



GCSAA

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Editor's Note: The following is in response to "One Guy's Opinion" printed in the August 1996 issue of Hole Notes.

August 29, 1996

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Mr. Thomas R. Parent
Editor - Hole Notes
River Oaks Municipal Golf Course
11099 South Highway 61
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Dear Mr. Parent:

I do not make a habit of responding to editorials in GCSAA affiliated chapter newsletters. I respect the right of members to voice their opinions in a constructive manner. However, your latest "One Guy's Opinion," appearing in the August *Hole Notes*, contains numerous false statements that require redress and a setting straight of the record. Voicing an opinion based on facts can be healthy to any organization. However, voicing an opinion that includes inaccurate statements to emphasize your point of view is destructive to all involved. The power of the pen is mighty and should not be taken lightly or misused.

I would like to set the record straight on the following issues:

1. Dual membership requires new class A and B members to join both a chapter and GCSAA after July 1, 1997, but it does not require that the Minnesota GCSA affiliate. GCSAA would like all chapters to reaffiliate and is assisting all of our existing chapters to enable them to complete their affiliation requirements. However, every chapter still has a choice.
2. Affiliation does not require your chapter to relinquish control. The requirements in the affiliation agreement are there to ensure that a chapter in an agreement with GCSAA is a legal and functioning entity. As a board officer of GCSAA, I, along with my fellow board members, have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the assets of GCSAA members. The agreement also requires that a majority of the board of directors and all officers of a GCSAA affiliated chapter also be class A or B members of GCSAA. The notion of an affiliated chapter infers that the two entities have similar goals and aspirations to help their members and the profession. Decision makers on the boards of local chapters need to be connected to GCSAA so they have an understanding of the national and its programs. Affiliated means having a mutual relationship where leaders are informed so they can help advance the profession. Chapters retain most of their autonomy under the affiliation agreement. Chapter dues levels, member privileges and almost everything else, are unaffected by the affiliation agreement.

GCSAA is dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession and enriching the quality of golf and its environment.

GCSAA

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3. Proposed bylaws changes must be communicated to the members 30 days in advance of the annual meeting. Unless this rule was waived at the annual meeting, proposing a bylaws amendment from the floor was never possible. The thirty day notice gives members and delegates time to think about and debate a proposed amendment so they can cast an informed vote. A proposed bylaw not approved by the Standards/Bylaws Committee can be approved for a vote if that proposed bylaw has written petition support from a majority of GCSAA's chapter delegates.
4. The affiliation agreement does not contain language for the redress of grievances regarding its requirements -- primarily because affiliation with GCSAA is voluntary. However, this year at the September delegates meeting, the entire GCSAA leadership will be discussing affiliation issues. The headquarters office has sent out a pre-meeting survey in advance so that the delegates may rank the affiliation issues they want discussed. We will be challenging the delegates to find solutions to these issues. We expect that affiliation issues will also be discussed at future delegates meetings.
5. There is absolutely **not** a gag clause in the affiliation agreement. I have attached a copy for your examination.
6. There is absolutely **not** a bylaw that limits the discussion at the chapter delegates meeting. In the pre-meeting survey sent to delegates, GCSAA asked for additional discussion items chapters want addressed at the delegates meeting.
7. Last year, GCSAA spent a lot of time and effort communicating the proposed bylaws changes. The member publication, *Newsline*, contained several articles and did a good job spelling out the proposed changes. You expect the members of Minnesota GCSA to read *Hole Notes* just as I expect GCSAA members to read *Newsline*.

I have attached a copy of the affiliation agreement for your perusal. I have also copied this letter and the affiliation agreement to the Minnesota GCSA Board of Directors. In the future, if you ever have questions about the affiliation agreement or GCSAA bylaws, please feel free to give me a call or call Chuck Borman, GCSAA Director of Membership, at 913-832-4479 or Don Bretthauer, GCSAA Director of Chapter Relations, at 913/ 832-4418. Perhaps we can prevent additional inaccuracies from being communicated in the future.

Sincerely,



Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS
Chapter Relations Committee Chairman

Enclosure

cc: GCSAA Board of Directors
GCSAA Chapter Relations Committee
Minnesota GCSA Board of Directors
GCSAA Executive Staff

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