

WISCONSIN CHAPTER GCSAA DELEGATE NOTES

By Mark Kienert

As chapter delegate to the GCSAA, it is my duty to keep Wisconsin GCSA members of the GCSAA apprised and up to date on all activities of the national organization as they relate to our state chapter.

On January 24, 1994, some interested members of the GCSAA met in Fond du Lac at the South Hills Country Club to discuss pending by-law changes and other related proposals. All changes to the by-laws will be voted on during the annual meeting of the GCSAA in Dallas during the Jan. 31 through Feb. 7, 1994 period.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 15 proposed changes to the by-laws and articles of incorporation, and to hear any membership endorsements on candidates currently seeking office. Time at the end of the program was set aside to discuss the current state of affairs of the GCSAA. This segment served to generate valuable questions to pose to present and potential board members.

A synopsis of the 15 proposed by-laws was discussed with time being spent on those issues that generated the most debate. Changes to the various membership classifications and the potential creation of additional non-voting classifications within the organization was a cause for concern for most in attendance. Concern here was over the dilution additional non-superintendent members would have on the organization comprised of superintendents. The debate wasn't so much over GCSAA's desire to train golf course staff employees (which was encouraged if this investment in education could be made cost effective, as it was seen as a benefit to the member superintendent) but over the question of the association's intent to inflate membership numbers and dues income as it comes time to negotiate future conference show sites or bargaining powers that affect the turf-grass industry on Capitol Hill.

Of great concern was the GCSAA's ability to adopt standing rules as they affect the proposed membership categories. The question of what and how those rules would read and how often those rules could be bent or changed concerned many. The desire was to

see what and how those standing rules would read, before any vote for their inclusion into the appropriate section of the by-laws was made. For now, until the wording of the proposed standing rules is made public, those questions will be voted in the negative by this chapter. Clarification as to the nature and intent of the board's position on standing rules will be sought.

The by-laws change that would give the voting delegate the right to cast his chapter's votes on the question concerning the dues increases for all Class AA, A, B and C members was defeated in caucus. The opinion here was that gave too much influence once again to the perennial large chapters. It was the consensus of opinion that the present voice vote as conducted by the membership present on the floor during the annual meeting was adequate for now and should be used until a more formal voting procedure is enacted.

The caucus reaffirmed the Wisconsin GCSA position that the votes of individual chapters be published in "Newslines" as a means of keeping delegates honest and voting records out in the open. The issue of two-thirds majority vote requirement of the board was viewed as no big change—a meager increase of one vote. However, it would lend a measure of security.

By making the secretary's position an elected position, the members of GCSAA will have a hand in setting the association's destiny by electing its future president. Currently, the president appoints the secretary and, in a way, his successor two years hence.

Candidate resumes were reviewed and their qualifications were discussed. Voting for the various candidates was left in the hands of the chapter delegate. It was the opinion of the caucus that no decision should be made until candidates had a chance to express their course of action. The Wisconsin chapter delegate was instructed to cast the association vote in the best interest of the WGCSA.

As a chapter delegate, I would like to thank those who helped make this event a success—Schaller for the meeting site, Johnson and Witt for their insight on specific items. I appre-

ciated the opinions expressed by Carl Grassl, Dave Murgatroyd, Jeff Bottensek, Kris Pinkerton, Dave Brandenburg, Bruce Worzella, Steve Schmidt and William Knight.

Once the meeting in Dallas is completed, I'll let you know how it all turned out. 🍷

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