

# NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1967

## Golf Course Superintendents Association OF NEW ENGLAND



Sponsors and administrators of the Lawrence S. Dickenson Scholarship Fund — Awarded yearly to deserving Turf Management Students.

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# Golf Course Superintendents Association

## Season's Greetings

### November Meeting

The November Meeting was held at the Dedham Country and Polo Club, on November 13, 1967. Bob Muccaronie was the host superintendent. Dick Blake reminded all members of the National that it was their duty to notify the same if they had any reclassification of their status pertaining to insurance. Many of the members have not received insurance benefits when they were really eligible, only because they didn't keep their records up to date.

It was voted to raise the dues to \$25.00 per year to replenish our funds in the bank account. The added cost will cover the new Publicity Director and the additional expense of the *Newsletter*.

Guests of the Association at the head table were: Mr. Richard Sears, a member of the M.G.A. Executive Board, Dr. Joseph Troll of the University of Massachusetts and Ben J. Chlevin, Executive Director of the National who was the featured guest speaker.

#### Golf Tournament Results

First low gross — Jim Dirorio

First low net — tie

Pat DiPietro and Norm Beauregard

### Christmas Party

The third annual Christmas Party will be December 14, 1967 at the Framingham Country Club. The cost will be \$15.00 per couple. Tickets will be available at the next meeting and there will be a limited number sold. They can only accommodate the first 70 couples, so get your ticket early. The deadline for the tickets is December 10, 1967.

#### PROGRAM

Cocktail Hour	—	6:30 - 7:30
Dinner		7:45 sharp
Dancing		8:30 - 12:00

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at our new winter quarters at the Holiday Inn, Newton, December 4, 1967. This is the Annual Meeting and the election of new officers will be held, so come and vote or forever hold your peace. The Holiday Inn is located on Grove Street, Newton, Mass. (exit 53 on route 128).

Directors' Meeting	10:30 a. m.
Regular Meeting	11:00 a. m.
Dinner	12:15 p. m.
Educational Program	1:15 p. m.

Bill Dwyer from United Airlines will be at the meeting and will discuss prices on plane flights to the National Turf Conference in California.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THE EVEN DOZEN

While having breakfast coffee, the "Briarcliff Strings" were playing the sweet melodies of an *Impossible Dream*. This set me to reminiscing to a few years ago when our Association had certain goals in mind.

These dreams are now a reality . . .

Of the many high points scored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England are:

1. Establishing the Laurence S. Dickinson Scholarship Fund.
2. Better relations and understanding with the Massachusetts Golf Association whereby they have appropriated a sum of money for turf grass research at the University of Massachusetts.
3. Incorporating our Association . . . we are now known as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of New England, Inc.
4. Public Relations display at the Eastern States Exposition for two consecutive years.
5. A special page in the *Newsletter*, listing our commercial friends' names. They are known as, "Friends of the Association."
6. Changing our by-laws permitting accredited applicants a shorter waiting period, in order to become an Associate Member.
7. Having one of our members elected to the G.C.S.A.A. Board of Directors.
8. The annual Christmas party.
9. Desiring Superintendents may now have their Green Chairman and Club President receive our *Newsletter*.
10. Changing the site of our indoor winter meetings, from the Waltham Field Station, to more adequate surroundings, presently, the Holiday Inn, in Newton.
11. Honorary memberships awarded to Dr. Joseph Troll and to Homer C. Darling.
12. Joining the Massachusetts Roadside Council.

These dreams could not have been made possible without a devoted and hard working Board of Directors along with a very enthusiastic membership.

As this is my last President's Message, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your cooperation, patience and courtesies extended to me during the past three years. To those who have left us "farewell", and to those who have joined us "welcome."

Sincerely,  
Leon V. St. Pierre  
President

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

I have never been accused of giving pious little sermons, so I will come right to the point.

The last outdoor meeting had all the earmarks of being one of the most successful of the year.

We had the Executive Director of the G.C.S.A.A. among our distinguished guests, when upon entering the clubhouse, I was appalled to see a half-dozen *newcomers* ill-dressed, without ties, high boots and needing a conventional haircut (sideburns included). This attire *will not* be tolerated any longer.

The Superintendents have always, in the past, been exceedingly careful of their appearance and behavior, whenever attending monthly meetings, and there is *absolutely* no reason for not continuing to do so in the future.

No Superintendent shall bring a guest unless indicated in the *Newsletter*.

Also, anyone not having a passenger car, but only trucks at their disposal, should park these vehicles in the rear, rather than in front of host clubs.

Leon V. St. Pierre  
President

## "LIFT UP THYSELF"

While his prepared remarks cut a path through the problems of golf course labor, the National's section-hopping executive director — Ben J. Chlevin — pounded out an old familiar theme during his visit to the New England Superintendents November meeting at the Dedham Country and Polo Club.

The speech, complete with welcome asides from the healthy gathering, strayed rather orderly to the cold war between superintendent and the keepers of the country club budget. Chlevin brought with him a number of possibilities, as to chilling the woes of obtaining and retaining competent labor. However, what eventually evolved was the generally accepted realization that the country club must take the lead in making adequate funds available to give the task of putting a spit and shine on the course a fighting chance.

Included in the rundown of solutions were such as importing help in apparent competition with the apple-picking and tobacco-stripping industries; use of moonlight help like off-duty policemen and firemen; exploiting the reserved working power of the retired generation; and perhaps trying a stint with the government's rehabilitation program.

Each of these was open to much criticism, off the results of personal confrontations with one or another of the intended labor aids. Naturally, it was conceded that what would work on one side of the golfing road wouldn't necessarily produce the same results on the

other side. As a matter of fact . . . since the solutions encompassed what turns into part-time and consequently undependable help . . . it generally was resolved by both speaker and audience the one great answer is the procuring of full-time labor workers.

This initiated probably what was the most important portion of the session, including the robust pot roast which the Dedham people whipped up to get the group in an appreciative and contributing mood. The theme extracted was that the country clubs must be directed toward the conclusion the primary function of the club is to provide membership with the best possible playing grounds. Attaining such a goal, then, should be afforded top priority when it comes time to crack the company safe.

Chlevin, as expected a dynamic personality with in-born ability to peak attention and hold it there, supported such a theory with unusual vigor. He threw out the problem to those present as more or less a personal challenge. According to him, it should border on religious duty . . . this matter of having the superintendent sell himself and his needs to those in the country club who control the purse strings.

So, in the end, there is no single solution which would carry "one for all, all for one" overtones. Academically speaking, all realize that full-time help is the cure-all. In the same breath, though, each must pursue his own method in reaching that end of the rainbow.

Later in the day after the formal phase of the program had been planted in the back of the minds of the membership, Chlevin engaged in informal banter with several of the group while feeling out specific problems to go with the general ones.

The visitor from the top of the golf course superintendents world appeared to retrace his words to the premise that people in the business are lax in matter of personal pride. They seem content to take a "first no" as the final answer to a plea for additional funds or equipment. It becomes an atmosphere of retreat at the first sign of setback when the battle of the budget stirs up the emotions of everyone involved.

There seems to be an evident silent partner walking hand in hand with the profession. It must drum into each superintendent the fact that he is engrossed in a highly skilled and respected field, perhaps erase the inferiority complex image which is apparent from the position of the outsider viewing the overall scene.

It should be deemed compulsory that each superintendent — no matter what his station on the ladder of prominence in the golf's blue book — make a concentrated effort to educate his country club people as to the importance of his job and himself.

If I were to sum up the substance of the golf superintendent's immediate aim, it would be to firmly suggest . . . "lift up thyself."

— By Gerry Finn

FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Abbott Spray and Farm Equipment Co.  
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Dr. Burton R. Anderson  
Golf Course Architect  
Turf and Golf Course Consultant  
Route 5  
Augusta, Maine

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West Newton, Massachusetts

Geoffrey S. Cornish  
Golf Course Architect  
Fiddler's Green  
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The Charles C. Hart Seed Co.  
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Boston, Massachusetts

Gaffny Enterprises, Inc.  
Irrigation Specialists  
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Middleton, Massachusetts

Grounds Equipment Co., Inc.  
383 Boylston Street  
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Kerr McGee Chemical Corporation  
P. O. Box 790  
Waterbury, Connecticut

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Springfield Rendering Company  
P. O. Box 379  
Springfield, Massachusetts 01101

Karandrew Turf Farms, Inc.  
Sam Mitchell, Sales Representative  
18 Old Randolph Street  
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Johns-Manville Sales Corp.  
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Sales Representative  
Stauffer Chemical Co.  
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New York, New York

Sawtelle Brothers  
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Shepard Sod Company  
Merion Blue Grass and Pencross Bent  
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South Windsor, Conn.

Richey & Clapper, Inc.  
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Philip A. Wogan  
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