

Past Presidents Meeting

On March 16, 1977 the first Past Presidents meeting of the M.A.A.G.C.S. was held at the Allview Golf Club in Columbia, Md. Those in attendance were David Fairbank (1976), Alex Watson (1975), Paul Barefoot (1974), Lee Dieter (1973), George Thompson (1972), Bert Yingling (1971), Robert Milligan (1969), George Cleaver (1968), Angelo Cammarota (1966-1967), Thomas Doerer (1964-1965) and Bob Shields (1951-1952) (1955-1958).

The meeting was informal and everyone was given the opportunity to voice their opinion of any activity or order of business within the association or any ideas that may benefit the association.

The Mid-Atlantic AGCS recent survey was discussed, some thought its length was unnecessary, and that many of the questions were not pertinent to the superintendent. Some thought that surveys were not of much use because of the varying sizes of clubs, and poor survey return.

The Newsletter was discussed as to whether one editor alone, can do justice to the publication. It was thought that a dual-editor be considered like there had been in the past. With the exception of the President's Message, all other writing in the publication should be in



Pictured: 1st row; L - R Thomas Doerer, George Cleaver, Lee Dieter, David Fairbank and Angelo Cammarota. 2nd row; Bob Shields, Alex Watson, Bob Milligan, Bert Yingling, George Thompson and Paul Barefoot.

the second person style, not "I" style. Highlights of the board meetings should be included in the Newsletter to better inform the membership of the progress of the association.

It was felt by some that the personal appearance of the superintendent and guests was falling below our professionalism. Depending on the particular club, the newsletter editor should check with the host to ascertain the dress code for dinner hours. Leisure suits have been accepted at some clubs, but there are still some that require coat and tie. It was emphasized that the dinner meals be collected by a club representative, be it the superintendent or other employee, rather than collecting during the meeting. Workshop meetings, during morning hours, for superintendents and assistants and/or foremen, mechanics were discussed. They could be small groups located in shops for mechanical and/or personnel relationship discussions.

For Mid-Atlantic AGCS members who reside in fringe areas or not within the Mid-Atlantic area should be considered for reduced dues.

Public relations were discussed at length, the "superintendent identity" point in particular. After varying suggestions as to how the superintendent can make himself known, both at his club and to the layman, it was agreed that each individual is responsible for raising his dignity or identity at his own individual club. Public relations in the GCSAA should go all out in a program of bringing our profession to the attention of

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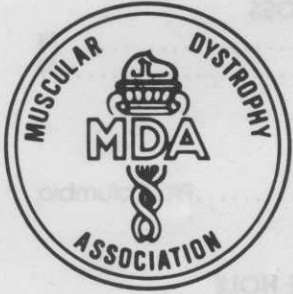
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the public. Next year, the Mid-Atlantic AGCS will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and it would be an excellent opportunity to use some public relations in the

Mid-Atlantic neighborhood.

It was suggested that a seminar be tied in with the Annual Turfgrass Conference in January, preferably on Landscape or Nutrition.

New members should be made more welcome, some never hear from the association once they've sent their money and received their card. Attention getters should be available at the meetings, guess the size of the green, photo quizzes, etc. Name tags should be reinstated since there are so many new faces. More order is needed during the meetings, either from the chair or sergeant of arms.

The financial aspects of the association were discussed, particularly, non-profit status, the availability of financial statements at year end, and the availability of a budget for the membership.

The meeting certainly did not lack for discussion, but did tend to jump back and forth considerably. Many discussions were dominated by one or two individuals, but it was the chairman's decision not to cut off any one individual for fear of losing any further discussion and/or ideas that he may share. The meeting was well accepted by all, and it is this chairman's opinion that it should be continued on an annual basis.

Respectfully submitted,
David S. Fairbank
*Chairman, Mid-Atlantic AGCS
Past Presidents Meeting*

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