



It Rained. It Poured.

By **Dustin Riley**, Golf Course Superintendent, Oconomowoc Golf Club



Association business has been a little quiet over the last month. Why? Mother Nature! She always has a way of reminding us who's boss. Throughout June, Wisconsin has endured heavy rainfall, record flooding and became the nation's leader in the number of disaster areas. Golf in Wisconsin will definitely take a hit as the lost revenues will

not be recovered and additional resources will be required to repair the damages from the floods.

Unfortunately, in addition to our damaged golf courses, many of us have suffered personal property losses. Flooded streets and basements have destroyed property, personal items, clothing and sentimental memorabilia. In times like these, it is best to remember priorities and make sure family is at the top. Several weeks ago, I sent

out a notice, reminding all WGCSA Class A, SM and all GCSAA members that GCSAA has an Emergency Relief Fund, which could provide some financial assistance. Below is that information.

In the last issue of *The Grass Roots*, I titled my message 'A Defining Moment' as I discussed new mission, vision and goals for the association, little did I know what June's weather would bring. One of the vision statements listed that WGCSA members would be key to the enjoyment and the economic success of the game of golf. As result of the rains, that enjoyment and economic success has suffered. I can not think of a better opportunity for us to display our skills and confirm our value as superintendents by successfully guiding our facilities through the recovery process. Now that's a defining moment.

Good luck to everyone and best wishes through the remainder of the summer. 🌿

GCSAA's Emergency Relief Fund

GCSAA knows the devastation that can be caused by tornados, floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters, as well as the unexpected financial stress often associated with a family medical emergency. The GCSAA Emergency Relief Fund is designed to assist members when disaster and/or an emergency strikes.

- The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to GCSAA members who suffer personal loss or medical hardship.
- Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance.
- The amount of financial assistance provided shall differ by situation up to a maximum of \$2,500 per claim.
- GCSAA reserves the right to verify the information received from an applicant.
- Legitimate claims will be processed on a first-come, first serve basis.
- All claims shall be processed by the Senior Manager of Governance/Member Services and approved by the Trustees of the GCSAA Benevolence Fund.

In the case of family medical hardship, the chapter is asked to submit a letter of request on behalf of the GCSAA member.

In the case of natural disasters, GCSAA will initially provide \$1,000 financial assistance (intended to assist with clothing, food and shelter) to members who contact us via [email](#) or at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4418 and whose daily lives are altered by the affects of a natural disaster and who meet any of the following criteria:

- Have had to relocate (whether they are staying with family, friends or in a motel) from their homes.
- Remain in their homes, but lose basic necessities such as electricity, water, etc. which lead to unexpected financial burden.
- Whose place of employment sustains substantial damage and may not be a source of employment going forward.
- Note: Members will not be required to provide us with any documentation or invoices other than a verbal or email request for assistance and verification on our end that they are within the affected area. Our goal is to provide financial assistance as quickly as possible.

Once a member has had an opportunity to truly assess their long-term situation, in terms of personal loss and employment status, GCSAA will make available an additional \$1,500. All applicants for additional assistance will be required to provide written explanation of how the funds will be spent and all claims must be accompanied by documentation, including in the case of personal loss, a copy of appropriate estimates and/or invoices, if requested.

For more information, please contact **R. Scott Woodhead**, sr. manager of governance/member standards at (800) 472-7878, ext. 4418.