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President's Message

Jim Halley

The season is near its end, and I'm glad this extremely wet year is almost over. I hope the next year brings better weather and improved agronomic and economic times.

The 75th Anniversary meeting this October at Bretton Woods was outstanding. Many thanks to Ken Ingram and his staff, for a great day of golf, dinner and a wonderful display of our associations history. Listening to the stories of the men who shaped our association over the years made me proud and honored to be a member of the MAAGCS.

I would like to thank Gary Crone and his staff for hosting our November meeting at The Woodlands. The Golf Course was in excellent condition. Congratulations to Jeff Miskin on being elected at this meeting to the Industrial Advisory Committee.

This year I have had the pleasure of working with a board that is a fine group of professionals. I have enjoyed the experience of being President and thank you for this great opportunity. I feel we have made progress this year and the board has worked hard to improve our association. The addition of our executive secretary, Theresa Baria has proved to be a great asset. Theresa has done an outstanding job since she arrived in May. Although progress has been made, we need to continue the momentum and stride for our goals.

I know this board is up to the challenge and will continue to serve the association well. I'm looking forward to being Past President next year and working closely with board and the Industrial Advisory Committee.

Best wishes this Holiday Season and I encourage all of you to get involved in 2004

Our 2003 directories have been printed and sent out to the membership. If your information has changed, please call the MAAGCS office at 888/Mid-Turf

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting

By Kenneth Ingram

The 11th Annual Chapter Delegates Meeting was held September 6-7 in Kansas City. It is my job as Chapter Delegate to bring the information back to the MAAGCS. As always I left Kansas City with a lot of pride in my association, a full tummy, and a tired fanny from sitting all weekend.

Surprisingly, Headquarters Relocation was not the highlight of the weekend. Actually, that discussion did not take place until Sunday morning. Don't hold your breath on this one, the process is now going to be incredibly thorough. Interestingly, what was once the Headquarters Relocation Resources Group (HRRG) is now the Headquarters Location Resource Group (HLRG). I don't know if that should tell us something or not. Although no members of the HLRG are from our area (I can't believe Walter Montross escaped this one) it is a "Blue Ribbon" committee and I trust their judgement.

Every year now it seems we have some activity with a consulting firm involved with our Board. This year it was an "organizational audit." A firm called PRA had given GCSAA a "complete physical." The results were good, but they introduced the buzzword "accountability." They want our Board and Staff to spend less time reporting on efforts and activities and focus on results. There was a lot of discussion of Goals and Indicators of Success.

This was followed by a discussion of finances. What a difference a year makes. The association is in much better shape. Included in this was a discussion of a long term Dues structure. Some folks are still upset with last years 20% increase. No decision was made and committees will discuss whether to have small annual increases or a more substantial

continued on page 5

Delegates Meeting continued from page 2

increase every four to five years. Our new CFO Cam Oury, like all our staff, seems like a first rate individual.

PDI hasn't gone away. Everything started smoothly July 1, 2003. There are still some "housekeeping" items. One involves the conformity of Bylaws with chapters. If you were a Class A MAAGCS member before 1997 you were "grandfathered" when the Dual Affiliation Agreement started. Now, with PDI, that person who is still just a chapter member could still be Class A, but a person who is a GCSAA member and chapter member who does not pursue the new Class A standards would be busted a rank to Superintendent Member in GCSAA and the chapter. No decision was made but I look for some type of "great grandfathering" deal. There was also a lot of discussion on the ability to have two or more Class A members at multicourse facilities. This has always been controversial, everyone knows one of those Class A members has more at stake than the other. Committees will have to sort this all out. All told, if you are asked to serve on the Membership Committee next year do as Tony Kornheiser says, "run screaming from the room."

There are changes to Conference and Show in San Diego. Gone is the Wednesday night Opening Session. That has moved to Thursday morning and Wednesday night will be an informal and very social get-together. This is GCSAA's big money maker so any change is big news.

There was much talk of GCSAA "losing our identity" with new changes such as the combined trade show with the Golf Course Owners in 2005 and changing the GCSAA Foundation to the Environmental Institute for Golf. Valid reasons were given for the changes and time will tell if the pundits have an issue or not.

I met with all the candidates for office. It's too early to make decisions at this point. My biggest surprise was Bob Maibush not running for Secretary/Treasurer. He may be the first person in awhile that just wanted to serve on the Board and not pursue the Presidency.

I did my best to shut-up and listen. That's hard for me to do. Despite my activity the MAAGCS is still a well respected chapter. We rank 9th out of 103 by vote count, but no one outranks us in the quality of membership.

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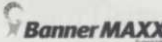
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
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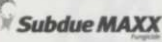












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