

Strictly Business

By Bob Costa

The Golf Course Superintendent profession by nature is one that could easily be described as volatile, and it's a pretty sure bet that before each of us retire and take up golf as a hobby, we will have changed jobs several times. Those who are familiar with the process know that it is often an emotional experience. By the time you've crossed the finish line, you are likely to have felt frustrated, disappointed, rejected, dejected, insecure, anxious, and if you are successful, for at least a fleeting moment, elated.

I have always viewed the job search as a three step process which includes, an objective evaluation, the search, and marketing. How well you acknowledge and prepare yourself for each of these steps will make the emotional experience a little

more palatable and is also likely to culminate in a successful ending.

I recommend you begin your job search by purchasing a new note pad, a well sharpened pencil, and find yourself a quiet location where you can be alone with your thoughts. Start by making a list of the advantages and disadvantages of your current job. If you are in between jobs, you can perform the same exercise using your previous job. You're not through yet. A second list should be developed that notes all the qualities you would seek in a new position. The list should be comprehensive and include the obvious, such as, salary, private or public facility, and location, and the not so obvious, such as challenge, potential for growth, prestige, stability and career advancement. Rank these qualities based upon priority. Keep in mind that while

searching for the right job you need to establish realistic expectations. Rarely should you expect to find a job that meets all of these qualities you've identified. Make special note of those qualities you can't live without, as well as those where there is room for compromise.

Now that you have identified the job qualities that are most important to you, ask yourself if those needs are already being met in your present job? Or perhaps with some adjustments they could be realized? If so, your job search is over, congratulations, for you, the grass is probably not greener on the other side. However, if in your objective evaluation you feel your present position will never allow you to realize your personal and professional dreams, particularly those for which you have acknowledged as priorities, it's time to continue the process. Be prepared to

have your decision questioned and challenged by those close to you. They'll refer to cliques about green grass and fences. Don't waver. Remember, without risk there is usually little reward.

Keep your lists close at hand. You will need them again and again in the weeks and months to come. They will guide you, and ultimately help in minimizing the risk of making a decision you may regret. More on this subject next month.

FYI -
CGCSA Job Hotline
619-497-5170

GCSAA Makes Plea For History

The GCSAA Historical Committee has announced plans for a future golf course maintenance museum. The museum will likely be located at headquarters in Lawrence Kansas. Until plans are finalized, members of the committee are asking anyone who has equipment, or written materials of historical value to hang on to them. Details of the historical museum will be forthcoming.

Holmquist Elected As The Affiliate Representative

John Holmquist of Automatic Rain was elected as the affiliate representative at the annual meeting on April 25th. John, replaces Bob Whitacker from NSTC Farmtec, who's two year term expired. He is joined on the board by Mike Ligon from H.V. Carter. Congratulations!



Tom Jackson
Don Naumann
Ron Seibel

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