

GCSAA advances on membership dues, standards fronts

By PETER BLAIS

LAWRENCE, Kan. — A dues increase, a second classification for assistant superintendents and developing membership standards were the major topics discussed at September's Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Chapter Relations meeting here.

Jim Hodge, head superintendent at Val Halla Golf Club in Cumberland, Maine, reported a consensus in favor of the three issues during the annual conclave of GCSAA chapter delegates. Following is a brief summary of the issues:

• **Dues increase** — Dues for Class A and B members have held steady at \$210 annually the past six years. "As GCSAA has offered more and more programs, the bottom line has gotten thinner and thinner," Hodge said. "Most everyone saw the need for an increase. The question was whether to bring it before the membership at next year's annual meeting in Las Vegas or to wait until the 1998 meeting in Anaheim [Calif.]. Most favored getting it done as soon as possible. We discussed a 20-percent increase, so we're talking about something like \$250 a year."

The GCSAA board of directors is scheduled to discuss a dues increase at its fall meeting in early November. The board will make a recommendation and determine whether to bring it up for a vote of the full membership in time for the 1997 or 1998 annual meeting.

• **A second assistant superintendent classification** — A new bylaw passed last year cut dues in half (\$105) for assistant superintendents (Class C), but took away their right to vote on association matters. Losing their vote upset some career assistants, Hodge said.

Many delegates at Lawrence recommended creating two classes for assistants: one class for assistants with less than three years experience who would continue to pay half dues but be unable to vote; and a second class for assistants with more than three years experience who would pay the same dues as head superintendents and be able to vote. Assistants with more than three years experience could choose which class to join.

The Membership Committee recommended a second classification in April and the chapter delegates agreed, with some modifications, at last month's meeting. The Standards and Bylaws Committee will discuss the issue at its Oct. 5 meeting and determine whether a bylaw amendment adding a second as-

sistant classification should be brought before the annual meeting.

• **Membership standards** — GCSAA has no formal standards for joining the association. "If you [this reporter] were hired tomorrow to do my job, you could join GCSAA as a Class B member," Hodge said. "We need stan-

dards, but they will take several years to develop and implement."

Hodge said possible standards discussed at the September meeting involved formal education, continuing education, professional development, examinations, service on local chapters, community service and publishing articles.

The Membership Committee was expected to begin formal discussions this fall on the matter and the board of directors is considering forming a resource committee to research and make recommendations. Delegates agreed it could take up to seven years before formal standards are brought up for a vote.

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