

1998 Chapter Delegates Report

By Mark Kienert

The 1998 chapter delegates meeting recap should be short and sweet this time as it was devoid of any controversial issues that highlighted our meetings in past years. The most controversial issue, future membership standards, is now in report form now that the public relations study is complete and will be forwarded to the Membership Standards Resource Group for review and analysis. The GCSAA board at its fall board meeting will also review the report. The board is taking the slow and careful route this time as all potential standards thread their way through everything the association is about. This issue should be the highlight of next year's chapter delegates meeting. What is?

The majority of this year's meeting was spent highlighting the progress of various initiatives. New wording will be found in the affiliation agreement whose term is due to expire at year's end in 1999. "Grass Roots" editor Monroe Miller should be pleased to note that his presence has been felt and that the word "impugn" has been deleted from the text of new affiliation agreement. It is now Y2K compliant.

You and your chapter will be asked to support the First Tee Program by contributing used tee and green supplies to this cause. Flag poles, benches, trash baskets and other items will be solicited. It is of interest to note that GCSAA was asked to speak at this year's media day, which will be held at the World Golf Village later this year. GCSAA was deemed to be an integral part of this event. Only the five major contributors were asked to speak and we were the sixth. It seems that our message is getting out and that we are finally coming of age. More about this initiative will be spelled out in future issues of "Newsline."

As far as getting the message out, it seems that your GCSAA logo suggests on more than one occasion to mean to the viewer "The Good House Keeping Seal of Golf." So if

you are a member, promote it, wear it, have it printed on your scorecards as it promotes a form of "brand" recognition.

In a nutshell, the one and one half-day meeting was packed with news and insight. Because we are at a turning point, the lull before membership standards initiative, I have suggested to President Schaller that a new delegate be named to replace me. Five years is enough time spent away from the show floor while being asked for our chapter's support by candidates running for office and finally casting our vote at the annual meeting. I recommended that David Smith be appointed my replacement. He accepted. His emergency surgery prevented him from attending this year's meeting, so I gladly "pinch hit" for him. I will miss seeing many of the delegates that I have come to know over the years at this meeting but realize that the time is right to step aside; however, you can rest assured that I will keep a very close and watchful eye on membership standards. Remember that the rising tide lifts all boats. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve

you as your delegate. Thanks to Bruce Worzella for appointing me to serve in this important capacity. The Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents and GCSAA have rewarded me in the process. 🌿

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