

DIRECTORS COLUMN

Harry Lovero, Orchard Valley Golf Course



Paul N. Voykin

I had the distinct pleasure to play golf with Mr. Paul Voykin, seventy-seven years young, long time superintendent at the Briarwood Country Club in the Pro/Superintendent at Lincolnshire Country Club on the 1st of May 2008. My Pro Tom Tierney and I were paired with Mr.Voykin and his golf professional of twenty-one years Randy Cochran.

After we teed off, I realized this was actually the first time I had ever played a round of golf with Mr.Voykin. And what a wonderful time we had. As we were playing and enjoying the day, I said to myself I believe I have found my topic for my "Directors Column". I don't know if anyone has ever used this space in *On Course* to write about one of our own as the topic, but you see I just could not resist writing about Mr.Voykin.

Now you may ask yourself why he is addressing him as Mr.Voykin? The answer is simple: He's earned it! Out of respect for being one of the foremost authorities in our industry, for being in his position at Briarwood Country Club for the past forty-seven years (that is the kind of longevity and employer and employee trust and support that you don't see now a days), and for being such a majestic and respectful human being. What a personality. You see, Mr.Voykin is one of the originals that I grew up with in this industry. After forty-seven years he will be retiring from the Briarwood CC after this season.

Briarwood CC is planning a wonderful send off for him in September and I am sure there will be other surprises along the way. He is and has been a part of their family for so long and is very, very deserving of all of their praise and accolades.

His wit and humor are bar none. He has stories abound and I remarked that maybe there might be another book in the offing seeing as he is an accomplished author already; *Ask The Lawn Expert*. (By the way there are copies still available at Amazon.com very reasonably priced.) So if you are out and about at a meeting or near his course, stop by or call and say hello and wish him well. Here's to you Mr.Voykin, he is someone you should know. If you can pick up his book and bring it to him, he might even autograph it for you. **-OC**



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