



## “OUR ASSOCIATION”

By Michael Semler



My wife and I were recently blessed with the birth our first child. Holding him in my arms, I will always be amazed at the enormous sense of responsibility I feel toward him. I am sure this is due in part to the fact that he is our first child and there is a certain amount of nervousness and uncertainty surrounding his arrival. More likely, however, it is probably due to an expression of our hopes, dreams and aspirations we have for him and his future.

When I was first elected to the WGCSA Board of Directors in 1987, I had many of these same feelings about our Association. Now that I am the president, those feelings—nervousness, hopes, dreams and aspirations—come back even stronger. Fortunately, I feel our Association membership is strong, has a solid board of

directors, and has such a great rapport within its membership that being president is made an easier task.

I think it is important to understand why I keep using the term “our association”. Because this is exactly what it is, Our Association! As president, and as elected board members, we try to make decisions using our best judgment and background information. We utilize our hopes, dreams, aspirations and some nervousness to formulate policies and decisions that affect the membership and this organization.

More often than not, our decisions will be the best ones we can make. Sometimes maybe not! There is, however, one element in our decision-making process that cannot be left out. That element is having a good rapport among our members. For as hard as we try as a board of directors, if we

don't understand what you like and dislike, what you want and don't want, we will not be considered a successful board of directors, nor a successful association.

I relate this back to my newborn son who has a certain, although limited, ability to communicate with his parents. His smile while in our arms brings a playful and joyous response from us. But a cry at 2 a.m. brings a weary parent to his side for some tender nurturing. For our Association to be successful, the board needs to know how the members feel. Now I am not advocating a 2 a.m. call to a board member to discuss WGCSA policies, but keeping lines of communication open between all members will go a long way towards making our Association successful for everyone. 🙏

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