



## President's Message

# MANY THANKS



By  
Bill Roberts

"The people in your Association came in here and conducted themselves appropriately, like professionals. They've worked hard and it's paying off." I heard those words, or words to that effect, over and over, from countless Superintendents from around the country, during numerous conversations I engaged in at the recent GCSAA 57th International Golf Course Conference and Show. I heard those words and I couldn't help feeling proud.

The letter writing, the telephone conversations, the hospitality rooms, the time spent at the printer, the hand shaking and all the other activities that go along with participation in GCSAA's election process have culminated in success. I've reflected on all that effort and time spent and I am appreciative to those who accomplished that myriad of tasks that is essential.

More importantly, however, I've been allowed the opportunity to participate in the pursuit of a goal that has solidified what were some very strong friendships to begin with. I've worked with some individuals who shared my disappointment in 1985, buckled up and came back in 1986. That I wouldn't trade for anything.

Space limitations won't allow for individual mention of all those involved. Be assured that I am appreciative to the entire membership of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association for

support and encouragement over the past two years. I am compelled, however, to mention, in a way I feel is somehow inadequate, those who have had the greatest direct impact on me and the realization of a dream I've had ever since I got into the "business" fourteen years ago. That is, participating in GCSAA as a member of the Board of Directors.

My thanks to Jeff Bottensek, my neighbor, who "insisted" I be introduced to the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association eleven years ago and who has quietly urged me to pursue this goal ever since. And who really got me going four years ago when, during the course of a conversation in a local Atlanta establishment, he asked, "So how are we going to get you elected to the Board?"

My thanks to Dale Marach, another neighbor, who has been supportive of this effort from the beginning and who proved to be an excellent "sounding board" during shared rides to WGCSA meetings.

My thanks to Wayne Otto and Danny Quast for quiet, unpretentious support and consistent "legwork" when they could have been doing something, somewhere else.

My thanks to Randy Smith and Pat Norton who went about the business of "handling" things and did so with a "top-shelf, no-nonsense" approach. Arrangements were made and details attended to and now everyone knows that Wisconsin, and they, are a tough act to follow.

My thanks to Roger Bell who continually "plays the devil's advocate" and makes me galvanize my opinions into valid, consistent beliefs and who has pushed me to articulate those beliefs without a lot of rhetorical "prattle." Good friends don't always agree or tell you what you want to hear but they do insist you think beyond yourself. . in spite of yourself.

My thanks to Monroe Miller for the "air of confidence" that said since 1985 didn't work out, 1986, without a doubt, would. Through the anxiety of two campaigns, he projected a sense of assurance and stability that implied it was, quite simply, a matter of taking care of business and success would follow. That has also been his approach as President of WGCSA and we have all benefit-

ted.

My thanks to Rod Johnson. What can I say? A candidate and a delegate become inseparable through this process and I have had the benefit of the very best in Rod Johnson. His ability to approach other Superintendents and delegates in a candid, effective manner has been amazing to watch and be a part of. A delegate works harder than any candidate and Rod has worked harder than that. Through phone calls back and forth (everyday and sometimes two, even three times a day), through my constant badgering about "How are we doing?", through counting votes, through "proofing" speeches and election brochures, through phone calls to others, through all the correspondence, he was there and he did it with a sense of purpose, a sense of integrity and a sense of humor and for that he has my gratitude and respect. He's a player. Another player is Janell Johnson, who didn't see much of her husband at the last two conferences, took it in stride and redefined "class." Thanks, Janell.

Finally, special thanks to my wife, Pat, for "hanging in there" this year, last year and the years before that. Missed dinners, taking the kids by herself to where they had to be, listening to "politics" and reading speeches and everything else are all part of it and she did it. It's easy for me to get into something and pay less attention than I should. It is, quite simply, good to know I can count on a partner though it all who gives me the true perspective I need.

The next two years will be busy. We have a solid organization in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. We are a progressive, professional organization built by concerned, dedicated and conscientious members who take a great deal of pride in what they do. I have never seen a group that is so involved and so directed to making a contribution. I am grateful for and proud of the chance to participate as a member of GCSAA's Board of Directors and I'm grateful and proud that the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association helped give me such an opportunity.

You are the best and 1986 will be our best.