

Turfgrass Matters



December 1993, vol. 45, no. 10

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

1993 Annual Meeting to Be at Turf Valley

Mike Gilmore will host the December 14 meeting at Turf Valley Country Club in Ellicott City, Md.

Since the last time MAAGCS met at Turf Valley, nine more holes have been added, bringing
See Turf Valley, page 5, col 3

Golf: See Golf Notes, page 2.

Dinner: Cocktails 6:00, hors d'oeuvres 6:30, dinner 7:00.

Formal. Cost: \$30.

Reservations: 301-490-6202

Directions: From Baltimore: I-695 to I-70 W to Marriottsville Rd exit. Left on Marriottsville Rd. At first stop sign turn left on Rt. 40. Go 7/10 mile to Turf Valley Rd. From D.C. I-495 to Rt. 29 N. Go to I-70 west & follow above directions.

Dues Increase Update

by Steve Potter

It was announced in last month's issue that the BOD set the dues to be \$120—a \$35 increase. Broad parameters were set on what the dues are to be used for but there has been some interest in specifics. This will attempt to answer some of these questions. As always, you are encouraged to call a board member to ask any questions you may have.

In fiscal year 1992 the association operated at approximately a \$2,000 loss. This loss was due to increased expenses, not loss of revenue. The growth of the membership was moderate and as

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a great meeting at Swan Creek last month. The weather was terrific for November and everyone enjoyed playing a scramble format with members they usually don't play golf with. The course was in excellent shape and the meal was more than most could finish. Geoffrey Blind from Hillendale had some great information to be used by the superintendent who is having poa or drainage problems on greens—so if you have some kind of renovation being considered at your club, give him a call.



The MAAGCS continues to grow as do its needs and responsibilities. An effort was made this year to plot a course that will accommodate these needs for the future. The Long Range Planning Committee, headed by director Mike Gilmore, was created this year to focus on the changes needed to accommodate the membership. It is purposefully moving at a moderate pace both to protect the association fiscally, and to allow the membership time to assist in these changes. These changes are being done in stages in hopes that in several years all the changes will blend to benefit the members and establish a means for meeting future needs of

the association. Your input is valued and I urge you to contact a board member to voice your concerns or suggestions.

The December meeting at Turf Valley is the election meeting. Past President Ken Ingram as chairman of the nominating committee is presenting an excellent slate of individuals to run for the BOD. If you are interested in serving the association, nominations are taken from the floor in accordance with the by-laws, or contact the next Past President for next year. (That's me, folks.)

The last thing I want to say through the president's message is to tell the entire membership what an enjoyable experience it has been serving you over the past year. I greatly enjoyed working with the gentlemen you have elected to the BOD. All of us are busy at our jobs—as you are—yet each and every board member always took the time to do his job for the membership and have a report ready for each board meeting. Time is growing increasingly precious and I admire and commend each board member for his attention to his board duties. I want to sign off by thanking these men for their dedication and professionalism. Thank you.



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far as is known, there were no losses of renewals due to the economy. There is a projected deficit this year and some non-essentials such as dry goods have been put on hold for a year. During this period, the BOD still tried to make some changes with the membership's best interests in mind such as supporting some of the major projects of the GCSAA and increasing our own scholarship support of students working for members of the MAAGCS.


During this same period the BOD has been looking at changes to enhance services to the membership through the creation of the Long Range Committee. This committee made every effort to make recommendations based on the information they received in the surveys sent to the membership and on the information obtained from other local organizations. Some of the

changes are not costly, but a change such as a monthly mailing to announce the meetings costs several hundred dollars each month. Although it can be partially subsidized by advertising, the BOD did not feel it appropriate to have a membership service depend on optional advertising. The subject of executive director has been explored for years, and the association is now getting large enough that some sort of management service is essential. There are enough expense and problems associated with having an executive director that the Long Range Planning Committee proposed looking into a management service. They investigated other associations that have such a service and found that a wide variety of services is available at a wide range of costs. We hope that within the next year, a service that is both affordable and that will provide for the needs of the membership will be in place. The BOD

will also strive to maintain its policy of not cutting services to the membership during this period.

The dues increase is to keep the association solvent during these changes. A third of the increase can be attributed to inflation alone. The rest is to be used to try and keep what we feel are important functions of MAAGCS funded. These include educational scholarships that are \$3,500 above the mandated 10% of dues collected to be set aside for this purpose. The Education Committee is trying to award \$6,000 in scholarships this year and the BOD would like to see that number increased, not decreased. In the survey, the membership agreed almost unanimously. This still doesn't include the \$1,000 that was sent to the GCSAA to help in its pesticide exposure study. There were also donations made for benevolent purposes due to natural disasters; this came from the

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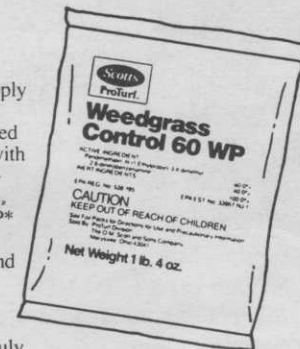
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*Not available in Canada



Dues, from page 6

Benevolence Fund. It is important that you realize that this money comes exclusively from dues. And finally, we must have some source of revenue to depend on when we negotiate a contract with a management service and we very much want to do this without removing funding from any other service.

This is your association and the BOD is doing what it feels is best for the future of the MAAGCS. The BOD can't urge you strongly enough to call one of us with a question or concern, or to volunteer your time. I am sure accommodations will be made for you. These decisions were made by the BOD based on recommendations by committees that consist of board members, past presidents and members at large. Every effort is being made to change while keeping in mind your best interests. The BOD hopes it can depend on your financial support to get some of these changes implemented.

COHOON'S CORNER

○ The GCSAA has launched a new column in its publication, *Newsline*, entitled "Members Mailbag." The purpose of the column is to provide a forum for members where they can ask questions and voice concerns over GCSAA programs and activities. From what I hear, the Board of Directors of the GCSAA is eager to respond to the membership. So far, however, there has been very little response. Your comments can be mailed or faxed (no phone calls please) directly to the GCSAA.

○ Last year the MAAGCS sponsored a hospitality suite at the GCSAA national conference and show. It was such a success that we are going to do it again

this year in Dallas. The suite will be shared with the Metropolitan GCSA. It's a great place to meet up with your neighbors and talk about the educational program or where to go for dinner. By sharing the suite we can renew old acquaintances or make new friends with the great group of superintendents who make up the Metropolitan GCSA. Look for more information in the next few weeks.

○ For those who haven't heard, Mark Merrick has resigned as Social and Benevolence Chairman of the MAAGCS. Anyone who has attended Ladies' Night or who has worked with Mark knows that he has done an outstanding job for the association. Thanks for the service, and good luck in the future, Mark!

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