

Candidate Statements

Candidate Statement for President



GLENN MATTHEWS

Having worked in the golf course industry since the age of 16, a little more than twenty years, I have personally benefitted from the game of golf in ways that will profoundly affect me until the day I depart this life. When I think about the friendships developed, the career I have had to this point, and the opportunities the game has provided over the years I am humbled and genuinely grateful.

For those who spend their lives working in an industry that gives so much, it is inevitable and really a right of passage that at some point during our careers we will have an opportunity to give back to the game which has given so much to us all. Serving on the board for the past four years has enriched my professional career and allowed me to contribute to a dynamic organization committed to advancing the profession of the golf course superintendent, improving the environment, and enriching the game of golf for those who play the game.

In the coming year, as President, I plan to serve the membership of the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association with the highest degree of integrity, professionalism and excellence. My goal is to continue to shape the strategic direction of the association to serve the best interests of its members and the game of golf. Through effective communication and leadership, I and the 2011 Board of Directors hope to continue to provide valuable educational opportunities while managing association business and advancing the profession of the golf course superintendent. I look forward to serving the membership and a fantastic year!

Candidate Statement for Director



GARY INGRAM

I started my career in the golf industry over 40 years ago picking a driving range and washing golf carts. Since then I have had the opportunity to experience the numerous challenges this business has to offer including maintenance, construction, grow-ins, and sales. It has been quite rewarding helping create facilities for individuals to recreate, but the most enjoyable part of the industry is its people. We are challenged with the current state of our economy, but if we continue to keep our glass half full we can enjoy and improve our organization even through these tough times. We must continue to look outside the box, while embracing the traditions of our organization. A strong collaboration with the other phases of our industry is imperative to our success. We should continue to help educate not only ourselves, but also the communities in which we live and work. We are a positive and critical part of these communities and our environment. For our industry and organization to flourish, we must continue to articulate these accomplishments and embrace these responsibilities.

Candidate Statement for Vice President



RODNEY MULLER

GCSANC Director

Empire Ranch GC formerly Tilden Park GC

For the past two years I have been fortunate to serve on the GCSANC Board of Directors. Looking towards 2011, and with your support I would like to serve in a leadership role as Vice President for our chapter.

During my tenure on the board I've had the pleasure to serve on the Education Committee (in the capacity as Co-chairman) and have been committed to providing quality education which assists members, as we continue to make important career decisions along with critical business decisions relating to turf management.

I believe we are currently facing one of the most difficult times within the golf and turf care industry, which requires GCSANC and its leadership to reach out even more when providing tools that readily assist the membership...i.e. quality education, web site enhancement and fundraising efforts to help offset costs for programs and services.

I have enjoyed being involved and would like to do more for our chapter, and welcome the opportunity to serve as Vice President.

Candidate Statement for Secretary/Treasurer



DALE SIMPSON

My name is Dale Simpson. I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville. I have served as a Director on the Board for the NCGCSA for the past two years. It has been a real pleasure serving all of the Superintendents in Northern California as a Director and I would be honored to continue serving as the Secretary/Treasurer. Respectfully, Dale Simpson

Candidate Statement for Director



NICK CHECKLENIS

Golf Course Superintendent

Silver Creek Valley Country Club

I am excited about the opportunity of possibly serving on the board of directors for the GCSANC. After 24 years in the industry, and a long-time member of our chapter, I believe it's time for me to give back. I have the energy, time, and genuine interest to serve you and our association.

I, like many of you, understand the challenges superintendents are faced with during current economic times. You can count on me to work with other board members and chapter staff in uncovering solutions that will assist our members in doing their jobs. The areas that I find of importance are education and employment opportunities for both superintendents and affiliate members. I also value the camaraderie our chapter provides and would work diligently to see that it keeps its momentum.

Over the years I've had the opportunity to host chapter-related events at Silver Creek Valley CC, and would welcome that opportunity again if it benefits our chapter and its members.

My golf course maintenance experience spans 24 years. I started my journey in 1986, working on the crew at Sunnyvale Municipal GC. Next assignment was working for Michael Simpson at Los Altos CC as a laborer, and loved it! After a year or so, Michael asked me to serve as his assistant superintendent (after John Martin left the post). I spent 5 more years as assistant while attending Foothill College part-time. In 1992, I had the opportunity to move to a newly constructed, private golf course, Silver Creek Valley CC (San Jose), where I still remain today as golf course superintendent, a position I appreciate immensely.

Candidate Statement for Director



JON CHRISTENSON, CGCS

Although I am new to California and the Bay area, I have enjoyed those of you I have gotten to know, along with those I have known before my move here from Iowa. I have been involved on a national level with the GCSAA through both the Education and Membership Committees for 5 years, along with two years as the Iowa Chapter Delegate to the GCSAA. I have also served the Iowa GCSA as Past President and Director and am a 16 year member of the GCSAA. Through these experiences on both the Chapter and GCSAA level, I have gained valuable knowledge of how a Chapter can benefit its members and their needs. As a Golf Course Superintendent for 16 years and a General Manager/Superintendent for 5 years, I have seen many of the challenges we face everyday on both a public and private level. On a personal note, I take great pride in being able to give back to the profession that has given so much to me. The opportunities I have had for volunteer service have been met with nothing but professionalism and dedication. I would appreciate the opportunity for continued service to my profession with the Northern California GCSA. I am sure you will find my knowledge and experience to be very beneficial for the Chapter and GCSAA. For those of you that I have not been able to meet yet, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Candidate Statement for Affiliate Director



MIKE BLANKINSHIP

My name is Mike Blankinship. I founded my firm 10 years ago with the express purpose of solving environmental issues for people that grow things for a living. The project that got our firm started was at the Presidio Golf Course for Arnold Palmer Golf where we prepared an Integrated Golf Course Management Plan. Not only did we successfully address the San Francisco City/County pesticide ordinance issue, but also met National Park Service concerns. Since our start, we've worked on dozens of projects across the country and met some great golf people. We've particularly enjoyed helping superintendents solve problems related to construction and renovation, pesticide and fertilizer impacts to water quality, irrigation, endangered species and stormwater. We are particularly proud of using our golf course knowledge and regulatory agency compliance know-how to navigate through the maze of environmental regulations a superintendent might need to tackle. I am a native Californian and a UC Davis graduate in environmental toxicology and am a licensed professional civil engineer and Pest Control Advisor. I would be delighted to serve on the Board and have the opportunity to give back to the many superintendents that have helped shape my firm. You can learn about me and my firm at www.h2osci.com.

Candidate Statement for Affiliate Director



DAVE WILBER *Director of Agronomy, Sierra Pacific Turf Services*

I'm honored to be asked to serve the GCSANC. I've been a member since 1990 and believe very much in having a strong local association. I've been both a superintendent and commercial member of several boards and I understand what the commitment to being a board member means. The

GCSANC is a storied and respected organization. Strong traditions being held along with moving forward in modern times isn't easy, but it is necessary. I believe in education and networking as primary areas to advance our profession. Thanks to all my friends and associates for their vote of confidence.

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Candidate Statement for Assistant Director



JOSH LEWIS

My name is Josh Lewis. I am 28 years old, married and I have two kids. I was born and raised on the Southern Oregon Coast in Coos Bay, which is about three hours north of the California border, and about 30 minutes from Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. My interests revolve mostly around my young family at this point in my life, but also include golf history and architecture, any and all sports, and obviously playing golf. I have a degree in Horticulture with a turf management option from Oregon State University, and currently hold the position of Assistant Superintendent at Pasatiempo Golf Club in Santa Cruz.

My previous experience includes six years at Bandon Dunes where I was fortunate enough to be a Forman on the construction of Bandon Trails, and move into the position of Irrigation Technician/Second Assistant during the grow-in of the course. I was also an intern for almost a year at Eugene Country Club where I was able to be a part of their staff during the U.S. Women's Amateur in 2008. While at Oregon State I was elected as President of our turf club, and was also able to participate as a student representative on several committees within the Department of Horticulture. My volunteer experience includes the 2009 President's Cup at Harding Park, and the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

My future goals include continued devotion to my family, achieving certification as a golf course superintendent, and increased involvement in the local and national industry associations. I thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to all of the possibilities ahead.

Candidate Statement for Assistant Director



AKONI GANIR

Assistant Superintendent, Cypress Point Club

I would like the opportunity to work with GCSANC leadership and serve on the Board of Directors as the representative for Assistant Superintendents within our chapter. I have had the privilege to work as the Assistant Superintendent at Cypress Point Club for the past four years. During this time, I've received valuable mentoring by other Assistants and Superintendents within our association.

I'm a strong believer in career and professional development. If elected, I will listen closely to the concerns of our Assistant Superintendents and will seek viable solutions on their behalf. I will share my thoughts and ideas on how to be a more effective Assistant Superintendent while preparing to become a Class-A Superintendent. For example, every Assistant could improve their skills by attending the annual NCGA Assistant Superintendent Boot Camp. I have attended this event multiple times and I always learn new things about what it takes to be successful in this ever-changing industry. As Assistants, we should take advantage of these types of educational events, especially when they're so accessible.

I would also support new ideas and concepts regarding budget-conscious golf course maintenance practices. Most facilities are being asked to do more with less. While the golf industry is changing before our eyes, it's important to put forth efforts to be flexible and make adjustments in our approach to golf course management during these challenging times. If elected, you can count on me to share what I've learned with others. Additionally, I hope to encourage other Assistants to also get involved with our association at the chapter level.

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