



THE VALUE OF BELONGING

By Roger Bell



Membership has its privileges as American Express tells us—and the same is true for W.G.C.S.A. About a hundred members exercised their privileges by attending our recent educational session and annual spring meeting in Fond du lac. As our membership increases, it becomes more cost effective to put on such educational programs. Thanks to Mike Semler, Educational Chairman, for arranging our recent session and to speakers Wayne Otto, Jerry Kershasky, Dr.

Wayne Kussow, and Marc Davidson for holding our attention so well.

The business saw some noteworthy motions pass. For example:

- First class mailing costs for the *Grass Roots* will be paid out of general revenues and future profits from the *Grass Roots* will be directed to the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research.
- With our \$500 donation, we will continue to support G.C.S.A.A. Scholarship and Research. The major thrust of our research donations will be directed toward the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research. Our Noer Center pledge for the next three years totals \$20,000. An additional \$3,000 will be donated to the O.J. Noer Foundation which will in turn donate that money to the O.J. Noer Center for Turfgrass Research. It was especially gratifying to see the motions supporting our research contributions pass unanimously—our membership is serious in its commitment to research. (Remember to make your PERSONAL pledge to the O.J. Noer Center and to encourage your club to do likewise.)

- Class E members' dues will be frozen for this year and their dues structure will be re-evaluated for a possible By-laws change next year. Our E members are important—they come through for the Association with door prizes, hospitality rooms, advertisements and much more—things that we couldn't have without them. We should all give them serious consideration when making purchases for our courses and treat them as "Exceptional" members, not "Excluded" members.
- The By-Laws were changed to designate the three most recent past presidents as the nominating committee, the most recent past president serving as chairman.

I hope that you were able to attend the spring annual meeting (and that you will be able to attend all of the other planned outings for this year). The Directors and Officers provide the leadership for the WGCSA but the ultimate decisions for what the WGCSA becomes and what the WGCSA does lie with the membership at large. Thanks for your opinions and your decisions. Membership does have its responsibilities, too.

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