

Keeping super position visible Renault's challenge

By PETER BLAIS

Incoming Golf Course Superintendents Association of America President George Renault is no stranger to the members of the international organization.

The head superintendent at Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, Md., is a 20-year GCSAA member and has been a national director since 1993. He served on numerous committees and as vice president for the past year. The 49-year-old father of two will replace Paul McGinnis as the organization's leader during February's International Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif.

Renault said the biggest change he's seen since first becoming a national director five years ago is the board's increased accountability to its membership.

"We instituted the committee processes and got member input from the process," he said. "Everything we do is under scrutiny back to the members. We have an open dialogue between the national and local chapters and from the chapters down to the members."

Renault praised current President Paul McGinnis as having done "an outstanding job. His theme is that he is the bridge between the prior boards and the current board. He's not just a bridge, he's a rock, and a good solidifier. He has a good perspective and open mind. He's a good friend and a good worker, too."

Renault said the major accomplishments during the McGinnis administration have been formation of the Member Standards Resource Group; progress on environmental concerns; and enhancement of the headquarters staff and business activities.

The incoming president said his biggest challenge will be keeping the superintendent's profession as visible as it has become in recent years. "The more we get involved, the more we are in demand to perform additional duties," he said. "That's not a burden, it's just an additional challenge we have to meet."

Renault has traveled extensively as vice president, meeting with fellow superintendents and leaders of other golf industry organizations. "The allied associations enjoy seeing our involvement at these other functions," he noted. "I am amazed at the type of respect the GCSAA receives as a whole. Our message is getting out there and we are making inroads. I've noticed a big difference in the past four years. It's a combination of a lot of things, but in particular how we do business."

According to Renault, GCSAA required all its local and state chapters to meet certain criteria and sign reaffiliation agreements

by Dec. 31, 1997, or lose their affiliation with the national organization. Only eight chapters that were expected to remain in the fold had not completed their paperwork as of mid-November, he explained. Renault said all should either have their reaffiliation approved by the Dec. 31 deadline or would become

international chapters.

Renault said the organization will have lost 13 chapters, down from 113 to an even 100, resulting from the reaffiliation process. Most were turfgrass or international associations that don't have the correct board of director composition [enough certified superintendents], he said.

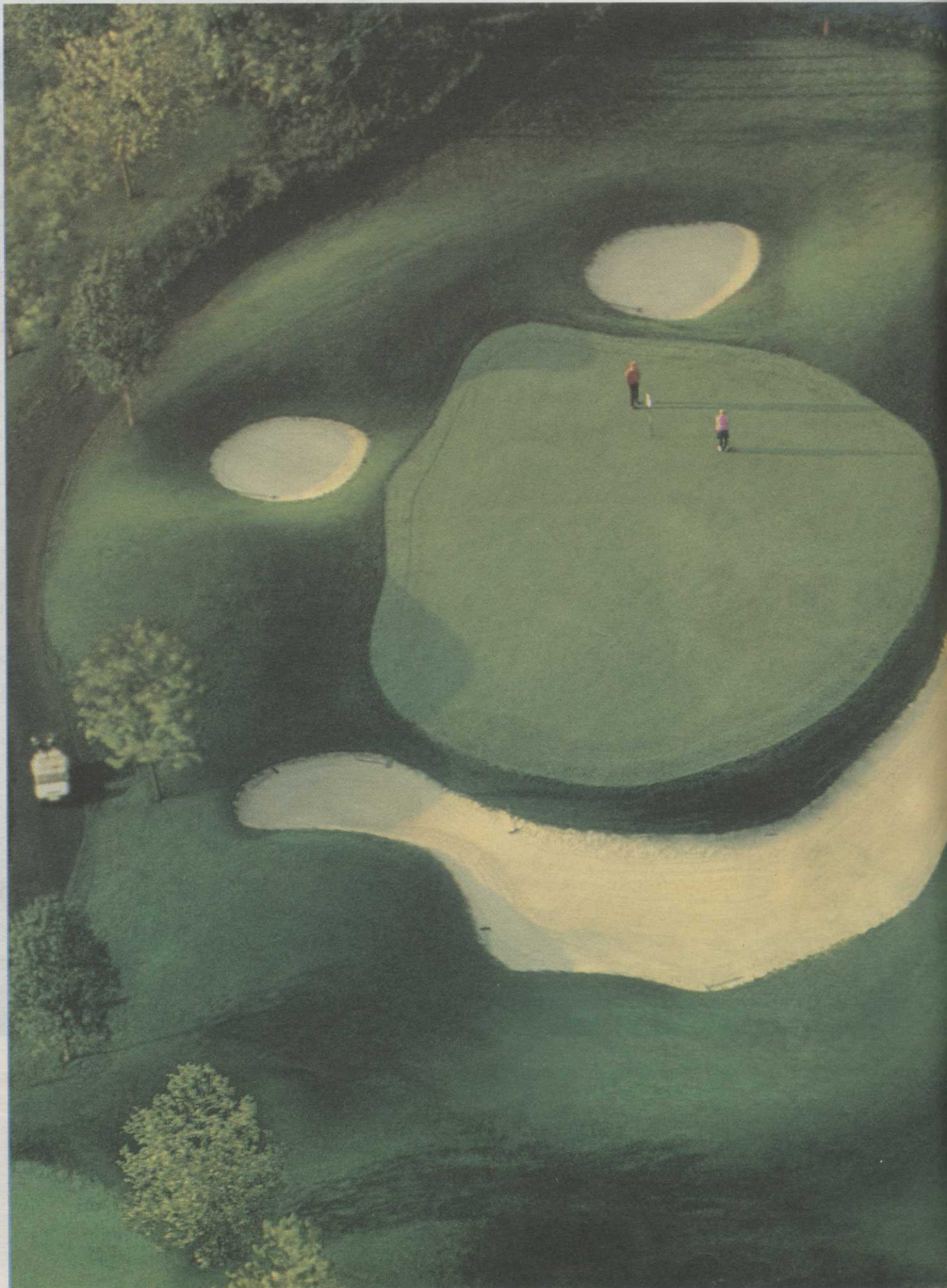
Those superintendents who were members of chapters that lost their GCSAA affiliation were likely also members of an association that is still affiliated with GCSAA, or should have access to one that remains affiliated, Renault added.

"We want to continue to grow," Renault said in reference to his upcoming year in office. "The hard decisions will be deciding

what programs to abandon. As you grow, if you want to continue offering new programs you have to abandon those that aren't successful, or aren't viewed as successful, or aren't up to current times."

Asked about balancing the responsibilities of being GCSAA president with obligations to his home club and family, Renault

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1946	Cleveland GCSA	1972	Midwest Assoc. GCS	1985	Carolinas GCSA (Beach Bums)
1948	Cleveland GCSA	1973	Connecticut Ass. GCS	1986	Rocky Mountain GCSA#1
1949	Cleveland GCSA	1974	Connecticut Ass. GCS	1987	Carolinas GCSA
1950	Cleveland GCSA	1975	Michigan&Border GCS	1988	Carolinas GCSA#1
1951	Cleveland GCSA	1976	Midwest Ass. of GCS	1989	Midwest Ass. of GCS#1
1952	Central Ohio GCSA	1977	Michigan&Border GCS	1990	Carolinas GCSA#1
1960	Michigan&Border GCS	1978	Old Dominion GCSA	1991	Carolinas GCSA
1962	Philadelphia Ass. GCS	1979	Iowa GCSA	1992	Georgia GCSA#1
1963	Michigan&Border GCS	1980	Florida West Coast	1993	California GCSA #1
1968	Heart of America GCS	1981	Florida GCSA	1994	Georgia GCSA#1
1969	Michigan&Border GCS	1982	Florida GCSA	1995	Carolinas GCSA (A)
1970	Southern California	1983	Carolinas GCSA#3	1996	Florida GCSA#1
1971	Southern California	1984	Carolinas (Beach B)	1997	Carolinas GCSA (A)



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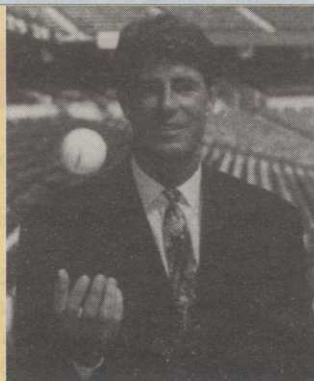
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GCSAA tourney

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(course rating 72.1, slope 130)
The 6,634-yard, par-70 Ocean South course features tumbling fairways dotted with stands of pines and acres of California scrub. A few of the hole names suggest what you face here: "Sudden Drop," "Sidewinder," "Canyon," "On the Rocks."

— **Oak Creek Golf Club** (host superintendent, Ken Coffman/ course rating 71.9, slope 127). The third Tom Fazio design in this year's tourney, Oak Creek is a 6,834-yard, par-71 course with soft, smooth sloping and subtle elevation changes set amidst towering eucalyptus trees and mountain ranges. Flatter than the Pelican Hill courses — and about 10 miles inland — Oak Creek offers generous fairways, challenging bunkers and greens complexes that put a premium on good second (or maybe third) shots.

— **Tustin Ranch Golf Club** (host superintendent Steve Plummer/ course rating 72.4, slope 129). Recently named the best-maintained public course in Orange County by the *Orange County Register*, Tustin Ranch is par-72, 6,736-yard Ted Robinson design with plentiful wildlife including bluebirds, coyotes, mallard ducks and Egyptian geese. Not a lot of nerve-shattering shots required here, but there is an island-style par-3.

Renault

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responded: "I got reaffirmation from the club members that yes they have concerns, but yes I have their blessing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. That's nice, but at the same time, the guys are paying your salary and you've got to serve them first... And then when you get home it's tough to balance between work and home.

"I wouldn't do it [be on the GCSAA board] unless I enjoyed it. It's fantastic. I like being there with a finger on the pulse."