



Ray Hansen

# Florida Golf Council needs your support

**I**n January, Tim Hiers and I attended an organizational meeting of the Florida Golf Council.

The Board of Directors announced the hiring of its new executive director, Bobby Brantley, who has spent the past 12 years in Florida state government: eight years in the Florida Legislature and the last four as lieutenant governor. This timely appointment of a person with his background will be of great benefit during this critical start-up period.

For those who are not familiar with this new organization, let me tell you how the council evolved and its mission. Industry leaders from all phases of golf organized last fall to face such issues as land use, taxation, water management and environmental protection which we are all concerned with but were not being properly addressed. The council is made up of all existing golf associations and industry leaders who wish to promote the best interest of this \$5.5 billion Florida industry. Its mission is to become a focal point, clearinghouse, communicator and advocate to assure

that we receive our fair share of the state's resources including land, water, economic and government support.

The Florida Golf Council Board of Trustees and Board of Governors is comprised of people in all phases of the golf industry in Florida. Brantley is operating with a small staff out of Palm Beach County but as funding is developed, he will locate in Tallahassee where he will spend his time on state government issues.

This new organization is important to all of us if we are ever going to be able to tell our side on environmental issues in Tallahassee. For this council to survive, all golf courses and golf-related business in Florida will be asked to pay annual dues. Golf courses will be divided into three categories depending on the size of their maintenance budgets, which I feel is a fair approach. Developers will be asked to pay a fee above ours and businesses will be able to support this association also.

I urge all readers to support this new organization by joining so we may finally have a voice in Tallahassee.

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