

## LAST MINUTE INTEREST? NO WAY!

A perfectly legitimate question to ask about Bill Roberts and his candidacy might be, "Does he have a long standing interest in the GCSAA?" We can, of course, answer with a resounding "yes." Evidence of that is amply demonstrated by the following article, reprinted from the June 1977 issue of the GRASSROOTS.

### GCSAA — THE WAY I SEE IT

By Bill Roberts

Golf Course Superintendent  
Stevens Point Country Club

At the risk of implying "that tired worn out question, What is the National going to do for me?", I would like to take this opportunity to question some of the motives and/or directions of GCSAA. A "tired" and "worn out" question, indeed, for those who are not active members of GCSAA. However, this very primary and necessary inquiry should be asked by all those associated with the National.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is a worthwhile organization dedicated to the production and maintenance of fine golf turf. Time, effort and money supplied by GCSAA Members have made it possible to produce playing conditions never imagined attainable 50 years ago. I am proud to be associated with GCSAA and urge all members of the Wisconsin GCSA to consider becoming allied with the National.

However, I wonder if we are not sacrificing education for this somewhat vague attribute called "professionalism." It seems to me that ability begets professional image and not vice-versa. I find it somewhat incredible that in 1976 the conference proceedings from Minneapolis were not made available to the membership. Granted, in 1977, the Portland proceedings were published but only after much commotion and payment of a \$3.00 charge. Granted, again, the 1978 proceedings will be made available without charge to those who request the publication. This comes only after two years of discussion. For two years I re-

ceived a steady supply of "Recruit a Member" cards, ads for business cards and blazers through GCSAA and other assorted trivia. In this instance, did education take precedence over "professionalism"?

Another area which leaves me somewhat bewildered is that of Certification. Without implying any value judgement about those who have become certified, I must take exception with the claim that "by becoming certified," a superintendent, "has proven to himself, and his peers and the golf world, that he has achieved a specified level of excellence, required of his profession."

To assert that an arbitrary number of years in our business and successful completion of a written examination is evidence of excellence is somewhat hard for me to accept. When the requirements for certification require more than a certain degree of longevity and memorization of a study manual, then CGCS will become indicative of proficiency.

At the national level there is a mounting, and apparently to be sustained, membership drive. While I do not agree with some who call for mandatory certifica-

tion and/or some sort of Degree for entrance into our Association, it seems that by striving for quantity we may be sacrificing quality. To paraphrase and agree with Dan Quast (Grass Roots, March, 1977) I do not want my dues channeled into programs and activities for the sake of accommodating "fair weather golf course superintendents."

It would seem that money spent for membership promotional materials could be better invested, if say, a copy of the Conference Proceedings were sent to prospective members. By proving the benefits of GCSAA Educational Programs, it may seem more worthwhile to the prospective member, interested in producing quality conditions at his course, to join our ranks. I doubt if a term life insurance policy or GCSAA blazers or business cards have much selling power.

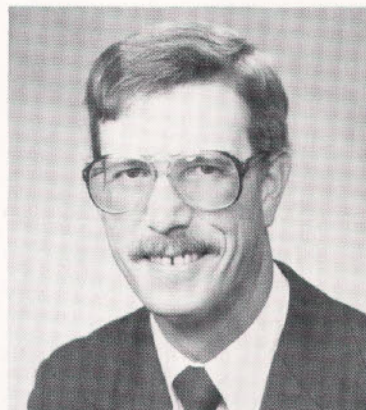
In conclusion, let me say once again that GCSAA is a very worthwhile venture for anyone concerned with producing quality golf turf. However, without constant and constructive criticism by the National Membership our goal of a "professional" image by way of EDUCATION will not be realized.

## I'd Like You To Get To Know Bill Roberts...

If you have GCSAA friends that are members of other local chapters, please introduce them to Bill Roberts and his candidacy for GCSAA Director. You can do it by letter, through a telephone call or by sending a copy of this issue of the GRASSROOTS. Then pass his name on to one of the members of the campaign committee for follow up.

*"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."*

—Theodore Roosevelt



Candidate Bill Roberts

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