



Re-evaluated. Re-organized. Ready to Go??

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

In a prior message, I wrote that the off-season is a perfect time to recharge your batteries and organize your thoughts as you prepare for the season. Unfortunately, I do not get the impression that any of us have been able to relax through the winter months. Maintenance budgets have been cut and most likely through labor reductions. Therefore, many of us will be attempting to produce the same conditions with less labor or inputs. These expectations have no doubt added stress, as each of our operations are re-evaluated and re-organized. And in addition to these worries, we are now entering spring, where the turf's health will alert us of the severity of Wisconsin's winter weather swings.

The Association has been busy as well, re-evaluating and re-organizing. Since the Fall Business meeting, the Board of Directors has continued the development of our Chapter Manager position. In January, the Board re-defined the Chapter Manager's Request for Proposal (RFP). The new RFP was announced and advertised through several avenues, including our own association. The replies to the RFP have been received and candidates selected for interviews. Hopefully the WGCSA Chapter Manager will be announced by the April 20th meeting, to be held at Geneva National. The Chapter Manager will have the responsibility of managing our day to day business affairs. But, the Chapter Manager will also be expected to assist the Board of Directors develop and maximize Association activities in coordination with our mission and vision. Although the Association is financially stable, operational spending habits will be analyzed and adjusted to help support and fund the position. The Chapter Manager will improve the services to all of the members, thus increasing the value of a WGCSA membership. Due to a recent change in his employment and his interest in the Chapter Manager position, Affiliate Member Representative, Brett Grams, has resigned from the Board of Directors. Brett has submitted a proposal per the RFP and is considered a candidate. Brett's role on the Board of Directors has truly been invaluable. He provided insight to the potential impact, of the Board's actions, on our Affiliate Membership. His input will be missed. Brett's 2-year term is set to expire November at this year's Fall Business Meeting. I do not intend to "re-appoint" a replacement for the remainder of this term. A new Affiliate Member Representative will be



appointed by the next President of the Association.

On February 17th, the Inaugural Assistant Only seminar was held at Milwaukee CC. This seminar was the initial step in the Board's examination of a Class C Committee proposal. The event was a success as 35 Assistant Golf Course Superintendents were in attendance. GCSAA TV recorded the event and can be seen on the GCSAA website. The video provided an

excellent review of the event and the professionalism of our Association. So what is the status of the Class C Committee proposal? The Board of Directors is glad that the event was successful. But at this time, we feel that the highest priority of the Association is the selection and implementation of a Chapter Manager. Once the Chapter Manager is in place, it is our intent to survey the membership regarding several aspects of the Class C Committee proposal. The Board recognizes the impact of this proposal and we feel that a survey will help us understand the "pulse" of the membership prior to continuing with a possible formation of a Class C Committee or recommending a by-law change.

The Golf Industry Show is the opportunity for many of us to take seminars and view new tools of the trade. This year was special for the members of WGCSA. At the GIS Opening Session, Monroe Miller received the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award - Col. John Morley Award. Monroe's credentials and accomplishments are second to none. His impact has made Wisconsin and the WGCSA better. Although retired from the golf course, Monroe will be around as he applies his charm and passion as the WTA Executive Director/Ambassador. Monroe....Congratulations and Thank you.

Finally, our *Grass Roots* editor, Dave Brandenburg CGCS, has implemented a minor change in the mailing process of our bi-monthly publication. This minor change will significantly reduce the mailing costs. But, it is extremely important that mailing addresses are accurate, because the Association will be billed for any returned copies as a result of address error. If there is a change in your address, please notify Jim Vanherwynen, Membership Chair immediately. *The Grass Roots* is one of our greatest assets and we want to make sure all members receive this publication.

The 2009 Season is upon us. Good Luck to everyone this season. 🌱