

ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Dave Groelle, CGCS, *Royal Melbourne Country Club*



Transition and Accountability

I would like to begin by thanking the Past Presidents for their hard work and dedication in making MAGCS what it is today. We would not be where we are without them. It is very humbling for me when I take a look at the names of those who came before me and think that my name will be on that list. So for that I thank you. I have some goals in mind that I would like to share with you for the year ahead.

My first thought as I take office is that I would like to improve upon our publication. *On Course* is a vital part of our association. It has and will continue to be a leader in our industry. I think we can make it better. It begins with receiving the magazine. It needs to be more prompt. We will hold to tighter standards for delivery, starting with commitments from our authors and ending with the publication ending up in our mailbox. I believe getting the magazine in a timely fashion will greatly enhance its appeal to our members. I also believe we need to have better content. I am not trying to diminish what has been done thus far. I just believe it can get better. The only way that happens is with your help. We need our members to contribute. Write an article. Provide an idea for an article. Our Board will be actively seeking volunteers this year from our superintendents and from our educators. Why is this so important? For me it's value. Value to our superintendent members, and maybe more importantly value to our commercial members. After all, without their support a lot of what we do would not be possible. Therefore, if we create an improved *On Course* that people look forward to and want to read, it could make our commercial members more willing to advertise more. This of course supports our Association and allows us to create more value for our members. So please consider helping out. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this please let me know.

The second area I would like to work on is public perception. Now this is a tough one. I have to go back to the Ryder Cup to explain further. Like many of our members

I volunteered to work the maintenance crew for the event. What an incredible experience. As the event progressed what was overwhelming to all of us was how little the spectators knew about what we do. The Ryder Cup presents a situation different than most events in that course maintenance occurs in between the matches on Friday and Saturday. Therefore, we were out completing tasks in front of an audience! It was wild! What came from this was the fact that people who follow golf still don't know what we do!! Many of us who volunteered commented on the type of questions asked and comments heard by "expert" fans throughout the week. It was quite humorous but at the same time sad, sad that we still haven't reached the status that we deserve in this industry. I would like to work on this. I know this is a very difficult task but I have a few ideas and I think it is with a try. Our story needs to be told, and I think the golfing public will find it very interesting.

I realize those are some very daunting tasks, but you have to start somewhere. As President I will attempt to accomplish something. To do that you need goals, those are my goals. Will we achieve them? We'll see. I am going to work hard and I know the team of Board members that has been assembled will help me out along the way. If you would like to help or if you have any thoughts about anything I welcome them. Hopefully next year will bring average weather that will bring smiles to our faces. Thank you again for the opportunity. **-OC**