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Volume 47, No. 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HEART OF AMERICA GCSA

May 2015

## ***Footprints in Fairways***

## ***S&R Tournament***



***Ironhorse Golf Course, Leawood, Kan.  
Monday, May 18, 2015***



***Alvamar Country Club, Lawrence, Kan.  
Monday, June 15, 2015***

- How Are You Setting up the Course Today?
- April Showers Brings May Flowers
- Tournament Registration Forms
- Welcome New Members

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# President's Message

It is amazing how fast one can transition from longing for winter to end and the grass to start growing again to counting the days until the first frost and leaf drop isn't it? Or maybe that's just me? It seems that every golf season just gets busier and busier for us all. I have reached the point in the season where I have so many calendar reminders set in my phone that I basically get to the point that I just hit "ignore" before I even look at them. Admittedly, this does not prove to be a very effective method for getting things crossed off the old "to-do" list.

I hope you found the time in March to attend the Joint Meeting with the KGCSA. It was held at Sand Creek Station Golf Course in Newton. As is often the case with this March event the weather was somewhat questionable but the quality of the golf course and the chance to see some of our colleagues to the west prevailed.

As I write this article (on the night of the editor's deadline as usual!) the WeeOne Tournament at Tiffany Greens Golf

Course is still more than a week away, but as you read this that event will have concluded as well. I sure hope that we had a great turnout and a great day for that event. In my mind it is one of the most important things on our calendar all year as it supports a great organization that helps Superintendents and their families in the event of severe medical hardship, and more importantly this event honors the memory of our late, great friend, Mark Pierce.



This year the WeeOne was extra special as it was held at Tiffany Greens, the facility that Mark grew-in and made into one of the consistently best conditioned golf courses in the Metro. The maintenance facility at Tiffany Greens was also renamed in Mark's honor at this event. This is definitely a fitting

Continued on next page

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Andy Jones 816-863-7335



President's Message - cont.

tribute to a great Superintendent and an even better man. I can recall as a young Assistant Superintendent fresh out of college, that my impression of Mark was that he was a little loud and very intimidating. As I slowly got the chance to get to know him through the years I realized what a big heart he had and saw firsthand how he went about his job the way that all Superintendents should strive to.

During the time that his cancer was at its worst, he went out of the way to call me and offer help in the form of moral support and sod or anything else needed as I struggled with greens issues. Part of his message to me on that call was how insignificant losing grass was in the grand scheme of things and that it took his battle for life to open his eyes to this fact. It stays with me to this day when I get to feeling like my job and golf course is more important than family or health. If you, like me, had to miss the WeeOne Tournament due to work or something else this year please think about taking the time to visit [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org) and make a donation in Mark's name to support another Superintendent that may be dealing with health issues.

A few reminders before I conclude this month's ramblings.. coming up soon is the annual Footprints iN Fairways

(aka "Super-Pro") event to be held at Ironhorse Golf Course on May 18th. Get your club's Golf Professional on board and plan to play in this event that raises funds to put the SNAG (Starting New At Golf) program and equipment in our area schools. Also not far down the road is the HAGCSA's 31st Annual Scholarship and Research Tournament to be hosted at Alvamar Country Club on June 15th.

One final plea is for anyone who has not yet donated golf to the Rounds4Research initiative to please do so. The May15th donation deadline is fast approaching and we still have work to do to achieve the 40+ local facilities that were represented in this auction last year. In 2014, our chapter raised more than \$5000 to support turf research at local universities through Rounds4Research. Despite the relatively small size of our chapter, this amount of funds generated was the 4th most of any GCSAA chapter in the country. Please take a few minutes to go to [www.rounds4research.com](http://www.rounds4research.com) to donate a couple of foursomes. If you have already done so, thank you very much for your support of this important initiative.

The heat of summer is right around the corner, so buckle up and have a great season!

Steve Wilson, CGCS

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# Scholarship and Research Committee Report

By Andrew Jones, Director

The S&R Committee has been working hard towards making this year's tournament a success. We have discussed different options for format, price, tee gifts and other details in order to improve this marquee event. We will be switching back to a 5-man format this year with no change in the per person cost. There will also be a chance to buy a package of five mulligans for your team so each person will have a second chance at one shot.

I would also like to mention our title sponsor Professional Turf Products. This is the second straight year they have been the title sponsor so please thank Tracy Bales and Brad Davidson the next time you see them. We are grateful for their support. I would also like to thank the other contributing sponsors we have to date: Floratine Midwest, Kansas Golf & Turf, Reinders, Supreme Turf Products, Turfwerks, and Vermeer Great Plains. We are still accepting sponsorships, so please contact me or Kim Weitzel if you have interest.

After the tournament, we will have our live auction which allows us to raise more funds for scholarships and research. We welcome any donations you may have for the auction. Items do not have to be golf related. We look forward to seeing everyone at Alvarado on June 15!



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## 2015 S&R TOURNAMENT

Monday, June 15, 2015



### Alvamar Country Club

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# How Are You Setting Up The Course Today?

By Brent Stephenson, Director

Have you ever been asked the question by a curious customer or a manager, "What do you do all day?" Most Superintendents are excellent at multi-tasking as we adapt to a work environment that is ever-changing and dynamic. Each day usually begins with a task list that is well thought out and planned down to the smallest detail. Once you have your plan, how do you execute it?

Like many of you, I used to document all of my plans on a white board. Each morning the entire staff would meet at the job board to discuss the plans for the day. I would intentionally attempt to plan the entire day with task times associated with each job on the board maximizing each employee's available man hours in an effort to maximize efficiency and labor dollars.

This winter at the Common Ground Conference I was introduced to a new innovative software program that allows you to create a database for your facility that includes employee names, wages, tasks, task times, groups of tasks, and other details about your property that we typically put on our

white boards. This software utilizes a web-based job board that can be accessed anywhere the web is available.

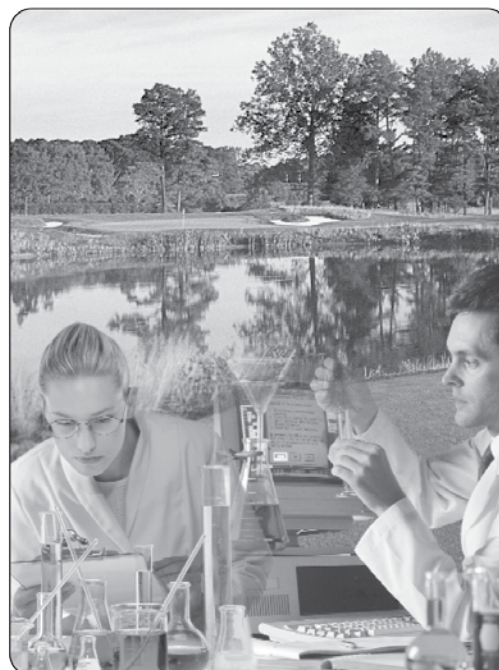
I chose to buy in and we now have a television mounted in the break room that displays our daily job duties in a very clean utility that includes the mowing patterns for the day in an image format, details about each task, task times associated with each task, as well as other details and notes. It is very quick and easy to set up each day on a computer or smart phone. I often create the job board from my couch at home the previous evening.

One feature that my pro shop staff likes is the feature that allows them to access my current job board from the pro shop computer or their smart phones. This answers the question about what you are doing each day to set up the course. I also make notes on the job board including the cart path rule or any other details that the golf shop should be aware of. One of my managers mentioned that this is the most useful communication tool that he has seen in the business.

**Continued on next page**

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## **How Are You Setting Up the Course Today**

*Continued from page 8*

I can make real time changes to the job board as I evaluate the course each morning with my smart phone. It takes a few seconds to update the job board with adjustments. Any member on my staff with a smart phone can see the job board from their phone with one click.

Another feature that sold me on the program was the ability of the program to track all data that is entered on the job board. It tracks each task with a cost associated to the task. At any point I can use real time data to evaluate our labor expenses and where the money is going. For example, I know to the penny how much money we have spent year to date blowing clippings from our fairways. This data will help me justify labor needs and utilization as budgets are evaluated.

There are a few different job board options on the market. I chose one that fits our property the best. In the technology world that we live in, new tools are becoming available at a rapid pace. I know technology is not for everyone, but it has really been received well at our facility by our staff and management team.

If you have any questions about the product that we use at Staley please contact me. I am happy to answer any questions you have.

**Interested in Joining the HAGCSA Board of Directors? Please contact Todd Bohn at [todd@wolfcreekks.com](mailto:todd@wolfcreekks.com) or 913.592.3329**



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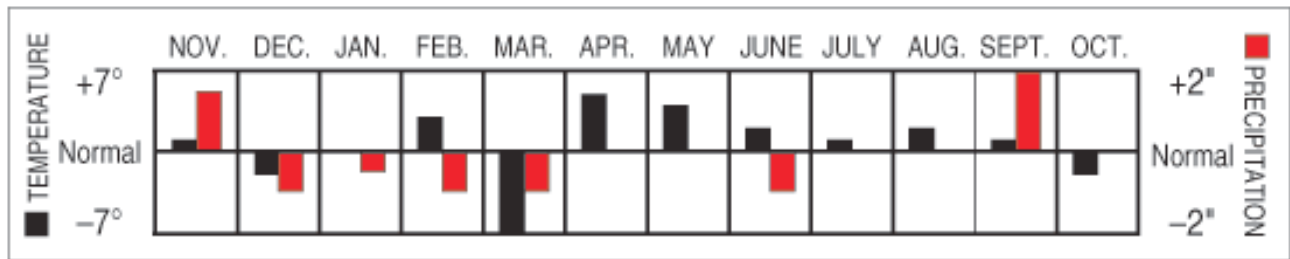
# April Showers Brings May Flowers

By Jonathan Bennett, Special Director

The old quote, “April showers brings May flowers,” becomes very popular during the beginning of spring when the plants start flowering and everything starts getting color again. Working on a golf course, I, for some reason, tend to look at 10 day forecasts, hourly forecasts, radars, and tweets from local meteorologists a tad too much. But, so many of our jobs rely on weather; whether it’s being able to spray on calm days, not getting caught behind on mowing during rainy periods, watering in products with natural rain instead of irrigation, or hearing the golfers moan that the recent rain is making them walk that extra 20 yards to their ball while their carts stay on the path.

So I used one of my favorite friends, Google, to do a little digging on some weather facts and weather predications for this summer. First of all, April does bring showers, but Kansas City sees the majority of its rain during the months of May and June, both bringing just over 5” of rain on average. Also, most of our severe storms occur in May and June. Kansas averages just fewer than 100 tornados each year.

Although 2011 and 2012 were two of the driest and hottest seasons on record, the past two seasons have been closer to the average line. So what does this season have to bring? The Farmer’s Almanac states this:



Gary Lezak’s Severe Spring Forecast predicts a drier and warmer spring which will create less severe weather. But he predicts a major storm system to approach our area the week of May 17th. (Hopefully the Footprints in Fairways tournament sneaks by safely). The Farmer’s Almanac also states that same week as a thunderstorm week.

In conclusion, it looks like another slightly above average season, although, according to a study last year, Kansas City has the most unpredictable weather in the country. Good luck to you all!



**The HAGCSA and the Board of Directors are proud to welcome our newest members:**

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Jason Berry           | Josh Williams  |
| Sam DeMaranville      | Don Gauert     |
| Taylor Olson          | Aaron Willing  |
| Justin Thomas         | Chris Kauffman |
| Derek Wilkerson, CGCS |                |

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# Footprints – iN – Fairways Pro Am



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In 2006, the Kansas City Golf Alliance was formed to “bring together” all four associations (PGA, GCSAA, CMAA and KCGA) for the purpose of better communications and educational opportunities. The alliance has been silent for many years; however, now more than ever these associations need to work together on various issues, most notably – Growth of the Game.

The Footprints iN Fairways event is a cooperative effort between the Midwest Section PGA and the Heart of America GCSA, to educate and/or update all in attendance regarding the SNAG-iN-School program, as well as a fundraiser for.

If you have questions on the registration process, please contact Shannon at 816-229-3362 or [sjohnson@pgahq.com](mailto:sjohnson@pgahq.com)

**Date:** May 18, 2015  
**Venue:** Ironhorse Golf Club  
**Time:** 11:00 Registration  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Shotgun  
**Cost:** \$100 per player

## Format

**Scramble Format**

**Places – 1st through 3rd**

**Team – 2 Options:**

1. 1 PGA, 1 GCSAA and 2 others
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<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
May 18	Footprints in Fairways	Ironhorse Golf Course
June 15	S&R Tournament	Alvamar Country Club
July 21	Nine & Dine (PP Event)	Heart of America Golf Academy
August 3	Employee Tournament	Minor Park Golf Course
September 15	Vendor Appreciation	Twin Peaks
October 5-6	MO Cup Challenge	Old Kinderhook Golf Course
November 4	Annual Meeting	
December 14-15	Common Ground	
January 8, 2016	New Year Party	



**FOOTPRINT iN FAIRWAYS  
Golf Tournament**

**Ironhorse Golf Club**

**May 18, 2015**

**RETURN FORM TO:**

Midwest Section PGA  
1960 NW Copper Oaks Circle  
Blue Springs, MO 64015  
Fax: (816) 229-9644



**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

PGA Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Super Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY FEE:**

Professional: \$100

Amateur: \$100 per

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

Make Checks Payable to: **Midwest Section PGA Foundation**

**Credit Card Information:**

Amount to be charged: \_\_\_\_\_

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Card Type (circle one): American Express Visa Mastercard

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# Scholarship & Research Tournament

~ S&R Mission Statement ~

"Organize and generate the financial means to enrich the game of golf through funding regionally based research and scholarship to qualified applicants."

**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2015

**Location:** Alvamar Country Club  
1809 Crossgate Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66047

**Host Superintendent:** Kent Morgison

**Schedule:** 8:30am - Registration  
10:00am - Shotgun  
At the Turn - Lunch  
3:00pm - Live Auction & Hors d' oeuvres

**Format:** Five-person scramble

**Cost:** \$125 per person or \$625 per team.  
Encouraged to sign-up as a team. Singles will be placed by the S&R Committee.

**Dress Code:** Country Club Attire - Collared Shirts, No Jeans or Cargo Pants, Soft spikes.

**Donation:** Please help us reach our fund-raising goal by donating additional funds. Our long-term goal is to raise enough money to allow us to fund an entire research project relevant to golf courses in our region. Your generous help is key to attaining this goal.



**Reservation Deadline: Monday, June 1, 2015**

**YES! We plan to attend the S&R Tournament:**

Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____
Player: _____	Club/Company: _____

**GAMES/CONTESTS** (Encouraged to [sign-up now](#) to reduce your time in line. We can invoice separately if needed):

- Skins Game - \$25 per team (half the pot goes to the skins winner, the other half goes to the S&R Fund)
- Bubba Watson Hole - \$25 per team. Your team is given a 350+ yard drive. – Hole #14
- Hole in One Opportunity - \$25 per team. You receive a hole-in-one if anyone in your group lands on the green. – Hole #11
- Mulligans - \$25 per team. One mulligan per player.
- 50/50 Pot - \$1 per ticket (half the pot goes to the ticket winner; the other half to the S&R Fund): \_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets requested.
- Additional Donation to S&R Fund: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Thank You!)  
(Note: You will also have the opportunity to pay for these games/contests the day of the event.)

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: If a cancellation occurs due to the weather, the "submitted by" contact will be notified. It will then be that person's responsibility to notify the remaining players on the team listed above.*

**PAYMENT:**

Check Enclosed  Invoice (By indicating you wish to be invoiced, you agree to pay total invoice upon receipt.)

All "No Shows" will be billed. You may cancel without penalty 72 business hours prior to event registration time.

HAGCSA, P.O. Box 419264, Kansas City, Missouri, 64141, 913-561-5323; Fax to: 816-561-1991

# S&R SPONSORSHIP FORM

## June 15, 2015 at Alvamar Country Club

"Organize and generate the financial means to enrich the game of golf through funding regionally based research and scholarship to qualified applicants."



The HAGCSA's Scholarship and Research Tournament is considered our most important function of the year. This tournament is the pinnacle of our fund raising endeavors and provides the optimum opportunity to have your company's name honored and recognized by our membership for your support of this well-attended event.

### Title Sponsorship - \$2,500 (1-TAKEN; 0-AVAILABLE)

- Company name and logo recognition on main signage at the registration table.
- Prominently displaying of your firms name and logo in all lunch and meeting areas.
- Name recognition on all tournament material (i.e. rules sheets, sign-up sheets, etc.)
- Complementary entry and lunch for a four-some in the tournament.
- Verbal recognition as title sponsor by speakers during lunch and award presentations as component to the success of this event.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



### Food Sponsors - \$750 (0-TAKEN; UNLIMITED AVAILABLE)

- Verbal recognition as the benefactor of our meal and appetizers during lunch and the awards ceremony.
- Company name on signage at the buffet table and on table tents positioned around the room.
- Firm's name recognition on the main banner at registration table with other participating sponsors.
- Verbal recognition for your company.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

### Beverage Stations - \$500 (2-TAKEN; 2-AVAILABLE)

- Sponsorship of one of the four on course beverage stations that are positioned around the golf course.
- Perfect opportunity to greet event participants on the golf course and get your name out there as an important contributor to the success of the event.
- Company name on signage at the beverage station you are assigned.
- Name recognition on the main banner at registration table with other participating sponsors.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.



### Tee/Green Sponsorships - \$300 (UNLIMITED AVAILABLE)

- Affords your company to be recognized by each player with signage posted prominently on an assigned tee box.
- Company name will be displayed with other important affiliate partners on the main banner located at registration table.
- Recognition in *Heartbeat* publication.

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### YES! Count us in to Support HAGCSA Scholarship & Research Efforts!

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PAYMENT:**

Check Enclosed    Invoice (\*)

(\*)By indicating you wish to be invoiced, you agree to pay total invoice upon receipt. Invoices will be sent electronically when an email is provided.

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY Monday, June 1, 2015**

HAGCSA • P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, Missouri 64141 • FAX to 816-561-1991  
If you have questions, please contact Kim Weitzel at 816-561-5323.

# S & R Auction Donation Form

Monday, June 15, 2015

Alvamar Country Club – Lawrence, Kansas



The S & R Golf Tournament and Auction was developed to fund scholarships for turfgrass students, assist members' employees with continuing education expenses and support turfgrass research. Please help us provide this assistance, and to make a greater impact on the lives of those who will be the future of our industry.

The HAGCSA S & R Committee will again sponsor our annual fund raising auction to be held during the S & R Tournament at Blue Hills Country Club. It's a fun opportunity to give something to your industry partners, or share a personal treasure with your friends in your industry. Donate an item that you think will draw some interest from among the HAGCSA members. Ideas include equipment, autographed memorabilia, artwork, vintage wines, golf clubs, electronics . . .you name it! The more unique, the more it could bring in for the S & R program. Last year we raised \$10,500 and we hope to beat that record in 2014. Please help us to accomplish that goal!

Please join the efforts to raise money for the S & R program by completing the form below and returning it to the Association office on or before **Monday, June 1, 2015**:

We **Thank You** in advance for your support!

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation(s) will be listed to the membership prior to the event and listed on the auction program. Please provide the following information to help promote the live auction:

Item Donating \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Item Donating \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Item Donating \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*\*You will be responsible for bringing the item(s) to the Association Office by Monday, June 1, 2015, or providing a certificate and appropriate picture representing the donated item(s).*

If you have any questions regarding the auction process or event, please feel free to contact Kim Weitzel at the Association Office: 816-561-5323.

HAGCSA • P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264 • 816.561.5323 • fax 816.561.1991 • www.hagcsa.org



# Auction Dates: June 8-21, 2015

Last year the HAGCSA chapter had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rounds sold and we raised over \$5,000 for golf course research. This year we would like to double that; and to get to our goal we need each course to go to the Rounds 4 Research link and donate a round or two.

This year, there will only be one auction and it takes place around the U.S. Open (June 8-21). A committee is assigned to contact certain courses and will be doing so in May to make sure you have donated or would like to donate monies to help fund golf course research!

We also need help to inform the golfing public about this auction and cause. Look and listen to ads that might be in some golf publications and on radio spots in and around the time of the auction. Thanks for your tremendous generations on helping us improve on the money raised last year and helping spread the word.

The generated funds come directly back to our chapter and allocated to our Scholarship and Research fund; which we use to support turfgrass research in our area and scholarships to deserving students in our chosen career field. If your facility is unable to donate rounds, the donation form also allows for monetary donations and your club or course will be recognized as a contributor either way.

**DONATE NOW**

[www.rounds4research.com](http://www.rounds4research.com)



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ GCSAA Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Club or Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive your mailings at home.

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## JOB INFORMATION: LIST CURRENT EMPLOYMENT FIRST

DATES EMPLOYED		EMPLOYER NAME & CITY/STATE	TITLE
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____
From _____	To _____	_____	_____

I hereby make application for membership in the Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association and attach herewith my dues for the current year. If accepted, I agree to uphold the by-laws of this Association and subscribe to the following code of ethics. To the end that confidence and respect may be enjoyed by members of our Association, the code of ethics is promulgated and observation of its provisions required.

- Every member shall take pride in his/her work and regard it as a profession in which all members strive to maintain its good name.
- Realizing that the best asset that a member can have is thorough knowledge of his/her business, he/she shall constantly try to improve his/her knowledge and effectiveness by freely exchanging experiences and ideas with fellow members and take advantage of all opportunities for improvement.
- He/she shall endeavor to maintain courteous relations with his/her employer and his/her associates and endeavor to have his/her employees take pride in doing their work well.
- In accomplishing his/her own and the Association's best interest, observance of the following suggestions are recommended.
  - **Seeking Employment:** 1. Seek counsel of local associations when applying for a position in a new district; 2. Recommend only qualified GCSAA members; 3. Ascertain the wage scale in the district in which you are seeking employment, then uphold that talk with the person who last held or now holds the position of Golf Course Superintendent.
  - **Visiting:** 1. Announce your HAGCSA or GCSAA membership when visiting; 2. Always contact the Superintendent of the course you are visiting; 3. Honor requests for technical help from golf courses only when channeled through the Superintendent of the course making the request.

**Communication Consent:** I agree to receive notices, advertisements, announcements, brochures, and other information from Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents of America via facsimile, telephone or e-mail. I further agree that my express permission to fax, telephone or e-mail me such notices and other information will continue and have no date of expiration, unless a written request is received indicating a change in permission.

**ATTESTED:** The applicant must be attested by two Heart of America GCSA members.

Attested \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attested \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include Annual Membership Dues with Application (Term: January to December):**  
 Superintendents/\$130 - Assistant Superintendents/\$70 - Supplier/\$130 - Golf Course Employees/\$70 - Student/\$25

**Heart of America Golf Course Superintendents Association**  
 P.O. Box 419264 • Kansas City, MO 64141-6264 • 816-561-5323 • Fax 816-561-1991 • www.hagcsa.org

**OFFICE USE:**  Acknowledgment Email  Board Approval  Database  Welcome Email/Website Password  Mailing/Roster  Process Payment

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**HEARTBEAT • Tim Nielsen, Editor**

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