

GCSAA Founded in 1926



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) was founded in 1926 at Sylvania Country Club in Toledo, Ohio. The original organization, the National Association of Greenkeepers of America (NAGA), was formed by 60 greenkeepers, the forerunners of today's professional golf course superintendent.

The fledgling association's original purposes were much the same as they are today: to advance the art of science of golf course management, to form a closer relationship among the superintendents of the U.S. and Canada and to inform and educate its membership. However, though the organization's goals remain the same, its scope has broadened tremendously in its 63 years of operation.

Today the GCSAA is a world wide organization serving more than 9,000 in 42 countries, with a full-time staff of 42 and an annual budget of more than \$6 million.

The history of GCSAA is one of progress and growth, tempered by the social changes and events of the past six decades. In the 1930s, the organization suffered a major setback when its bank in Cleveland closed its doors, wiping out the organization's assets. A Depression-era recovery was followed by World War II, which also brought the organization's activities to a halt. The annual meeting, educational conferences, the annual golf championship tournament and the issuance of new membership certificates were put on hold while the nation turned its attention toward the war effort.

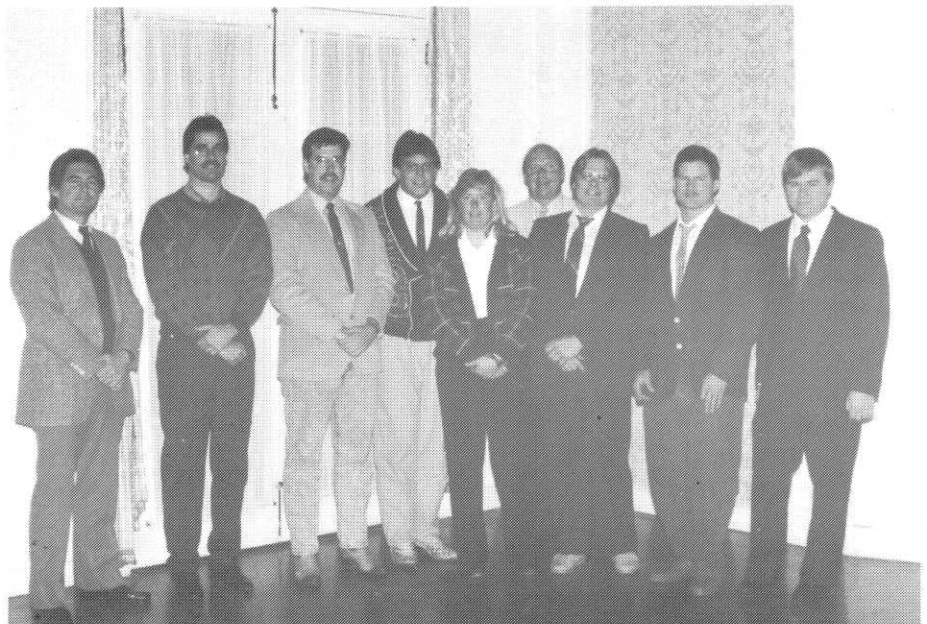
The post-World War II economic boom fueled a growth in the golf industry that spurred the organization's growth and influence as well. By 1957, GCSAA membership passed the 1,000 member mark,

and association offerings included an annual conference and show, a monthly publication, an annual golf championship and publication of educational materials.

Today, the GCSAA's annual International Golf Course Conference and Show is the premier event of the golf course management industry, boasting over 550 exhibitors and more than 17,400 attendees in 1990. The association's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management*, is the leading publication in the industry, with a circulation of more than 20,000. The GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund has raised and disbursed more than \$600,000 toward development of the turfgrass industry since its inception in 1956. The Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund, named for the noted golf course architect, specifically funds GCSAA scholarships.

The association also continues to pursue its original educational goals by providing its membership with everything from seminars and formal instruction to educational videotapes, cassettes and printed materials. A voluntary certification program, which was instituted by the Association in 1971, secured professional status for golf course superintendents throughout the world by upgrading and enhancing the professionalism of its members. Today, there are more than 1,000 Certified Golf Course Superintendents.

GCSAA recently established a Government Relations Program to cultivate relationships with sources of information concerning government affairs, report this information to GCSAA members and provide regulatory officials and legislators with information on the golf course management industry.



New Members Welcomed to MGCSA