



SIGNS OF YOUTH

By Monroe S. Miller

The WGCSA held a directors' meeting in February at the NOER Research Facility. I attended the beginning of the meeting to report on the GRASS ROOTS and some plans we have to implement in 1992.

All members should feel good about the group we have elected to represent us in association matters. They seem serious about their responsibilities and sincere in how they are executing their duties. It helps, too, that they are all good golf course managers.

It is impossible for me to disguise my pride in the fact that four of them worked at Blackhawk Country Club at one time or another while students at the University of Wisconsin.

One other thing impressed me about this group—their youthfulness. When they come to the board table, they bring with them all of those things youth brings—enthusiasm, ambition and exuberance. They are optimistic and aggressive and intelligent.

It was painfully obvious, however, at the March business meeting that they are also very inexperienced.

That meeting probably went a long way in maturing them as a cohesive group. I'll bet nary a one of them wants to suffer through such a long meeting again.

Several of us who are past directors and officers were talking about it later. Here's a summary of that conversation. Read this: THESE ARE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS, NOT PERSONAL CRITICISMS.

1. Not every little suggestion made by a member has to be put before the entire membership. We have a board and officers to deal with such matters and dispense with those that have no merit.
2. The committees need to do a much better job. Some were totally unprepared for the meeting and it showed. The chair reports must be brief, to the point and contain specific proposals for the membership to deal with.

3. Issue discussions deteriorated into conversations and debates. Most should have taken place over a beer after the meeting.
4. Since many of the proposals involved money, why not have a budget presentation with income projections? Motions to spend money were flying around so fast it was hard to keep track of them! This is not a very good way to do business.
5. Although we cannot live in the past, I do feel some sense of previous policies and practices and traditions should be factored into the board's decision making process. A look back will provide a lot of sound and sensible direction.

Finally, there is some concern about the timing of the spring and fall business meetings. The spring meeting was very well attended this year. But when it conflicts with opening day preparations,

attendance suffers. Opening day will win every time.

Attendance at the fall meeting can conflict with the weather and final preparations for winter. Last fall was a good example. During the meeting, nearly all of the WGCSA members were at work purging irrigations systems or applying snowmold materials. Poor attendance was the result.

Frankly, I am at a loss for a suggestion or solution for the timing of these important meetings. But some thought needs to be given to some other options.

No doubt that Bruce, Mike, Tom, Mark, Pat, Bill, Mike and Scott noticed the same things the "old guys" did. It is going to be interesting to see how the fall meeting compares with the spring meeting past.

It is a certain bet that Pat Norton doesn't want another sixteen hour marathon!

"If there is any truth to the old saying
'April showers bring May flowers',
then we are going to have
a very colorful month of May."

A Frustrated Wisconsin golf course superintendent.
— April 24, 1992



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