

A Night in December

As an elected member of The Board of Directors of The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, I feel I owe an explanation to the membership for the unilateral action I took in resigning from that Board.

It has bothered me for the past several years that our organization, with a few individual exceptions, is divided into two factions or cliques, namely the Baltimore Clique and the Washington Clique. Nowhere in our By-Laws, which I helped revise, or in our organization name, do I see the word Baltimore or Washington, I do see *Mid-Atlantic*.

The deliberate rigging of the election process by the Baltimore faction at our election meeting on December 13, 1977 is nothing that hasn't happened in the past with the Washington faction. Both are equally to blame! Does that make it right? Is that the professional image we want portrayed?

I felt very strongly at the election meeting, as I do now, that it is time this issue be resolved for the *good* of the Superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area.

I felt, maybe wrongly so, (time will tell) that I was the individual in the best position to bring this to a head for a couple of reasons.

First, two years ago at the Hillendale election meeting my name and that of Bill Emerson were brought forth for Vice-President. The Washington group, *at that time*,

was trying to rig the elections by car pooling voting members to the meeting, voting members, incidentally, who very seldom made the meetings. When I saw what had happened, and not that it would have made any difference in the outcome of the V.P. election, I removed my name from the slate. Bill Emerson was, and is, a very capable and deserving individual, and I did not then, and do not now, want to be identified as anything but Mid-Atlantic. At the time I was told that was the wrong thing to do, that I would not be nominated again, etc. **BIG WHOOP!!!**

Second, I am an individual who has no overriding desire to move up in the Association. This fact is hard to get across to many people. This does not mean that I will

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President's Message

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"Executive Director" to operate the day-to-day business of our association and to insure continuity between past and present Boards. And more importantly than that, to give you and I, as members of the Mid-Atlantic, a consistent, solid source that we can go to for, and with, information that is needed for the good of the membership.

I want to thank our other officers and Board of Directors for their individual and collective efforts on our behalf in 1977. Many hours of effort went into the operation of our association, and these men did it willingly; so to Dave, Sam, Angie, Ron, George, Wayne, Ben, Ken, Mike and Virgil—Thank You. Thanks also to my wife Pat and my kids Shawn, Sharen and Scott, for allowing Dad the extra time away from them to do his thing. I especially thank the membership for allowing me the privilege to serve; I learned, and I enjoyed it.

In closing, I wish much success to our 1978 officers and Board. And I look forward to seeing everyone at "Turfgrass '78", January 9th - 12th.

Yours for better golf with finer turf.

Bill Emerson

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Night in December

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not help in anyway possible for the betterment of the Association. It does mean that the action on my part was not generated by the "sour grapes" syndrome. That I was not elected to a higher office was a not a factor in my decision. When approached by the nominating committee to be placed on a slate as Vice-President, my first question was, "Have you asked the Secretary of our organization who is a hard-working and qualified individual?" I was assured that he had been contacted and declined. I put forth other names to no avail.

It was brought to my attention the day after the election meeting that the 1977 Mid-Atlantic Board was comprised of 7 or 8 members who also are members of the Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association. This fact seemed to explain the debacle that occurred the night before. Again, BIG WHOOP!!! I for one enjoy the meetings of each group and have for a number of years. I have never seen an attempt by GWGCSA to interfere in, or ramrod the affairs of the Mid-Atlantic. I have never seen a Golf Course Superintendent not welcomed to a GWGCSA meeting whether he be from Baltimore or Washington. Sorry gentlemen, that excuse will not fly. I will continue to attend meetings of each association.

Lest I be misunderstood, I fault no single individual for what has happened. We are to blame as an Association for allowing this type of split to occur; we are responsible as an Association to correct it. Either we bury the hatchets of each faction and go forth as the MAAGCS unified, strong (nationally), and respected, or we split into two area groups divided, weak (nationally), and stained. I prefer the former.

We have elected a highly qualified *Mid-Atlantic* President and *Mid-Atlantic* Board. All we need now is a *Mid-Atlantic Association!*

Virgil Robinson, CGCS

Denny's Release

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Officers of the Association are:

President - Dennis McCammon, C.G.C.S. Golf course superintendent, Steamboat Village C.C., Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Vice President - Jim Ledonne, Golf course superintendent, Rifle Gap G.C., Rifle, Colo.

Secretary - Bill Goodrich, Superintendent, Eagle County School District, Eagle, Colo.

Treasurer - Bill Jobe, Golf course superintendent, Bookcliff C.C., Groland Junction, Colo.

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