



## One Guy's Opinion

By Tom Parent  
*River Oaks Golf Course*

I must thank Butch Greeninger for calling me and saying "You've got our attention...what are you trying to say?"

The reason I wrote the "Whose Idea Was This Anyway?" article was the fear of a wholesale surrendering of power to the national. An eventual switch to MCGCSA . . . Minnesota Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Fellow members, the repeal of the dual membership agreement is the key to our freedom as an association. Dual membership forces us to affiliate. Affiliation forces us to relinquish control of how our organization is governed. You must read the affiliation agreement to understand this.

This coupled with the elimination of the ability to bring forth bylaw changes from the floor at the delegates' convention precludes any bylaw change which is not approved by the bylaw committee. These are very powerful people!!!

There is no provision for the redress of grievances in the affiliation agreement with the national. You can't even criticize the national as there is a gag clause in the agreement.

We continue to hand over the power of the local chapters to the national on a silver platter. Those who would prefer to see our association known as the MCGCSA (see above) are wringing their hands in delight.

It is a power grab of colossal proportions and we are being led down the garden path laughing and grinning. This is what I have been trying to get across in my *One Guy's Opinion* series. We need one member, one vote.

Let the votes of the apathetic be left uncast. Bring back the Class C voting rights. These members are our future.

We need to scrap the delegate voting system as it serves the national and not the members.

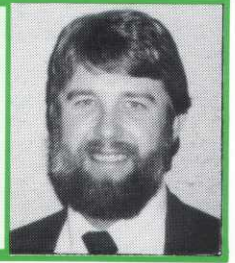
We need to repeal the bylaw which limits what is even discussed at the delegates meeting. The bylaw committee has too much power.

We need to repeal the Dual Membership Agreement.

Through dual membership we have allowed ourselves to be eaten whole by the associations who want centralized control of the affiliated chapters or as we are known as "the Locals."

Most of all, I was shocked at what was passed at the national level without my consent or knowledge because I refused to get involved. *One Guy's Opinion* was written in as hard and biting of manner as I could without the organization being sued. I did this to engage you, the reader, in the policy-making decision of the Minnesota Chapter and the GCSAA. I poked fun at the All Powerful Oz to make the message entertaining and to encourage you, the member, to question the authority of the GCSAA. Did I overstep my bounds? You must decide.

## EX?-EDITOR'S CORNER



I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have called with your support. I am afraid you are right, and to resign would have been a cowardly act. Due to your support, I am obligated and proud to continue to serve you on the Board of Directors.

**Alas, the unspeakable happened.** It is no longer possible to write an editorial of substance in the *Hole Notes*. My writings of a thought-provoking nature have been censored. What's very ironic about this is I had planned to print the first amendment on the cover. It is clear that the president and a majority of the Executive Committee do not want any controversy or discussion of important issues.

It appears they want you, the members, to be well-behaved sheep and be denied the information needed to make responsible decisions. I am sorry I have failed you as a group. I can not override the Executive Committee of which I must commend Mr. John Granholt for not signing the affiliation agreement which is printed in this issue but not as planned with accompanying discussion promoting commentary, of course and without discussion at least at the board level.

I cannot with any dignity continue as editor of *Hole Notes* under these conditions. If there is enough support from you, the membership, to overturn this policy I will remain as editor. The many of you who have called me in support now need to call the members of the Executive Committee.

I will remain on the Board of Directors. I will continue to fight for the many of you who dare to have a differing point of view from the old guard. Presidents may come and go, but it appears that the power is still dominated and the direction of the board set for the association by a few powerful members.

Do not cajole yourself into believing that you are a member of a democratic organization when free speech is squelched. I will continue to write but not for our organization. Look for me in other publications which still allow the editor to express an opinion.

To my supporters, again I ask for your forgiveness for resigning as editor if overwhelming support for an open editorial policy is not expressed to the Executive Committee. To continue under the current circumstances would be, in my mind, dishonorable. Heaven help you, the MGCSA member, if you should dare express your opinion, however!!!

It has been an honor to serve you in the capacity of editor of *Hole Notes* and my condolences to my possible successor if I am forced to resign.

— Thomas R. Parent  
*Editor???*