

WGCSA "March Business Meeting"

Nearly 60 members of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association assembled at the Traveler's Inn in Fond du Lac on March 17th for the traditional "March Business Meeting." This annual meeting has continued to gain in attendance and interest as the magnitude of business conducted has grown. Items of particular importance acted on by and communicated to the association's membership reaffirmed WGCSA's role as a progressive leader in the Wisconsin golf industry.

Primary was WGCSA's continuing contribution to golf turf research. The \$2,500.00 WGCSA donation to the O.J. Noer Research Foundation, gratefully acknowledged by Foundation Secretary-Treasurer Robert J. Welch, was enhanced by two equally significant contributions. On approval by

the membership, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association will assist the Golf Course Superintendents Association with a \$500.00 donation. Further, WGCSA support to the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association will equal \$5,000.00, allowing the association to maintain its example as the WTA's largest single contributor. Graciously acknowledging WGCSA's role in Wisconsin's rapidly expanding turfgrass research program was WTA President Tom Harrison.

Two significant By-Law changes, endorsed by the WGCSA members in attendance, will allow for increased participation by interested individuals in association affairs. A new, expanded "Class D, Associate Member" rule will incorporate those, who in an active capacity, contribute to our game, such as club officials and golf course owners. The "Class F, Student Member" By-Law will continue to provide that initial step to

the industry through professional association to students at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. However, this investment in the future has now been expanded to include those striving for academic excellence at other institutions as long as they are employed by a WGCSA member.

WGCSA programs and procedures were also addressed at the "March Business Meeting." Included in Officer and Director reports were communications regarding items such as:

- a.) a renewed WGCSA membership recruitment effort in 1986,
- b.) a financially sound association dealing with over \$14,000.00 annually,
- c.) a simplified, straight-forward procedure for handling monthly meeting arrangements including a pre-payment procedure and an "established handicap" policy,
- d.) a report detailing future plans for the already eminently successful association publication, "THE GRASSROOTS,"
- e.) an impressive listing of educational opportunities for professional growth in 1986,
- f.) tentative plans for another successful WGCSA "Social Weekend" in October at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids.

Finally, and appropriately, the March meeting was an opportunity to recognize those WGCSA members who have served the association. Les Verhalen was cited as a "50 Year" member of WGCSA. Irv Graf and Mike Lees were applauded for 25 year tenures in the association. Past President Monroe S. Miller, upon accepting his plaque commemorating his years of leadership, spoke of the privilege of serving in such a position. Rod Johnson, recipient of a WGCSA "Special Service Award" was eloquent in his thanks for such recognition.

Participation, communication and a heightened sense of interest — hallmarks of a growing association — could describe the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association "March Business Meeting." If the meeting was any sort of indicator of what to expect in 1986, Wisconsin golf is in for yet another extremely successful year.

"THE GRASSROOTS" RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY BY NGF

For the second time in only two months, the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association's official publication has been recognized on the national level. "THE GRASSROOTS," in competition with more than "130 entries from the United States and Australia," has been named recipient of the National Golf Foundation's prestigious Harry C. Eckhoff Award. The award, named for long-time NGF Director of Golf Development, Harry C. Eckhoff, recognizes "excellence in golf journalism."

According to National Golf Foundation Director of Communications Bill Jasso, "local and regional golfing publications" are "demonstrating a significant growth in their professionalism and spirit for the game." In announcing the award for the Professional Association Magazine category, "THE GRASSROOTS"

has, once again, been validated as a leading source of information in the golf industry.

WGCSA President William R. Roberts, in response to the NGF announcement, elaborated that "I believe the award to be another reflection of the professional attitude of Golf Course Superintendents in Wisconsin. "THE GRASSROOTS" Editor Monroe S. Miller, assisted by Rodney C. Johnson and Mike Semler, deserve our thanks for an effort that has resulted in a publication that is timely, informative and imaginative. Superintendents across the state have come to expect such an approach and it is gratifying for those efforts to be singled out as truly noteworthy in our profession. The Harry C. Eckhoff Award is substantial recognition for our Editor, our publication and our Association."