

# Julie Sprau Resigns Post At Minnesota Golf Association

The Minnesota Golf Association (MGA) has announced the resignation of Julie L. Sprau as executive director and chief operating officer, effective Aug. 30, 2002. Sprau, who lives in Chanhassen, Minn., with husband Joe Kelly and their two children, cited a desire to spend more time with family as the reason behind her decision to

leave the MGA.

"Julie has done a great job for the Minnesota Golf Association. While we support her decision to spend more time with her family, we will miss the skills she brought to the association," said Cal Simmons, president of the MGA. Simmons will lead an executive search committee to identify a replace-



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ment, to be named by mid-August.

Sprau, 40, assumed the executive director and chief operating officer role in January 1999 and led the MGA's professional staff through a critical period in the association's history. Included among her accomplishments were guiding the volunteer-led organization through a strategic planning process; re-branding of the MGA image, mission statement and Internet presence; and celebrating the association's centennial anniversary, which included recognition by proclamation from Governor Jesse Ventura and culminated in a gala dinner, hosted by New York Times foreign correspondent and St. Louis Park native Thomas Friedman.

"Julie did a phenomenal job and is a great person," said Rick Soskin, vice president of the MGA. "We're excited that she is going to continue to work with the MGA as a volunteer," he added.

The MGA is a non-profit association dedicated to upholding and promoting the game of golf and its values for all golfers in Minnesota. The association includes more than 93,000 golfers at nearly 440 public and private golf facilities throughout the state. In 1998, the MGA ranked as the largest trade and professional association based in Minnesota, according to CityBusiness. In addition, the MGA is recognized as among the top state and regional amateur golf associations across the country.

As recently as 1998, Minnesota led the country in golfer participation, according to the National Golf Foundation. The state is regularly ranked at or near the top in golfer participation.

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