



GCSAA Chapter Delegate Meeting Summary

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

On December 1st and 2nd I represented the GCSANC at the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, Kansas. In this article I will try and briefly summarize the main points of discussion from that meeting. If you have any further questions regarding any of these topics please feel free to contact me or raise the item for discussion at an upcoming chapter meeting.

1. PDI Implementation - As we all are aware the PDI implementation date is July 1, 2003. The Code of Standards for Class "A" members should be available for members at the 2002 Conference and Show in Orlando. This code will provide the policy details of the Class "A" qualifications. All Class "A" members will be given a new 3, 4 or 5 year renewal cycle at the time of implementation. After this initial renewal everyone will be on a 5-year renewal cycle. CGCS will remain on their current 5-year renewal cycle. The GCSAA Pesticide Exam should be ready by fall of 2002. This test is not meant to be a license. It is intended to demonstrate proficiency in the requirements necessary to properly apply or supervise pesticide applications at your facility. Each member will receive an individual scorecard next year that will show him or her what their status will be when implementation takes place in 2003. This scorecard will allow the individual member to assess how to plan their future educational needs required to meet the future requirements.

2. Education Update - Several new education programs have

become available in the past year including the Action Learning Guidebook and several new Online Self-Study Courses. There have also been changes in regional seminar programs including Chapter Administered Seminars and a new Chapter Education Toolkit to assist chapters in developing their own quality education programs. Beginning in July of 2002 meetings of 1 hour or longer will be eligible to receive continuing education points from GCSAA (currently they need to be 3 1/2 hours). This will be an important source of points when members need to attain points for their Class "A" renewal after PDI implementation.

3. Media / Public Relations - The GCSAA plan is to continue to create awareness of the profession and the important role the golf course superintendent plays in the overall vitality of the game of golf. There will also be more of a focus on the superintendent in media / public relations programs rather than in paid advertisements.

4. GCSAA's Internet Strategy - There are three main goals of the GCSAA Internet Program. The first goal is to provide a one-stop internet location where superintendents can manage their jobs and careers. The second goal is to link superintendents, their peers, researchers and industry. The third goal is for GCSAA to deliver services to the golf industry and preserve the industry's trust. Areas of focus include online education, knowledge management and internet commerce.

5. GCSAA PAC - The GCSAA

has formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) as an aid to its government relations program. This PAC will identify persons within government who will be beneficial allies for legislative support. This PAC will be funded by individual member contributions.

6. Limited Budget Outreach Program - GCSAA is continuing to work on this program with the chapters. There is still a need for many more chapters to identify volunteers and courses that may fit into this program.

7. Environmental Stewardship Program - GCSAA remains committed to being the leaders in the environmental arena in golf and hopes to further develop and strengthen environmental programs for golf courses by working with groups such as Audubon International and the Center for Resource Management.

8. Research Programs - The GCSAA is currently involved in funding 27 projects nationwide. In the future it is hoped that GCSAA can work more closely with local chapters and superintendents to support research that is important to them.

9. Chapter Concerns - There were two main items discussed during the course of the meeting that also need to be mentioned. One was how the implementation of PDI will affect the individual chapters when it comes to tracking hours for members. GCSAA is working on a new database system that may help ease this burden. They are also making every effort to make the tracking of hours as simple as possible so a chapter

can send in those hours via fax or e-mail. As implementation gets closer we should have a much better idea of how this will all work. The second discussion focused on the current economic situation in golf related to both the actual economic downturn and the aftermath of the events of September 11th. Across the country different facilities have faced a range of various situations. In general it appears that the resort areas and upscale public facilities have seen the greatest decline in numbers. Municipal type facilities have seen very little impact and in some cases have actually seen increases in play. On the private side, the reaction has varied from declining play because of economic impacts to increasing play because people are staying home as a result of September 11th. It will take some time to sort out the final impact since there are two different factors affecting these numbers. GCSAA has a brochure available called "How to Help Your Course Weather an Economic Downturn" for those that are interested.

10. GCSAA Candidates 2002 - All the candidates for the GCSAA BOD made presentations to the delegates and were available for individual candidate breakout groups in the evening where delegates could ask them questions. Please contact the GCSANC BOD or myself if you have specific questions or thoughts about specific candidates. The GCSANC BOD will be discussing these candidates on January 7th 2002 at our next BOD Meeting. /