

## Spring Office Activities

By Brett Grams, Chapter Manager, Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association

All of you are very aware of the long winter and then cold and wet spring we had this year and had everything in WI off to a slow start. I look forward to the first Saturday each May which is historically the start of our Fishing Season. This year I could have ventured to my favorite lakes in Northern WI but I refused to ice fish in May! In fact many lakes finally had "ice out" the weekend of May 10th. I have yet to talk to an "old timer" that recalls a later start to spring than this year. I wish all of you who experienced winter damage a speedy recovery and that your tee sheet and membership rosters start to fill up quickly.

While we all waited to get the golf season underway I was quite busy with our annual spring efforts. The start of the year is a busy one for me as we have to update our annual membership and collection of dues. Thankfully the majority of you renewed by the Feb. 1st deadline which makes the administration of this task far easier. I have been working at getting the last of our members renewed since that time. I still have 12 of you left to go but I could not wait any longer to print our directory. I am happy to report that with the printing and mailing the last of my spring projects is complete! In addition to the membership renewal/directory I have also secured the Industry Partnerships from our generous and dedicated Vendor Companies.

We have seen a reduction of overall participation as companies are cutting back, downsizing staff, or merging which has changed how much money is being sent on advertising in our *The Grass Roots*, sponsoring our meetings, and underwriting our WI Hospitality Room. Please consider the companies that sponsor our events and advertise in this magazine when you make buying decisions! The leaders of the WGCSA will address this by being careful in our expenditures and look to additional ways to raise funds and

maintain revenues. One successful fundraiser that has helped raise turf research funding at UW Madison has also been completed. I am happy to report that we raised over \$11,000.00 during Masters Week thanks to the generous member clubs and courses that donated rounds for our 4th Annual PAR 4 Research Auction. This brings our net total to the UW of over \$40,000.00.

This event takes a fair amount of my time in creating the website and managing the donations, processing and collecting funds and mailing out the various prizes and certificates. I find it especially reward-

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ing as the relationship with the UW and the education and research provided is part of our core missions since our chapter was formed 83 years ago. Thanks to Dustin Riley (chairman) and Jake Schneider who are so helpful with securing donations and helping promote the event. I could not do this without their help!

It was with mixed feelings when I learned that Colin Seaberg, CGCS resigned his spot on our Board of Directors this month. I am happy for Colin who is taking a new Job at the prestigious Barton Hills CC in Michigan but I was sad to lose his leadership and dedication. Colin was always quick to offer suggestions and support and did a great job of monitoring the Governmental Regulations Committee in recent years. Colin represented our association and members in some important meetings and for that we should all be grateful. Colin has promised to remain a member and I am confident that we will

remain an influential leader in our industry even though he is out of state.

It is hard to believe that June will mark the start of my fifth season as Chapter Manager. I have been fortunate enough to work with four dedicated servant leaders as they took the time as Chapter President. President Chad Harrington started his term this year and you are already seeing his impact and initiates that he is bringing to our membership. Chad has given a lot of his time and thought making sure that we are adding value to our membership and promoting our chapter and profession. One of his first projects is the creation of a very nice line of apparel thru Ping that will carry our chapter logo. I challenge all of you to find an item or two for yourself, staff, or spouse. This is not a revenue generating effort, rather we are trying to offer you a great price for golf related clothing which will also showcase and promote our membership and chapter.

The WGCSA board has also been busy with the various committee assignments. We have our speakers and meeting dates set for the remainder of the year. Work is being done to finalize the last of the speakers for the Turf Symposium, and the board will soon be making plans to conduct a long range planning meeting this fall.

Thanks to good leadership the WGCSA is financially healthy, has a stable membership, and will be working at enhancing new initiatives and efforts to better serve our members and industry in the years to come. I wish all of you a successful golf season and hope that you and your family and friends can find some time to enjoy our much deserved summer season! . If any of you would like to share ideas, make suggestions or simply have a question or issue that I may be of assistance please contact me. I am happy to help all members any way that I can. 