

GCSAA Voters Say "Yes" to 13 Amendments

At their recent meeting in Dallas, members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) were asked to consider 15 proposed amendments to the organization's bylaws and articles of incorporation. All but two of the 15 issues received the two-thirds majority required for adoption.

Voting on the proposed amendments took place Feb. 7, 1994, during GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The first amendment approved in Dallas revised the association's mission statement. Voters adopted the following wording for both the preamble of the bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation:

The purposes for which this Corporation is formed are:

(a) To provide for and enhance the recognition of the golf course superintendent as a professional.

(b) To advance the art of greenkeeping and the science of turfgrass management; to collect and disseminate information concerning efficient and economical management of golf courses and related environmental issues.

(c) In general, to have all the powers conferred upon a corporation by the laws of the State of Delaware which are consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws of this Corporation.

The bylaws amendments also redefined a golf course superintendent as "one who is entrusted with the management and operation of the tract of land defined as a golf course, including involvement in construction and maintenance of golf courses and related equipment."

The two bylaws amendments that failed involved the establishment of separate, non-voting membership classifications for golf course maintenance staff, club officials and golf association staff members.

Ballot 5, which would have added six new classes for staff members such as equipment managers and irrigation specialists, received a simple majority (2,954 "yes" to 2,321 "no"), but not the two-thirds required to add them to the bylaws.

Ballot 6, which would have enacted a separate Class F for course officials and golf association staff members, failed by

a wider margin: 2,485 "yes" to 2,790 "no".

Voters did approve other changes to the bylaws dealing with membership classification:

- Authorizing the board of directors to establish qualifications and levels of privilege for all membership classes except AA, A, B and C (Changes to AA, A, B and C still require a bylaws amendment.)

- Simplifying the definitions of Classes B and C. Now, superintendents with fewer than three years of experience

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Amendments —

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are Class B members, and all assistant superintendents are Class C members. Voting and other gold-card privileges are now extended to Class C.

- Creating a new Class E for educators and extension officers.

- Opening Retired membership to all classes and authorizing the board to set Retired dues at or below one-half the dues of the individual's prior classification.

- Authorizing the board to set Standing Rules regarding the level of privileges for Affiliate membership.

- Making Honorary membership permanent unless revoked by the board.

Voters delegated some specific authority to the board of directors, but also demanded increased accountability from the board and the chapter voting delegates.

For example, voters granted the board authority to set dues structures for non-superintendent membership classes. However, dues for Classes AA, A, B and C will be set by voting members casting ballots individually, by proxy or through their chapter.

Beginning next year in San Francisco, official voting records for GCSAA elections will be published in a membership publication. Dallas voters approved the publication of a chapter-by-chapter report to help chapter members hold their voting delegates accountable as their representatives.

Voters also restricted board members' powers by requiring a two-thirds majority of the board to approve the execution of any mortgage or loan that would incur debts for future boards.

The new bylaws also make some changes in the officers and directors. Most significantly, the secretary/treasurer position will become an elected office instead of a presidential appointment. Voters also amended the duties of the secretary/treasurer, making them more like an officer than an operations administrator.

In addition, all officers and directors

will be elected by plurality votes, eliminating the potential need for run-off elections. (Previously, a majority vote was required for the offices of president and vice president.)

Dallas voters also permanently assigned trusteeship of the Benevolence

Fund to the association's officers.

The amendment to the Articles of Incorporation also updated GCSAA's office address.

In addition, the voters approved a change in the title of GCSAA's principal executive employee, from executive director to chief executive officer.

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