

Thursday, January 29 – OGSA – meeting of Regional Association Presidents and Representatives

Discussion took place at the OGSA conference in Niagara Falls at 6:00 pm in the Presidential Suite at the Marriott Falls View.

Present

Gary Morris – EOGSA President

Bruce Holt – OVTA Past President

Nic Bell – Georgian Bay Golf Superintendents Association - President

Matt Dodson – Kent Essex Green Keepers Society - President

Sally Ross – OGSA Manager

Phil Scully - President

John McLinden – Vice-President

Mark Prieur – Treasurer

Scott White – Director

Rob Speak - Director

Chad Vibert – Director - Tournaments

Jason Boyce – Director – Communications – Meeting Host

Kevin Doyle – GCSAA Field Staff – Northeast region

Christian Pilon – CGSA President

Invitations sent, but unable to attend

Absent – John Taylor – Western Ontario Superintendents Association

Absent – Stuart McMillan – Northern Ontario Golf Superintendents Association

Absent Marc Hagen – Greater London and Area Golf Superintendents Association - President

The first Purpose of the meeting was to open communications between the provinces 8 regional associations and the Ontario Golf Superintendents Association. The forum was casual, however, the main points of discussion was to discuss avenues to communicate the numerous golf events that are held throughout the season. Over the past years, it has become challenging for the OGSA to host some events due to the large number of regional events being hosted around the province. It has also become more challenging for suppliers to support regional and OGSA events as many of the supplier territories overlap into regional associations.

The second purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of the OGSA initiating a mechanics training program throughout the year in specific areas throughout the province. The OGSA feels we are lacking in providing educational opportunities to our mechanics and equipment managers and providing an avenue to increase their knowledge and networking would be a benefit to our individual properties and industry as a whole.

The third purpose was to discuss a regional newsletter in which regional and the OGSA would provide information on current events, regional association golf events or results, and any other information

they would like to share with their constituents. This newsletter would be put together by the OGSA and distributed to regional presidents which in turn would be distributed to their regional members.

The conversations between the regional association presidents and representatives started as an initial exchange of information on each region's event structure, how many events they ran, their success and challenges. Some regional associations are running monthly events throughout the season, while some may only have one or two events. The price structure from each regional event varies. Some have a one-time membership fee for their events to a pay per event structure.

The conversations also lead into some of the challenges the suppliers have in supporting all of the events. It was felt that it would be a benefit, especially to the suppliers, if all regional associations were able to share their dates as a group for their season if and as soon as possible.

**Result:** It was agreed that all associations would share their event dates, using the OGSA as the link. It was noted that some dates do get changed and not all event dates are agreed upon by May 1. However, everyone did feel that sharing this information would be a benefit to suppliers, area regional associations and the OGSA to get an understanding when the best time to reserve their personal event, and reducing the possibilities of overlapping dates or weeks that are congested.

**Action:** Regional Associations communicate event dates to the OGSA which will be posted on the OGSA website and distributed via email to Regional presidents to distribute appropriately. The OGSA will also include their event dates in this letter of communication.

The conversations briefly lead to the lack of opportunity for mechanics and equipment manager's opportunities for education. The OGSA noted that there may be an opportunity to host some educational opportunities throughout some of the regional associations throughout the season. Although the conversation was short on this topic, it was agreed there is a lack of opportunity for education in this area.

**Result:** Agreement that there is an opportunity to increase networking and education for our mechanics and equipment managers

**Action:** For the OGSA to reach out to area facilities and regional presidents to discuss this vision on a one on one setting to see if there is interest in hosting such an educational opportunity.

It was discussed in 2013 the OGSA attempted to distribute a regional newsletter throughout the season. An initial publication was sent out to the regional associations, however, it was difficult to obtain the information and the newsletter did not carry on in 2014. It was discussed how many newsletters would be sufficient throughout the season to be effective. It was determined that two letters would be adequate.

Result: Agreement that the regional associations would send the OGSA information about current event for the magazine.

Action: The OGSA to reach out for information to the regional Presidents in April to have one of the two regional association newsletters distributed with a target distribution date of May 1<sup>st</sup>. The second letter would be distributed at the end of October.

Conclusion: Overall the meeting was very positive and a very good initiative to start an open forum of communications between the OGSA and the regional association. The OGSA hopes to continue to work closely and promote all of our regional associations and we hope our 8 strong provincial associations can work closely in assisting and promoting our strong provincial association.