

## ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Tony Kalina, *Prairie Landing Golf Course*



# In the 11th Hour.

*My term as MAGCS Chapter President will come to a conclusion at the 57th MAGCS Annual Meeting and Midwest Turf Clinic on November 4th. The past eleven months have been one of the most rewarding episodes of my professional career. I thoroughly enjoyed serving our membership as chapter president. Sixty-seven men have served as Chapter President before me. I am humbled, honored, and proud to be included among them. I appreciate and admire those who have served on the MAGCS Board of Directors this year, and in years past. They have held me high upon their shoulders with hard work and devotion. Your efforts have advanced our association's causes, mission, and goals. Thank you.*

Last November, as my term started, I thought that this term would be no different from other Chapter President's terms. I'd take my place, follow the protocols in the "Chapter President's Handbook," incorporate some new twists, and work through a 'normal' term.

It wasn't that calculated.

With the assistance of Luke Cella, he and I developed a new board management tool we called the 'Director's Dashboard.' The Dashboard was developed to streamline the internal business transmissions of the MAGCS Board, via the web. It provided directors the opportunity to do Board work and reporting, at their leisure, outside of work. The Dashboard gave directors instant access to an updated calendar of events, to reports, and communication. I think this year's version of the Dashboard was a very good, working, first draft of this tool. I am certain that future boards will continue to use the Dashboard and tailor it to their changing needs.

During my Board service, I have thought that greater attention to the needs of our commercial members and their companies was needed. I felt that this would fill a gap and boost the benefits to the Association. Toward this end, I shaped a special task force this year within the committee structure of MAGCS Board, called the Partnership Task Force (PTF). The goals of the PTF were: 1) Increase visibility and advertisement value, 2) Boost sponsorship opportunities, and 3) Provide greater 'touch' opportunities between Commercial Members and

Superintendents. In opening this dialogue, we attempt to address the needs of this important class of members and build a good foundation for future work.

Without question, the economic downturn of '08 and '09 affected the Chicagoland golf market. Many operations - club house and grounds, public and private - had their operating and capital budgets suddenly revised and stretched in order to pull through. I think we all felt the need to buckle down and find ways to be more frugal and efficient. The absence of summer's normal heat and disease stresses were a blessing to many bottom lines. It was the easiest July in my memory for golf course conditioning and heat stress management. Although the economy is displaying a rebound and recovery, I believe there is much work ahead to regain profitability and conditioning standards in this new economy.

In closing, I am looking forward to functioning as MAGCS's Immediate Past President, and I pledge to wholeheartedly serve, our new President, Scott Witte, CGCS, however he sees fit. It will be exciting to have my friend and close confidant follow-up on my term. I know I have plenty of energy in the tank to continue to contribute, serve, and support him and our association. I am looking forward to the new board challenges and opportunities ahead. All in all, for me, it was great year - it was a pure, professional pleasure to serve.

The clock is approaching 12 p.m. A new day is near. My time is up! **-OC**