

CHAPTER DELEGATES DIGEST

By Mark Kienert

It was my honor to represent the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association at the recent convention of delegates from across the country held in Lawrence, Kansas, September 5-7, 1997. This was my fifth trip in as many years and each one has been privilege to attend and to be a vocal part of.

This year's convention highlighted presentations from various GCSAA staff members explaining their department's goals and objective. Candidates running for office were introduced to the general assembly.

In a budgetary setback for the WGCSA, the seminar rebate program was eliminated in one fell swoop. This program has been cropped and reinstated over the years. If you look at our financial report, you will notice that our chapter received a rebate of nearly four thousand dollars. This money, earned by our education committee, is pumped back into our chapter providing us with the means to hire someone, lets say, from out of state to address our educational offerings like we did at our monthly meeting held at Christmas Mountain in the Dells.

The show of hands was so unanimous that a negative show of hands was never asked for, of which mine, quite certainly, would have been one. Deja vu. For your information, regional seminars lose \$200,000 per year. By eliminating the rebate program, the deficit was reduced by only \$50,000, leaving us with a \$150,000 deficit. This has the same effect as suturing one inch of stitches in a four inch wound.

The problem lies in regional seminar program, WHICH I WOULD HATE TO SEE ELIMINATED. Or, most truthfully, in the size of the budget allocated to the educational department. I'm disappointed that a little more of the recently enacted dues increase wasn't directed toward maintaining the educational offerings. I addressed this fundamental budgetary problem of the educational department with Julian Arredondo,

CFO. Like Julian told the delegates, maybe it's time to "stick a fork in it" and eliminate some of the programs that lose money for the association.

Major news at this years convention has to be the future implementation of membership standards and how they will affect the chapters and association. Bruce Williams led a group discussion through a proposed time line. A membership standards resource group (now a committee with official standing) has been formed to digest all the inputs and to structure the implementation of those membership standards.

As a side note, I got a kick out of the presentation as GCSAA hired a high profile consulting group to assist and lead in the developmental process. Some of the presentation went like this. High Profile Consultant says: "Well, during the afternoon the group discussed..... Ah, Bruce, why don't you inform the delegates of our progress of that afternoon." To which Bruce would reply by spending the next twenty minutes explaining the course of that afternoon. This went on time after time. If Bruce didn't get a paycheck from that consultant after the day, he should have because he

performed 99% of the membership standards presentation.

One very obvious hurdle to overcome will be the two vs. four year college debate. This issue has already bruised the egos of some university professors on both sides of the fence, not to say anything about golf course superintendents in possessing those types of degrees respectively. During the question and answer, and there wasn't much due to the fact that most of the presentation was based on speculation, I asked the resource group (committee) to consider "grandfathering" NO ONE this time around. This was one common complaint I heard in the dual membership debate and subsequent backlash.

It appears that GCSAA is taking a slow conservative approach in the planning process with the earliest implementation of standards in any form coming no sooner than the year 2002. This will allow as many members who wish to have their voice and input heard. If you have any suggestions, concerns, please address them to the Membership Standards Committee. Stay tuned to Newsline for future committee reports. 🌱

How to Keep Things From Turning Ugly.

From nutsedge to nightshade, fire ants to fungi, nobody works harder to protect your turf and ornamentals than Ciba-Geigy.

For All Your Turf and Ornamentals Needs See...

Tim Klein • CIBA-GEIGY CORP.
311 Pendryn Hill Curve
Woodbury, MN 55125



CIBA-GEIGY

1-612-702-0701 Bus. • 1-602-702-9205 Fax