

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT  
Dave Braasch, *Glen Erin Golf Club*



# It's Been a Fun Ride

*It was a hot, humid day in 2001 at Hughes Creek Golf Club for the inaugural John Buck Memorial Fundraiser outing. Don Ferreri approached me after the golf portion figuring that he was just going to say thank you for hosting the day's event. That wasn't the case. He stated that the nomination committee chose me as one of the individuals to run for the MAGCS Board of Directors and had asked me if I would be interested. After a short discussion about what the duties entailed, I accepted the invitation to run for office and was elected in November.*

It was an honor to be asked and a privilege to serve on the MAGCS Board of Directors for the next seven years. I was excited to be elected until, only a few months into it, I made the move to Janesville, Wisconsin to do a grow in and I began to ask myself, "Do I really want to do all this traveling back and forth for seven years?" After fighting with myself and a few Board members, I stood by the decision that I made and stuck with it. To be quite honest with you, it was the fastest and most rewarding seven years of my life.

How was it rewarding you might ask? For starters you meet a lot of new people and gain new friendships along the way, not only within MAGCS, but with members of allied associations as well. I have learned to delegate and have become a better communicator and public speaker. Those of you that have stage fright while speaking to an audience, the "imagining everyone in their underwear" trick really does work. I have gained an appreciation for what it takes to put a magazine together, organize a monthly meeting, and align education for a year. It goes off without a hitch due to strong communication and planning skills backed by individuals who donate their time and effort. I highly recommend that if you have not volunteered your time to help at any capacity in MAGCS, it is a must, as you will walk away with the same valuable experience as I did.

I would like to thank the Board for all their continued support and service to the MAGCS as we strive to be a leader in the golf course industry. Early on we lost our Class C Advisor, Michael Heustis, as he made the jump from Assistant Superintendent at Chicago Golf Club to Superintendent of Chicago Highlands. After you get past the grow in, we will be hitting you up to serve again, this time as a Director. The void was quickly filled by Scott Verdun of the Merit Club - a seasoned member of the Class C Committee. I would like to thank Scott for his service and John Nelson for allowing him the opportunity to serve on the Board. I would also like to thank Todd Schmitz,

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our Education Committee Chairman, as he will be departing from the Board. I hope that we will see you resurface as a Board member in the future; although, I think you may have to start all over again and not resume where you left off. Sorry. To Sharon Riesenbeck, the bright-eyed and often over-caffeinated individual at a Board meeting, thank you for your hard work as the Commercial Advisory Council Representative by keeping us one with those that support the Association. Thank you John Gurke for the often-entertaining section of *On Course* "The Bull Sheet" and to Chuck Anfield for informing us of the happenings of superintendents in the "Midwest Breezes." To Luke Cella, the nucleus of the Board as I like to refer to him as, thank you for all of your efforts: *On Course*, Executive Director, Photographer, Family Picnic Night, and many more ways that I cannot even begin to list. Last but not least, thank you to the members of the MAGCS for giving me the opportunity to serve you at various capacities over the past seven years. It's been a fun and educational experience. I would like to welcome Tony Kalina as our new MAGCS President and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. -OC