



One Guy's Opinion

By Tom Parent
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I Was Ready to Resign

I was willing to let the dual membership issue drop until tonight. As I write this, it's late Monday night, the 17th of June. I have just returned home from the June MGCSA Board meeting. We approved a balanced budget with surprising ease. We made it through most of the committee reports with even more surprising expedience.

Then we came to the Editorial Committee. I reported that we had received numerous compliments on the last issue of *Hole Notes* including the note from James Latham. I then mentioned that the July issue of *Hole Notes* was pretty well put to bed.

I was ready for the next committee report when the hammer came down! Who the heck did I think I was and what did I think I was doing? I reminded the Board that I did not volunteer for the job, which many would rather have a mild case of the plague than do. I said I was doing the best I knew how. I even offered to swap briefcases with anyone in the room... no takers.

Some suggested that I had singled out our delegate to the GCSAA, Mr. Jim Nicol, for abuse. In short, I had blamed him for the problems I felt existed at the national. I was flabbergasted. Although I disagree with how Jim voted, I made it very clear that I felt he deserved high praise for voting his conviction. For voting how he felt, he best represented our association, according to the input he received at several board and membership meetings. Please go back and reread the first few paragraphs of last month's One Guy's Opinion.

Although I strongly disagree with Jim on many topics, I also strongly admire him for standing up for what he thinks is right. I consider him my friend. If he were running for the GCSAA Board of Directors, I would be a tireless supporter and advocate. Not because I agree with him but because he is a man of courage and conviction.

Jim could have been our association president a year or so back if he had been willing to compromise on his ideals. Like him, hate him, or don't care, we need a lot more Jim Nicols in our organization. To Jim Nicol I must say, if I offended you, which I think you're too big a man to have taken offense, "Jim, I am truly sorry."

My goal in writing the dual membership issue was a number of things. First, I felt that a very short-sighted set of bylaws had been passed without much discussion. Tonight, much to my disbelief, I again heard that "it does not affect us so why should we care." This affects all the affiliated chapters, starting in July of 1997. I don't care that it doesn't affect me, it *will* effect our organization.

Through efforts of Monroe Miller of *The Grass Roots*, myself and many other editors (The Montana chapter just reprinted "Whose Idea Was this Anyway") that there is a proposal at the national level to reinstate class C voting rights for members of three years or more. This is what a free press is for! Which the *Hole Notes* will no longer be. Now my writings need to be pre-approved by the president before I can print anything, thus the subtitle.

Another goal of a free press, which we're not anymore, is to rouse people from apathy. From the response some board members got (phones rattling off the wall by the sounds of it), I achieved my goal. If we all, including me, had not been so apathetic, the need to write Dual Membership would not have been necessary, as Jim would have known our will and the vote for the state would have been a lot different.

What I find totally amazing is that apparently an astounding number of people called two or three board members and that none of them had the guts to call me. What is even more astounding to me is that *One Guy's Opinion* was a column intended for two-way debate. Yet there are all these members who are so upset that cannot be bothered to write a rebuttal or even a letter to the editor. Not one word in print from our Association.

I was going to resign over this driving home. Then I thought of Jim Latham's fax encouraging me to keep up the good work. I thought of Joe Moris who is another man I respect greatly that I disagree with quite a lot. When Joe asked me to run for the Board, I told him I was an opinionated SOB. He said that was just what the board needed. So I will stay on until the December election and then I will resign. If I am not allowed to try to make a difference, what's the point? Heaven help I write anything more of a political nature. We don't want to step on anyone's toes now, do we.

PLAN TO ATTEND

MTGF EXPO

AUGUST 7-8, 1996

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MTGF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 11, 12 & 13, 1996