

WHAT IS A BOARD MEMBER ?



by STEVE YOUNG
Treasurer, M.G.C.S.A.

In the last issue of HOLE NOTES", Kerry Glader briefly outlined his experiences as a Director on the M.G.C.S.A. Board and some of the many benefits he has derived from his association on the board.

When Kerry closed his article, he invited anyone who is interested in serving on the board to submit their name to Larry Mueller.

A brief outline of the possible committee responsibilities a Director might have may be appropriate at this time to help you in your decision to run for the board. Well, it better be appropriate because Boots told me that is what my article for HOLE NOTES is about! This brings me to my first committee.

It goes without saying that Boots Fuller has done a fantastic job with the editorial HOLE NOTES Committee this year. What makes it a success? Good organization, persistence and some hustle on the part of Boots. Boots made most of the arrangements for articles during the winter months and had most of those articles into the M.G.A. office a month in advance. Boots even helps you pick a topic if you don't have one! Of course, the chairman of this committee has the expertise of Warren, Tom and Anita of the M.G.A. office to put out a first class magazine.

The Arrangements Committee, chaired by Russ Adams, is a very fun committee

because you are working with ten different clubs during the season. This committee contacts many clubs in January and February to confirm dates for the meetings. This individual works with the host superintendent, club manager and associate members to coordinate the golf, meals and equipment displays each month. The chairman of this committee always has the January meeting set for the following year so the new chairman has time to find sites for the March Mini- Conference and the other monthly meetings.

The mention of the Mini-Conference brings me to the Education Committee which is chaired by Jim Wodash and Leif Erickson. Again, good organization and planning are a must for this committee. Unfortunately, Leif has left for Montana but most of the topics and speakers were secured well in advance so Jim and the rest of his committee are ready now for the upcoming annual Conference. Some of the committee's other responsibilities include selection of a conference site; securing prices for rooms, meals, and the banquet; selecting entertainment for the banquet and setting up the Bull Session.

Another interesting committee is the Industrial Relations Committee. This committee is normally chaired by the President and Ex- Officio; however, most of the Directors sit in on this committee. This committee meets once or twice a year and gives the Associate Member a chance to express concern and offer ideas to the Board. Many helpful and innovative improvements have been made with the help of our Associate Members. This is a most important committee because without our Associate Members we would have a second class association. Their support is greatly needed and greatly appreciated.

Contrary to what many people assume, you do not need to have "red hair" to chair the Membership Committee. A good sense of humor, enthusiasm and speaking ability (all are traits of red heads) make this committee go! Kerry Glader has chaired this committee for the last two years and has been a great representative of our Association. This committee and the chairman is vital to our Association as this person is often

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the first person a prospective member comes in contact with. A positive impression is a must. Typical duties of this committee include verifying the application form, arranging interviews between the applicant and the board, having the certificates and name tags made and forwarding the new member information to Anita at the M.G.A. office.

The last committee I would like to talk about is the Scholarship, Ecology and Research Committee which is cochaired now by Don Lindblad and Mark Smith. These two gentlemen have given this committee a major overhaul this year. It is now so well organized that we may never have to work with this committee again! Mark and Don have given us new direction with definite goals, (both short and long range) which will greatly benefit our Association and provide prudent spending of our research money. This committee communicates with the GCSAA, USGA research people all over the country and our local university people. The Research Committee develops and administers our research needs and is charged with reporting results to the membership on a timely basis.

You may be thinking to yourself, this sounds like a lot of work, but it really isn't. A few hours each month and with the help of the people you appoint to your committee, you will be contributing to the growth of your Association not to mention the benefits you will receive by serving. As Kerry mentioned last month: "To serve is to grow."

In closing I would like to answer my original question by saying that a board member is a person who is concerned about his profession and wants to repay an organization that has helped him perform his duties as a Golf Course Superintendent. Help yourself and the M.G.C.S.A. grow by serving as a Director of the M.G.C.S.A.

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