

# Benefits and Strengths Of GCSAA Membership

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Since the beginning of GCSAA in 1926, the standard for excellence was always paramount in the hearts and minds of those early pioneers in this industry. Our forebears always wanted better and it became the driving force behind this great organization. Time and the achievements in technology have only served to create renewed interest and exposure to the industry.

There are many reasons for joining GCSAA. It starts with who you are and what it means to be considered as a professional person in your field. One must ask, what does it mean to become more professional? Professionalism is a status given to persons who accomplish a certain degree of expertise in a given occupation. How this is measured in terms of accomplishment is an important step in achieving professional status. Skill levels must be measured and monitored over time. This requires involvement with an organized group of your peers. So the first step toward being recognized as a professional is to join one of the oldest and best run organizations in our field, the GCSAA.

In 1971, GCSAA wanted a way to create a certain standard of excellence to bestow upon the members for all to see. It created the Certification Program for its members to substantiate their work and accomplishments in the area of education. This program was designed to recognize the expanding knowledge it takes to keep up with recent developments in the industry. This move not only achieved a symbol of excellence for its members, but virtually made joining

GCSAA a form of a status symbol with a high credibility rating. The more we participate in the activities of this great organization, the higher degree of professionalism is accomplished. This is really the goal and focal point of GCSAA.

There are many benefits in joining GCSAA. It is a great support group especially at the state level of affiliation with MGCSA. Many of its members ask questions with one another on "touchy" subjects related to turf, etc. We all need someone to lean on in rough times, especially when the weather turns against us. Strength in numbers to get a voice heard either at the local or national level. GCSAA is a leader in making sure our professionalism is protected and recognized as good stewards of our environment. The networking that is done among its members, sharing issues and developing solutions, has achieved new heights.

Steve Mona, the CEO for GCSAA, has accomplished many things in his tenure. The dual membership issue, which really wasn't an issue if one looks at the other professional organizations and what they achieve, turned out to be a great way to build a system of checks and balances to keep abreast of an ever-expanding industry. The latest work being done now will be a new fund for membership retirement. This is something that will be of future benefit.

Every golf course has its unique qualities and the superintendent has a great deal to do with this. The style he or she projects into the daily work schedule makes a statement to the public on the quality of the work. It

shows up when the superintendent overcomes the many adversities that may come up over time. Being able to network with other superintendents in times of need is a big benefit to have at a given time. The comparison and selection of equipment including its maintenance requirements and experience is a high benefit when one can use it with fellow superintendents.

So one can see that there really isn't a reason not to join and participate. It's as simple as that.



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