

Important WGCSA Member News!

By Chad Harrington, Golf Course Superintendent, Autumn Ridge Golf Course

Editors Note: This issue we are lucky to have two Presidents Messages. Outgoing President Jeff Millies says goodbye while incoming President Chad Harrington provides valuable new information for members to read.

Hello to all WGCSA members, as 2012 quickly comes to an end the WGCSA Board of Directors has been busy planning for next season. As a board, we met on October 20th and had a productive meeting as we reviewed the 2012 season of events and discussed various options and ideas to make the WGCSA stronger and more efficient in 2013.

The present WGCSA board under the leadership of Mr. Jeff Millies CGCS was able to have another successful year of events, education, and networking. Thanks to the generous support of the Affiliate Companies participating in our Industry Partnership Program we have again been able to offer free attendance at the GIS WI Hospitality Room (our single largest expense), funding of the Grass Roots Magazine, and help with funding our monthly meetings, website, and members handbook. We simply cannot thank the Industry Partners enough for the dedication to our membership and association for all they do.

With the strong support and financial security of the WGCSA we are happy to report that as we enter our 83rd year as an association we can hold the line on industry partnership fees as well as membership dues for all members. It has been several years since we have had a dues increase and we are happy to report that in these tough economic times we can continue to offer the same services and events as always without increasing your dues. As a board we have reviewed our services and offerings and have made some changes to help with efficiency. I want to take a moment to announce these

changes in procedure so you are all aware of how they impact you.

Our first change is that although we have determined we do not need to raise dues, we must address the ongoing situation of late payment of many members' dues payments. In the spirit of making sure as many members as possible renew dues by the February 1st deadline, the WGCSA board has approved that all

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members who renew dues by returning the renewal form and payment via mail or renewing online via PayPal with credit card, will receive a complimentary gift as an incentive. Likewise those members who fail to meet the February 1st deadline will then have an additional 30 day grace period to renew but they will not be eligible for the complimentary gift. Any members who do not renew by April 1st will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee in addition to the dues payment. Obviously we want all members to renew on time as it is truly beneficial for both the members and the association.

We will have more information on this new change at the Fall Business Meeting which begins at 11 AM on December 4th prior to the Symposium in Kohler, WI

The other important change to make members aware of is that we will no longer be using regular mail to announce our monthly and business meetings. We have determined that our members can get this information electronically (email) efficiently and since all monthly meetings and notices are easily found on the Home Page and Calendar on our web-

site. We have offered this option for several years. The majority of our members already are opting for email notification for monthly meetings so this does not affect the vast majority in any way. Please understand that the mailing of the Dues Renewal Forms, ALL editions of the Grass Roots, and the annual Members Handbook/Directory will continue to be mailed conventionally like they always

have. The change to electronic delivery pertains to meeting notices only. In addition you will still be able to download and print off the hard copy of meeting notices from either the emails themselves OR by going the Home Page of the WGCSA website. These hardcopies can still be mailed into the WGCSA office as in the past if any members prefer registering and paying this way.

We want to be proactive in our communication of these changes, and trust that you will be appreciative of the fact that the WGCSA leadership is doing all we can to make the association beneficial to each and every member as we can. Holding our costs, improving our efficiencies, and offering as many educational and networking opportunities as we can continues to remain our ONLY priority! We would enjoy answering any questions or concerns you have. Any and all ideas that you feel can improve the association or help our members is always welcome as well! Feel free to contact me at charrington@wgcsa.com or via phone at 920-905-1120 or Chapter Manager Brett Grams at bgrams@wgcsa.com or via phone at 920-643-4888.

Be on the lookout for your 2013 membership renewals to arrive in the mail any day. PLEASE review the instructions and return your membership renewal as instructed and on time to receive your complimentary gift! Thanks in advance for your cooperation and THANKS for being a member of the WGCSA! 