



Thank You— Now It's YOUR Turn!

I am honored and privileged to have served as president of the MAGCS. Thank you to everyone for your participation in this Association. The combination of willing and dedicated volunteers, staff and leaders ensures prosperity for an Association that our members value so much. Each and every year, MAGCS members meet and usually exceed golfer expectations in the greater Chicagoland area. In my opinion, there is no better place for golfers to enjoy a round of golf.

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But meeting golfer expectations this past season was no easy task. The relentless heat and lack of moisture made everyone's job a bit more challenging, to say the least. With the advancements in irrigation design and technology, many of us were better able to deal with drought conditions similar to those experienced during 1988. However, I still found myself spending numerous hours soil-probing for moisture content. It seemed as if every Sunday was hot, dry and windy, cutting into family time in a big way.

Many of us are busy with winterizing irrigation systems, making snow-mold applications and preparing budgets for 2006. The MAGCS has some seasonality to its operations as well. The most notable is formation of the various committees for the year ahead. A significant majority of the volunteer work gets done when our jobs are less time-consuming, during the winter months. Please do not hesitate to volunteer your time, thoughts and expertise by serving on one of the many committees. I have been involved with several boards of directors away from the golf industry. The successful entities I served with enjoyed ample volunteers serving on their committees. The same is true with regards to the MAGCS. More volunteers equal more success.

A big thank-you goes to all the GCSAA volunteers and staff for facilitating relocation of the Golf Industry Show from New Orleans, first to Houston, then finally to Atlanta. And I wanted to share something I did differently this year prior to signing up for education. This year, I decided to assess myself utilizing the professional development resource found on the GCSAA Web site. It took me approximately five hours to complete. I logged on for 30 to 45 minutes at a time, so I spent just over a week on this. Once I'd completed the assessment, a **gap analysis** indicated my needs and the associated **resources** to help meet those needs. The resources included not only GCSAA educational offerings such as seminars, but also educational offerings via Webcasting and informational study guides and books, as well as leads to finding educational offerings through local colleges. In addition to assessment and gap analysis, I received a **development action plan**. The plan will record which educational offerings I chose with corresponding target completion dates. All in all, the PDR allows a person to take charge of his or her own career. I would encourage everyone to complete the assessment if you have not already done so.

A huge thank-you also goes to my staff and members at Elgin Country Club for letting me serve and spend time with the MAGCS. My assistant, Mike Joerns, has always picked up any loose ends—thank you! And once again, thank you to all those who make the MAGCS work: executive director Luke Cella, *On Course* editor Cathy Miles Ralston and *On Course* contributing editor John Gurke. The Board of Directors and the numerous volunteers on the various committees deserve enormous gratitude as well. Once again, more volunteers mean more value from MAGCS. Please make some time in YOUR schedule and support the MAGCS!

