



Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dear Chapter Leader,

By now you should have received from your External Vice President a copy of a proposed Affiliation Agreement between the local chapters and the FGCSA. For a number of years an Affiliation Agreement has been discussed informally by the FGCSA BOD. While the FGCSA used to have an Affiliation Agreement in effect with the local chapters, this has not been kept up to date since 1999. The main objective for having an up-to-date affiliation agreement is to clearly define the working relationship between the FGCSA and local chapters.

At the Chapter Roundtable held in February the Affiliation Agreement was discussed at length with representatives from all 11 chapters present. It was agreed upon at that meeting that the FGCSA should move forward with drafting a proposed Affiliation Agreement.

The By-Laws/SOP Committee presented to the BOD at the spring board meeting a draft proposal of the Affiliation Agreement. This draft was created using the GCSAA Affiliation Agreement as a template, as well as the last signed FGCSA Affiliation Agreement dating back to 1999. Other revisions were made either in committee or at the Spring BOD meeting.

While I hope you and your board take the time to review this proposed agreement, I would like to address some of the more significant changes to the agreement.

- **“All membership dues will be collected and recorded by the FGCSA.”** This may be the most eye-opening provision in the agreement. This was not in the original proposal submitted to the FGCSA BOD for the spring meeting. It was during the BOD meeting that a motion came from the floor to add this to the Affiliation Agreement proposal. With no objection from the BOD, this provision was added for the purpose of ensuring that the FGCSA and the local chapters are all in possession of the most accurate and up-to-date membership information. This provision also relieves the chapters of the extra work involved with collecting dues, reviewing applications, updating databases and forwarding the correct information to the FGCSA. Currently the FGCSA collects dues for 8 of the 11 chapters on a voluntary basis.
- **Year End Reporting - “All items are due to the FGCSA office by August 30th for the fiscal year ending June 30th of that year, unless otherwise indicated on the FGCSA Affiliated Checklist and FGCSA By-Laws. Failure to produce these documents by the August 30th deadline will result in a \$300 fine for every 30 days the documentation is late or incomplete.”** This deadline is important to allow the FGCSA to file the group return with the IRS. In the recent past we have found difficulty obtaining the necessary information from one or more chapters. This puts the FGCSA at risk with little or no recourse. This provision is not asking any more from the chapters other than to report their information on time. It is our hope no chapter would fall 30 days behind resulting in a fine.

There are other provisions in the proposed agreement that you may question as to the necessity. Statements covering topics such as Chapter By-Laws, logos and membership classifications are examples of these provisions. The reason these are included in the agreement is to maintain consistency with what is required by the GCSAA. It is the intent of the FGCSA, that by ensuring a chapter's compliance with the GCSAA as well as possessing accurate membership information, the FGCSA can perform the annual reporting requirements required by the GCSAA on the chapter's behalf. This would take the burden off the local chapter board volunteers; providing an additional service to the chapters.

Whether or not you agree with the proposed Affiliation Agreement in its entirety as currently presented, I hope you do recognize the importance of possessing an official agreement in some form. Not only does it serve to protect the FGCSA, it also serves the chapters by listing responsibilities of both parties. Remember, this is a draft. Alterations can be made. It is more important to get it done right than it is to get it done fast.

I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or suggestions that you may have. I want to hear from you regarding this topic or any other concerning the FGCSA. I can be reached on my mobile (941) 447-5113 or via email at ksunderman@idsycc.com.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sunderman