

A NEW YEAR BRINGS CHANGE TO WGCSA

By **Mark Davison**, Golf Course Superintendent, Green Bay Country Club



The new year is now upon us. I would like to wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The holiday season gives us all time spend with family, relatives and friends. One of the great benefits of living in the northern part of the country is we get to experience four different seasons each year. Can you imagine maintaining a golf course in the south and having to work Christmas day? Take time this winter to get re-acquainted with your family. Take some time off this winter and get your home projects done. The winter normally flies by and before you know it you will putting the flagsticks back out on your course. Take advantage of the slower part of our season; now is the time.

As your new association president I look forward to leading our organization this year. I would like to thank our departing board members Brian Ferrie, Jack Tripp and Kris Pinkerton. It has been a pleasure to work with these dedicated individuals and their efforts are greatly appreciated. A big thank you goes to our past president David Brandenburg. David has done an outstanding job the past two years leading our organization forward. David is a very hard working and dedicated individual. It will be difficult for me to follow in his foot steps. I will look to David from time to time for his wisdom during my new term as president.

There are some changes taking place in our association that you will notice or may have noticed already. Our dues renewal form took on a different look last fall. We now have a data based computer program designed specifically for our organization. Each member's information is recorded in this data base and can be easily up dated as needed. The annual renewal forms are printed from this program as well. The main advantage of the program will be when it comes time to generate our membership directory. The directory has always taken a lot of time to compile due to the format our membership record information has been kept in prior years. We have purchased a computer specifically for the membership director. This computer will be passed along to each membership director in future years, making their job much easier them it has been in the past.

The same scenario was put in place for our treasurer. The treasurer now has a dedicated computer used to keep our financial records and generate reports.

There will soon be a WGCSA web site. Director Jeff Millies is working on this right now. The web site



address will be WGCSA.com. The site contents will include seasonal turf information available to the general public. There will also be a "Members Only" area. In this area the membership directory will be available as well as our calendar of events, related links and other pertinent information for us all. As with most web sites our hope is that it will continue to expand as more of our members take advantage of it. More news will follow on this as it progresses.

Winter is a time to get caught up on all your accumulated reading material as well as attend educational events. The WTA Winter Conference is scheduled for Jan. 5th - 7th. The list of speakers is impressive. I hope to see many of you there and lets hope the weather cooperates. The GCSAA Convention will take place Feb. 9 - 14 in San Diego. This is always a great opportunity to take in many educational offerings as well as inspect all the turf equipment and products available to our industry. Take advantage of all the education you can this winter. It is our responsibility to our employers to keep abreast on current trends, new products and techniques allowing us to produce a quality product.

Each year at the GCSAA Convention, the annual meeting and election takes place. This meeting will be on Saturday Feb. 14th at 9 a.m. I represent our chapter as our voting delegate. What does this involve? I vote on your behalf during the election process. Each year we vote for board members and officers as well as any other important organizational changes proposed to the membership. In order for me to carry your vote to the GCSAA election you have to indicate to GCSAA that you wish to be registered to vote with your chapter. You can vote with a chapter or individually. We have 22% or 51 of our members registered to vote individually. This is not a problem but no one exercises their right to vote individually, so their vote is lost. By voting with the chapter via the delegate their vote matters and is counted. By voting with the chapter does not mean you have to agree with the way the chapter is voting. I will carry your vote to the election and cast it any way you wish. If you are registered as an individual voter I will be contacting you to explain your options.

Enjoy your winter, get re-acquainted with your families, take in some education and look forward to spring. It will be here before you know it. ♣