President’s Message
April 30, 2020

Dear Carolinas GCSA members,

In North Carolina, Governor Cooper recently announced a 3-stage program that will begin to lift the stay-at-home order and other restrictions he mandated. This led to some excitement for many, anxiety for others and a lot of confusion and misinformation going around on social media. To make matters more challenging, the Governor of Georgia lifted their restrictions which in turn has led some Georgia residents to believe the same was true in surrounding states. I live in an area strongly supported by seasonal residents from Atlanta and is located 10 miles from the NC/GA line, so you can only imagine the challenges that we’re facing and will continue to face. An hour south of that line is the City of Gainesville, GA which has become somewhat of a hot spot in the state, however, not to the extent of Albany, GA. It's natural to be excited about the lifting of restrictions, but it's important to continue to take this seriously and protect yourself and your family. Once traveling resumes, we really don't know how this virus will evolve and survive.

I'm proud of the work by the Carolinas GCSA keeping you abreast of changes in the political arena during this crisis. Your association has a first-class executive director and staff, an engaged board of directors, a great government relations team and an involved membership. When news first broke of the virus, it was our objective to keep golf open. If the Governors of NC and SC determined it was necessary to prohibit golf, our plan would have shifted to lobbying for allowing maintenance to continue. Fortunately, we were successful with our initial efforts and the focus then shifted to promoting safety and proper protocols to protect your team and golfers. These efforts began at a State level and ultimately went to local jurisdictions because there was no pre-emptive clause in the Governor's resolution. I think this has been a great example of your association serving you well. It was a time-consuming process for many, which included a few of our members stepping up in big way! I am grateful to all and hope to be able to recognize those that contributing to the effort. My perspective has shifted through this period and I have developed a greater appreciation for the business we are involved in and the people in it.

As your facility moves towards a stage of less restrictions, know there are quite a few resources at your disposal. GCSAA has a great web page that has a lot of links to valuable information. In addition, CMAA's COVID-19 website also has a lot of specific information including the subject of reopening of golf facilities. Those links are below. Please check these out because the information is timely and beneficial. There is promising news on several fronts about potential vaccines. But until a vaccine becomes a reality, it's important to know that some form of protection from the virus will be necessary. Keep yourself safe and please know we are here to help you with any issue you may be facing. Don't ever hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Stiehler, CGCS, MG

https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/resources/back2golf_alliedpresentation_final-4-29_.pdf?sfvrsn=37fda3e_2

https://www.cmaa.org/covid/index.html