

2016/17 WWGCSA SUMMARY REPORT
ANNUAL MEETING
August 14, 2017

The following is a summary report provided to the membership by the Board of Directors of the Western Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association. It highlights many of the activities of the board over the past year and outlines some of the upcoming projects. It is not inclusive of all activities, so if you have any questions please reach out to a board member or our Executive Director, Paul Ramsdell.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The past several years have shown the same trend. We are not getting a lot richer and we are not getting poorer. Last year's financials showed that we had a slight loss while this year showed that we had a slight gain. Most of this is attributed to a new pay structure for the executive director position. The timing of bonuses artificially inflated 2015-2016 expenses. The goal of the board, just like any business, is to grow the revenue while keeping the expenses in check. In order to do this, we need to create value for the membership within the constraints of a budget. We continue to ask our members to provide ideas to the board that would generate interest and value to our membership, while making good financial sense. The more money we generate the more we can spend on speakers, research, websites, events, and other things that you value as members. For additional information about finances please see the attached financial statements.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Ryan Semritc has been our Golf Committee chair in 2017 and the board has begun making the move to try and be one year ahead on our events schedule. The schedule for 2018 is starting to take shape. We have a great overnight "Can-Am" meeting and golf set on March 22 at Bellingham CC, and the golf the next day at Sudden Valley. So, thanks to Dave Bocci and Jacob Close for hosting us (Paul Robertson from Victoria Golf Links has suggested we have the spring meeting at VGC in 2019). The fivesome is set for May 10th at Fircrest. And we are planning to come back to Aldarra in August for the annual meeting. A few events that are not set in stone, but we are trying to lock up include: the January meeting at Seattle Trap & Skeet, Equipment Manager Field Day at Broadmoor in February, and Crew Tournament at Willows Run at the end of June.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The chair for the Education Committee in 2017 is Sean Reehoorn. In addition to putting together a great list of speakers for this year's meetings, Sean has been planning for next year as well. As with our Golf Committee, and Fivesome event, we are finding that planning a year or more out provides us with the best results. If you have speakers or topics that you'd like to have information presented on, please contact Sean or think of volunteering to help the committee shape the direction of our association.

WTLS

This was our second year at the Lynnwood Convention Center and we saw similar numbers to the previous year's attendance. Current plans are to continue at the Lynnwood Center. Some of the reasons behind this are: the size of the facility better matches our demands, rather than feeling like a ghost town we are all closely assembled for networking and the room sizes are better suited to our needs, parking is not an issue and is free, people can pull in just before the seminars begin, find a place to park and be in the room within 5 minutes. Although the location is farther north for the Tacoma-area members it only adds about 10-15 minutes of time as traffic congestion ends in Bellevue and the flow of getting in and out is much easier.

This year, Sean Reehoorn started gathering available speakers earlier for the seminars and we should have a program out with most presenters by October. We are also adding a Keynote motivational speaker to this year's opening session of the pesticide recertification seminars. The goal of this speaker is to provide a national speaker who provides entertainment outside of the normal messages on proper spraying, legal requirements, etc. Please plan on attending and see our great list of speakers and experience it for yourself.

FIVESOME

This year was challenging with a last-minute change of venues and some nasty weather on the day of the event. Many thanks to Meridian Valley CC and Craig Benson for accommodating us last minute. Even with the challenges, this year turned out to be one of our most successful events with the event bringing in \$24,913. A \$7,300 gain from 2016. With the last-minute scrambling, we have made some changes to ensure this doesn't happen again. We now have dates and locations for the Fivesome booked for the next three years.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SEMINAR

We opted not to have a seminar in 2017 and have decided to put it on an every-other-year rotation going forward. We appreciate the role very much that assistants and non-superintendent members have in our association and feel this is an important event for our association. We also recognize that the seminar needs to be valued and utilized by our members. In 2015, we only had 22 participants. Thaddeus Lalley has been working on a program and location scheduled late in February of 2018. Please be advised that this WILL happen in 2018 and plan to send assistants and other crew members who aspire to move up in the turf industry. It will also show that this is a valued seminar for our many assistants and clubs based on registration.

GCSAA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The board has allocated the funds for an up-and-coming board member and our Executive Director to attend the annual GCSAA Leadership Symposium in Lawrence Kan. Ryan Semritc attended the seminar this year and found it to be very valuable. Paul was unable to attend due to the proximity of our March overnight meeting at White Horse Golf Club. The Leadership Symposium is a great place to network and to learn what other GCSAA Chapters are doing throughout the country. It sparks conversations of best practices, GCSAA initiatives, and provides leadership skills to make them successful as board members and at their clubs. In addition to all the chapter leaders being present, it also is a gathering place for the executive directors to communicate best practices in book-keeping, marketing, website developing, hosting meetings, and growing memberships. In addition to these things it is a great experience getting to tour the GCSAA National Headquarters and meet with many people keeping the GCSAA running.

BMP

This year the GCSAA has come forth with a new BMP goal. The goal is to have all 50 states have their own, up-to-date, BMP plan. They have provided a standard template but there are many activities and management plans that differ by state. Washington and Oregon superintendents jointly created one of the first and best BMP plans in 2009. A lot of this plan will fit directly into the new GCSAA template. However, there are also new environmental issues that have come up since 2009 that we will need to address. Examples of these are fertilizer bans, neonicotinoid concerns, pollinator health, water pollution inputs, and others. Ryan Semritc, Sean McDonough, David Phipps and Washington representatives from superintendents in the Inland Empire Chapter have begun discussions on grants and job scope to assess funding needs. We are working to apply for a GCSAA BMP grant this September to fund this project. We brought in Tom Calabrese from EnviroLogic Resources in Portland to help. For any that don't know, Tom helped with the original Stewardship Guidelines and included the BMP's that were done a few years ago for Washington and Oregon. With Tom's help, we are creating a scope of work, so he can present us with a bid for his services which we will use for the grant application. Washington and Oregon will be applying for separate grants, but working collaboratively with Tom on our actual BMP document. This will be a focus for our association for the rest of this year and 2018.

ROUNDS 4 RESEARCH

This last year we began an endeavor called Rounds 4 Research. John Hicks took over as the committee chair late in the process and we look to grow this effort in 2018. Paul Ramsdell is

now serving on a Task Group with Mischia Wright of the GCSAA and we will look to assign a committee chair at our planning meeting in October to get an earlier start in 2018. Thanks to all of the golf courses who donated last year and hopefully we can count on your continued support in 2018. Most of the funds raised come back to our association and we can donate them to the NTA and then to research projects that help all of us.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Government affairs has not been a committee of our association in the past but has growing needs. It is expected in 2017/2018 we will start a government affairs committee. This past year Scott Phelps has served on the Government Affairs Committee of the GCSAA and has taken part in the Grassroots Ambassador program. We have several other Grassroots Ambassadors within our organization and the GCSAA is looking to continue to grow the program. The GCSAA is also looking for ways to make the program better by providing better training to the Ambassadors, helping to set up initial meetings, and growing participation at National Golf Day in Washington D.C. In addition to the GCSAA government affairs program there becomes increasingly more state and local level needs with government affairs. Although Federal Government generally sets minimum regulatory rules, states and local governments often go beyond federal law and set stricter regulations on chemicals, fertilizers, labor laws, water use, and taxation. All of these effect how we can operate our golf courses and we feel there needs to be additional resources and time allocated to this as we move forward.

GCSAA VOTING DELEGATE

Many thanks to Jim Myers who has been our voting delegate with the GCSAA for many, many years. Jim has resigned from the position, and beginning this fall Sean Reehoorn will become our voting delegate. He will attend the delegates meeting in Lawrence to learn of new GCSAA programs, meet candidates for the GCSAA board, and to hear about other issues that chapters will need to vote on at the Golf Industry Show (GIS). Sean will then place votes for the people and issues that we as a board want at the GIS. Please check your profile with the GCSAA and see that you have assigned your vote to the WWGCSA. If you have not assigned your vote you should plan to attend the election at the GIS and cast your own vote.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This year we initiated a new award titled the Paul Backman Distinguished Service Award. It was given in memoriam to Paul Colleran. The goal is to have this award go out for many years to come.

CONCLUSION

As the Board of the WWGCSA we appreciate the trust you have shown us by electing us into office. As your representatives, we ask that you remain active in our association. Please provide feedback and suggestions to our board. Please consider volunteering to help a committee with the many activities in which we are working on. Assistants, mechanics, affiliates are all

welcomed participants. Volunteering on a committee not only keeps you in the loop, but it also gives you a taste of whether a future board role is something you could dedicate yourself to. Please continue to attend the events and education we provide for you. Your registration dollars make this happen and your attendance not only tells us you value the event but provides value to others who enjoy seeing you and networking with you at the events. Thank you and best wishes to Greg Matz, Josh Heersink and Michael Goldsberry for their board service and dedication to our industry.