



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Affiliated

L. R. SHIELDS  
JAMES E. THOMAS

Editor Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.  
Editor Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

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## JIM THOMAS ELECTED

After a tough, hard fight our own Jim Thomas of Army-Navy Club was elected Vice-President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the Chicago Meeting on January 28.

This is the first time in the history of our association that a Mid-Atlantic member has attained this high office in the National Association. We wish Jimmy every success in this new position and hope that he is nominated for President next year.

The man behind the scene during the election was Walter Cosby of White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Walter started the campaign last summer by contacting his many friends around the country asking for their proxies so he could vote them for Jimmy. The result was that he carried to Chicago a handful of proxy votes from individuals who could not attend the meeting but would like to cast their votes for Jim. These extra votes added to Jim's personal popularity, brought about by a good record on the Board of Directors and turned the tables in his favor.

The members of the Mid-Atlantic are proud of the new Vice-President and extend to him our warmest congratulations. We stand ready to help him in his new job and offer our assistance and cooperation in any way possible to assure him a successful term.

Because of National policy that only one man from an area can serve on the Executive Board, Bob Shields was forced to withdraw his name from nomination when Jim Thomas was elected. We wish him better luck next time.

## ILL AND IN DISTRESS

Member Jim Shepherd, of Country Club of Maryland at Baltimore, is in St. Joseph's Hospital with a heart attack and won't be out for several weeks.

We wish you a speedy recovery, Jim, and urge you Baltimore boys to take it easier.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January was a very successful month for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. We had two important projects for this month and both were completed successfully.

First, our Baltimore Turf grass Conference was a complete success. The enrollment was over one hundred and fifteen, our speakers were some of the best in their fields and their subjects were both current and interesting.

Our thanks to the Program Committee whose members were Dr. George Langford, Jim Thomas, Bob Shields, Charles Hallowell and Francis Coupe.

Our second project for January was to elect Jim Thomas Vice-President of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Chicago Meeting. This was accomplished by the hard work of our National Policy Committee whose members were Walter Cosby, Jim Reid, Bob Shields and Frank Dunlap. Our thanks for a good job well done. We certainly recognized the honor bestowed upon Jim and say that it couldn't have happened to a better man. He has earned it.

Bob Shields as usual gave a very good talk at Chicago titled " Progress in Techniques " and it was well received. He no doubt will be our next member running for National office.

Jim. Reynolds

#### NEWSLETTER

The golfing season is just around the corner - are you ready for the months that lie ahead?. As a final check-up, all of your equipment should have been thoroughly overhauled, cleaned and painted. Everything should be in working order and ready to go, as soon as it is time for the maintenance schedule to start.

At this period of the year, we start thinking of the days that are in front of us. There are still odd jobs that should be done before the active playing season gets under way. All outside fixtures such as Shelter houses, benches, fences, bridges, guard rails, signs etc. will need repairing and along with it a good coat of paint. Before too long, outside temperatures will permit work of this nature.

This is also a good season of the year to observe areas needing better drainage. It not be possible to undertake the work at the present moment, however, the locations can be noted and the corrections made at some future date. Embedded rocks and stones are always easier removed during the early spring as the heaving caused by the winter's frost has loosened up the soil around them. Some spot seeding may be needed where erosion has taken place or where a good stand of grass was not obtained from a fall planting.

There is still time left to do a bit of new planting. New shrubbery can be set out, and existing trees trimmed, pruned and fertilized for better growth and appearance. Last, but not least, comes the final clean-up of the debris that has been accumulating around the property during the winter. There are broken limbs to be picked up, and fallen leaves to be raked from the fence corners and the sheltered places.

Have we made our maintenance plans for the coming year? Advance planning pays big dividends. It not only makes our work easier, but also helps us to avoid costly mistakes and errors. The dollar can be spread a little further if our work has been planned ahead.

Nearly all of us operate under a fixed budget, and from past experience we should be able to fairly well estimate how we will spend the money that has been made available to us for operation. This is where a good simple system of record keeping can be a big help. A " goods received " sheet, showing the cost of repairs and replacements, gasoline and lubricants, chemicals, fertilizers, sand etc. is not hard to keep and such a record helps us stay within the allotted purse strings. Such a system can also enable us to arrive at next year's budget requirements.

A work diary showing all of the principal maintenance operations for the year can be made to serve a very useful purpose. One should know the dates of the first and last frosts each year, along with the average date of the last killing frost. It is well to know when the greens were mowed for the first time, also the fairways. The time, amounts and brands of all fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide and insecticide applications should be recorded. It is well to be informed on when to expect the first and last disease attacks.