



# Where Do We Go From Here?

By Mike Semler



I was relaxing at home the other weekend, when a thought occurred to me about my tenure with the WGCSA; it related to the fact that it was coming to an end. It seems like there are still so many items that I want to accomplish, but, now they will have to be added to someone else's agenda, if added at all. Such is the nature of democracy.

If I made a list of all the things that I wanted to get done between now and the end of the year, it would be insurmountable. Likewise, I understand that group accomplishments are not all realized by one individual, and this certainly has been the case of our association. There has always been a group of members who did what needed to be done to make us what we are today.

Since this will be the second to last time the members will have to read these messages, I just wanted to impart some thoughts I felt were important to me and to the WGCSA members.

The first of these is to stand up for what you believe. This always sounds simple; however, in reality it is often more difficult to stand firm, express your opinions and quite possibly face the cruel scrutiny of others. I have always believed that more respect can be earned of one's peers if true thoughts and feelings are expressed, no matter how unpopular they may be. I have always tried to let my feelings be known, even though they may not have agreed with some of the ideas expressed by my fellow members. In the end, however, I always had a great respect for those individuals and hopefully they felt the same way about me.

And speaking of ideas, I still feel the WGCSA should concentrate more of its efforts on education and less on the social aspects, even though socializing is a part of what the

WGCSA is about. In fact, now that I think of it, I should have proposed that for every hour spent "educating" ourselves on the golf course we should have an equal amount of time in the classroom. I doubt whether this idea would pass through the members, but it does lead me into my second and third thoughts.

My second thought is to be relentless. Winston Churchill related this virtue to the British parliament on the eve of the outbreak of World War II and now I relate it to you in a form for golf course superintendents. We must be relentless in our goal to be professionals. We must be relentless in our goal to be recognized by the golfing community as professionals. And finally, we must be relentless in our drive to serve the golf community as best we can. We must never give up and never back down.

And finally, all members must all be ACTIVE members. In my opinion, active members come to more than one meeting of this Association a

year. Summer golf outings do not count toward being an active member. Active members are involved in the proposals and exchange of ideas that will make this association work. Active members are more concerned about issues that affect the association, and not where their next game of golf is going to be. You do not have to be a board member to be an active member. Sometimes all it takes to be an active member is writing an article for the GRASS ROOTS, calling a board member with your ideas or, simply showing up at meetings and expressing concerns or opinions. It really does not take much to be an active member, but it will make this association so much stronger and so much better.

In the end, I have always believed that this association is a great one because of the multitude of members who are actively involved and who are willing to be relentless in their involvement. Hopefully in the years to come, the same can be said of all the members of the WGCSA. 🌿

