

The WGCSA Fall Business Meeting - A Recap!

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

The WGCSA conducts two Association Business Meetings annually. Our Spring Business Meeting is typically held in early March and our Fall Business Meeting is conducted prior to the Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium.

I would like to thank those members that attended this year's Fall Business meeting in person and for those of you not attending a brief synopsis of what took place.

The Fall Business Meeting is important for the general membership as the Board of Directors communicate recent association activities and efforts of the current year and also presents the budget, meetings sites, and plans for the upcoming year.

2013 Reports and Reviews

President Chad Harrington conducted the meeting and provided a brief report on the new initiatives and offerings that took place in 2013. The creation of WGCSA apparel was started with some success. For 2014 the WGCSA will again offer all members the opportunity to purchase clothing with the WGCSA Logo at a very affordable price. This opportunity is viewed as good for the members as well as good for the association and it is hoped that more members will consider participating in 2014. President Harrington also announced that the WGCSA Board will be conducting a Strategic Planning Meeting in early 2014 to make sure that the board is best serving our membership going forward.

As Chapter Manager, I reported on multiple topics. The membership renewal process in 2013 went quite smoothly with much improved numbers of members renewing on time. It is very helpful to have members meet the deadlines. The improved renewal response could be attributed to the gift incentive as all members meeting deadline received a complimentary Nike Baseball Cap with the WGCSA A Logo in 2013.

The 2013 PAR 4 Research effort was a success with us collecting our 2nd highest gross in our four year history. Due to improved efficiency and controlling our

costs we provided our highest Net Donation ever the WTA received our check for \$10,960.95. Thanks to members and courses that have participated we have now raised over \$40,000.00 for Turfgrass Research at the UW.

The WGCSA members are utilizing our website for renewals and monthly meeting registrations more and more each year. This year we received approximately 50% of our membership renewals online and over 65% of our monthly meeting registrations via our website. Links to the Job Opportunities page are very active parts of the website. All chapter documents including an online database are available to all active members as well.

We had good participation at our monthly meetings again in 2014 even if the weather was not as cooperative as in the past few years. Our April meeting was snowy and wet, and the rainy late spring and early summer caused us to switch a venue but things improved for the rest of the year.

The most active committee and efforts in 2013 was the Class C or Assistants Committee. Thanks to Jake Schneider who started the year as Class C Chairman who stepped down after he took a new job. Also, thanks to Joe Sell who took over the committee chair and was instrumental in completing a very large service project at Monona GC in Madison, WI where the WGCSA Assistant Superintendents built a USGA style practice green for the First Tee of Madison. This could not have been done without members volunteering their time and the generous Affiliate companies that donated materials for the project. The WGCSA Class C members have received media attention and also recognition from GCSAA for their efforts.

Membership Levels in 2013 were consistent and actually stayed the same as in 2012 at 401 confirmed members at the end of the year. Some shifting of members classes occurred but the overall number of members stayed the same.

The Golf and Arrangements Commit-

tee presented the 2014 Meeting Sites and Dates. The focus is always to provide meeting sites that allow for education, networking, and golf. Thanks to the members and facilities willing to take a turn and host a meeting. (See our meeting Calendar)

Treasurer and Chapter delegate Jon Canavan reported on what he learned at the Chapter Delegates Meeting. (See his report in the Nov/Dec 2013 Issue of *The Grass Roots*.)

Budget Approvals

2013 Treasurers Report was presented with the Association taking in a projected \$161,111.00 and spending \$153,111.00. That leaves projected revenue over expense of \$8,100 for the year.



**WGCSA President
Chad Harrington**

CHAPTER CONVERSATION

The 2014 Budget was also presented and approved. The budget for the upcoming year shows \$167,100 in income and \$162,700 in expenses with projected net revenue of approximately \$4,400.00

The Scholarship and Research Budget for 2014 also was approved. The 2014 Budget shows a slight increase over 2013 budgeted amount. In 2013 we budgeted \$28,875.00 and for 2014 we project \$29,875.00. Reviewing past amounts of Scholarship and Research efforts the WGCSA has provided over \$323,000 in the past 11 years which equates to an average of \$29,400.00 annually.

By-Law Change

The membership approved one small By-Law change regarding the listing of our Tax Status in regards to the IRS. We now list properly that we are a 501(c)6. Our by-laws listed us incorrectly as a 501(c)3 previously.

Election Results

The election of the 2014 Officers was the last item of business. After calling for nominations from the floor and receiving none, Past President Jeff Millies presented the 2014 Ballot as presented and the 2014 Board of Directors were elected.

2014 Officers and Directors Election Results

President - Chad Harrington

Vice President - Jim Van Herwynen

Treasurer - John Canavan

Secretary - Josh Lepine

Director - Jeff Barlow

Director - Mike Bremmer

Members with one year left:

Past President - Jeff Millies

Director - Kevin Knudtson

Director - Scott Bushman

Class C - Joe Sell

Vendor Liason - Steve Wasser



**WGCSA Class C Chairman Joe Sell discusses
the green project for the First Tee of Madison
at Monona GC**



When you use the best, it shows.

With a portfolio of products unmatched in the industry, Syngenta is a necessity for every great business. From herbicides to fungicides to growth regulators, we have everything you need to maintain healthy turf.

Contact Phil Spitz to learn more about Syngenta products.
Cell: 414-429-2015 phillip.spitz@syngenta.com