

## Letter to the Membership

August 2, 1982

Mr. J. Ben Stagg  
President  
Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Route 2, Box 113  
Easton, Maryland 21601

Dear Mr. Stagg:

I have been a member of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA for nine years and am sincerely concerned for the future of our organization. It was my belief that the goals of our Association were to promote the role of Golf Course Superintendent as a professional position by providing continual education and instilling high ethical standards in our membership. While the Association's by-laws imply this purpose, I find myself wondering if there is any concerted effort to insure that these by-laws are properly enforced.

This letter is prompted by the situation that occurred at our July meeting. While I find it appalling that the Superintendent of that club was terminated after 23 years service with but one week's notice, I recognize that our organization is not yet strong enough to even attempt to dictate to our employers. Perhaps with a dedicated effort we can with time achieve the same working relationship with our employers that the PGA enjoys and insists upon.

While occurrences such as above have long been the topic of discussion during the social segment of our meetings, they have yet to be brought up during the business part. Why? Must we wait for the Board to take action? Or, since they are elected by the membership and function on behalf of the membership, do we the membership direct them to take action. This situation is one that could happen to any one of us and therefore, a problem to be aggressively addressed. Our inability to influence situations such as this points to a weak association.

We must take some giant steps forward if we are to improve ourselves, our image and our profession. Simply playing golf and dressing in a coat and tie for meetings does not do the trick. We are creeping when we should be attempting to run. There are many areas of growth that I believe the membership would appreciate the Board's pursuing. One area is to objectively identify the serious problems inherent in our profession and ways in which these problems can be improved or resolved. Perhaps this can be achieved by the appointment of a committee comprised of members with a true interest in this area. Another area open to progress is the superintendent's concept of the function of his assis-

tant. The assistant's position is similar enough to that of an intern that we might consider it an internship program, a learning process designed to interface with his formal education, promoting the professionalism we all strive for. The educational part of our meetings should reflect the pulling power that the Mid-Atlantic GCSA has to attract a wide variety of outstanding speakers.

I believe that the difference between our continuing as we are or moving forward lies in our acquiring a paid staff (one secretary, perhaps even part-time could handle our needs at present) and a permanent, long term MAGCSA office telephone number. This staff could handle all paperwork, including distributing of employment notices and the mechanics involved in arranging our meetings, etc.; time consuming efforts the Board must now handle in whatever spare time each can manage. A permanent telephone number would provide our organization an increased measure of continuity and improve the communication flow between the Board and its members, a necessity if the Association is to develop, commit to long range plans and achieve its potential.

Of crucial importance is the enforcement of our Code of Ethics. We must instill in our membership a code of ethics that becomes a creed. A creed that bonds each of us to the other and creates a cohesive influential Association. An association that cannot by some means insure adherence to its own Code of Ethics cannot effectively influence those outside of its organization. An association with "clout" had to first bind its own members to it before it could hope to succeed in binding others to its wishes, policies, or directives.

I believe that with the full support of its membership the Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors is capable of such a challenge. However, again it must be stressed that any group is only as effective as its members. If we wish the Board to move our association forward in resolving the various problems that are universal to our profession then we must back them 110%.

Sincerely,

G. E. Renault III  
C.G.C.S.

## WANTED: Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Editor

The Mid-Atlantic Newsletter will need a new editor starting January 1983. Anyone interested in the job or information about the job, please contact the present editor ASAP.