



Dear Members of Cactus & Pine Golf Course Superintendents Association of Arizona,

I want to thank each and every one of the Cactus & Pine GCSA Members for your support in electing me the new President of the Association.

As you all know, we're living in some very strange times that have affected every aspect of our lives. With that in mind, I'm confident this is the first time in the over 60 years of this Association where a President has been elected virtually.

I think it's important for you all to know that there were a couple reasons for this. The first and most obvious reason was the fact that we're not having group meetings or get-togethers because of the mandates of social distancing and all the issues related to Covid-19. The second reason is Doug Dykstra, CGCS, our former Cactus & Pine President, was elected to the National GCSAA Board of Directors in February and is very busy with those obligations and needed to focus his time and attention to the GCSAA. Having been a former Director and Officer with the GCSAA, I fully understand the time, commitment and work/life balance Doug has to develop to fulfil his new duties at that level.

I also want you all to know that I am committed to doing my best in continuing to move our Association forward working with the Board of Directors, Carmella, all of our Members, our Affiliates, Educators and the Allied Golf Associations here in Arizona. We are in for some challenging times in the next few years and as history has shown that Cactus & Pine GCSA will be right in the thick of every issue that affects our industry and our jobs as golf course superintendents

I firmly believe it's going to be a pivotal time in the history of the Cactus & Pine and also the Arizona Golf Industry as a whole. A couple things we are currently working on include:

- Assisting the Arizona Alliance for Golf in:
 - Getting an updated Economic Impact Study done showing the impacts and benefits that golf brings to Arizona

- Growing a legion of supporters for golf in Arizona because it's a proven fact that a large number of voices speak louder and get more done than individuals when it comes to working with policy makers
- Working in concert with the Arizona Department of Water Resources on all issues related to water availability, use and allotments for golf courses in Arizona
- Continue working very closely with the Allied Golf Associations here in the state on all golf industry related issues
- Implementing the newly created Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the state of Arizona and for individual golf facilities
- Building and/or enhancing our already great relationships with Legislators at the State and National level
- Providing education, special events and golf outings for all of members in some form or another in these challenging times

Those are just a few of the things that we are currently working on.

Most importantly once again I want to thank you all for the confidence you've shown in me and I look forward to seeing you all soon (in-person) and continuing to make Cactus & Pine GCSA the absolute best Association we can be and helping each of you be as successful as you can be in whatever role you play at your golf course or in the golf industry here in Arizona.

All the Best and stay safe

Mark Woodward, CGCS

Director of Agronomy

Whisper Rock Golf Club