

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

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Editor

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Candidates for 2 Directors Slots Speak Out

In this issue as well as our last issue we presented the slate of candidates that are seeking election to the MAAGCS Board. These include four members, Ken Ingram, John Hoover, Mim Meier and Steve Potter, running for two directors' seats. In order to assist you in casting an informed vote, three standard questions were put to the candidates. Below are the questions followed by their responses.

Questions:

1. In your opinion, in which direction would you like to see the association heading?
2. You have just become a wizard and have the power to change any single thing within the association. What would it be and why?
3. Why would you like to become a Director of the Association?

Ken Ingram

1. I would like to see more growth and believe we could use the GCSAA as a guideline in terms of how they run the operation. While the important decisions are made by elected officials, the day-to-day time consuming operation is carried on by actual staff members, not in someone's spare time. Maybe for us it would mean a part or full time one person staff. Of course, we need more money to undertake such a venture; but I believe we could tap into the commercial money available to cover the cost.

2. Our reservation system for meetings is not working. At my meeting at Columbia Country Club, I had reservations for 70

and 129 showed up — an overflow of 84%! There have been many cases like this and not only does it create mass confusion, it also reflects badly on our association. We need to come up with something better, be it an automatic reservation and payment unless you cancel or a computerized phone call checking on a reservation — something needs to be done.

3. I've worked in both the Baltimore and Washington areas. There are good people in both and I believe I have a feel for both areas. I've supported the association in many ways, including regular attendance at meetings for the past 6-7 years.

John Hoover

1. In my opinion, I would like to see the Association continue to promote the professionalism and educational standards of the golf course superintendent.

2. If I had the power to change one thing within the association, I would do away with any feeling of division. With this removed, we could work together as a complete group to set higher goals and achieve greater things for the profession of the superintendent.

3. As a member I feel it is my obligation to help the association achieve the goals set by past and present board members. I feel the work done by the Board is very important, but time consuming, and at this point in my career, I have time to dedicate to the works of the association.

James Meier, CGCS

1. In my opinion the direction the association should be moving is more toward news coverage. When events are held like the Kemper, we should strive to get news coverage of the men behind the scenes. Not only supers, but the crew also. There should be coverage of everyday life on courses from the small ones to the largest.

2. The single thing with the association I would change would most likely be to run the association like the PGA. They seem to get the salaries for their men in the clubs they want to.

3. I'd like to become a director to see if I can handle more responsibility and possibly help out.

Steve Potter

1. I would like to see the MAAGCS head towards a goal of unity. I feel it is important that we continue to grow as a singular group. It troubles me that we make geographic distinctions, particularly between Baltimore and Washington. I hope the time will come when the only concern given to voting on candidates and policies is how they will benefit the association as a whole.

2. As a wizard, I would enable the MAAGCS to employ an executive director, at least part time to handle such tasks

as coordinating and getting out the newsletter; monthly meeting arrangements; coordination with the National on general info, certification, convention; and the day to day operation such as mailings, membership rosters, etc.

3. I would like the opportunity to give back some of my time and efforts to the association. I have climbed the ladder of professionalism at my club to the point where I am seen as the director of golf course management at Woodholme, not just a greenskeeper. This is, in part, due to my affiliation with a professional organization, the MAAGCS, and I am grateful.

On the Tee . . .

Well, what do you think of that little white surprise we had last Wednesday? I'm beginning to think that we complained a little too loudly about this past summer and good old mother nature decided to show just what she can do when she sets her mind to it. Perhaps we should offer up a meaningful sacrifice. How about every first born male assistant super? Any volunteers?

For those of you who are looking forward to the winter — aren't we all — and particularly snow, snow, snow, join us on our 2nd Annual Ski Trip to Bryce. It's great fun and the price can't be beat, \$32/person for lodging and \$12/day for lift tickets. If you've never skied before and want to try it, this is the time!

Items to remember are our December Meeting which will be held on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9th. Remember, it's WEDNESDAY, not the usual Tuesday. Mark your calendar and be there, it's MAAGCS election night and to borrow a phrase, voting's a duty not a privilege.

Also, I highly recommend the one day GCSAA regional seminar "The Assistant Superintendent: Functions & Responsibilities" being offered in conjunction with the Virginia Turfgrass Conference on January 18th at the Richmond Marriott. Take advantage of it, whether you are an assistant or a super.

I will have to admit that so far the response to the newsletter survey has not been overwhelming. In fact the data indicates that it is either absolute perfectionism or you don't really give a damn about it. The first assumption is highly unlikely given the old dictum that you can't please all of the people all of the time. That leaves us with the second assumption which is rather pathetic. When you can imagine how difficult it is to pull an article out of them.

If you are aware of a member not receiving our mailing, please let us know — in writing please so there's no confusion on the address.

Since this is our last issue until next year, I will take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very safe and happy holiday season!