bylaws? What bylaws?

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lute the membership. They said they didn't want that right now.

"The board decided to step back for a year and send the membership classification issue back to the chapter relations and bylaw committees for further study. Next year we'll probably come back with several amendment proposals that might or might not include new membership classifications. We'll definitely have some dealing with chapter affiliation agreements, new Internal Revenue Service regulations for non-profit associations, and some other things we need to look at."

Despite the membership's decision not to create new membership classifications for non-superintendents, Grigg and others believe the idea still has merit. In fact, a majority (60 percent) of last year's voters were in favor of the new classifications, although that was short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

"The board wants to know what services it can provide non-superintendents," Grigg said. "If we can help irrigation technicians, spray technicians and equipment managers do their jobs better, it will help the superintendent. The board feels there must be a way to get maintenance crew members into the GCSAA loop."

Current GCSAA bylaws require all members, with the exception of students, to pay the full \$210 in annual dues. Students pay \$48 yearly. The board and its subcommittees, Grigg said, are seeking ways to develop a membership structure that would provide fewer services at lower annual dues rates for non-superintendents.

"The board realizes there are good technicians coming out of school who would like to be superintendents one day," the GCSAA officer said. "But it's hard to go to a club and ask it to pay \$210 apiece for five technicians. Maybe it would go for \$70 or \$75."

"Even the full \$210 doesn't come close to covering the costs of all the services we provide our members. Every new member costs the association money. That expense is covered by other things, like the trade show and magazine advertising."

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