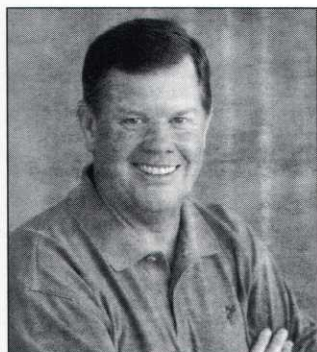


# MGA Names Tom Ryan As New Executive Director

The Minnesota Golf Association (MGA) has announced the hiring of Thomas L. Ryan as Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, effective August 12, 2002. Ryan, 48, will lead the MGA staff in serving the association's 93,000 associate members and nearly 440 member golf clubs and 13 allied golf industry associations.



**Tom Ryan**

"I'm thrilled to be joining the MGA," said Ryan. "To combine your passion with your work is truly a unique opportunity. I look forward to working closely with the associate members, clubs and allied golf organizations."

Ryan is a former West Group executive with more than two decades of experience in business development, marketing and customer service. His enthusiasm for amateur golf is reflected by a scratch handicap, membership at Dellwood Hills Golf Club, and his

experience as an Evans Scholar at the University of Minnesota.

"We are very excited that Tom Ryan is joining the MGA," said Cal Simmons, MGA president. "His business background and commitment to the game are an ideal fit with the goals and objectives of the association," added Simmons.

Founded in 1901, 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 organization recently celebrated its centennial that included recognition by proclamation from Governor Jesse Ventura and culminated in a gala dinner, hosted by *New York Times* Foreign Affairs columnist and St. Louis Park native Thomas Friedman.

In 1998, the MGA ranked as the largest trade and professional association based in Minnesota, according to *City Business*. In addition, the MGA is recognized as among the top state and regional amateur golf associations in the country.

Minnesota is regularly ranked at or near the top in golfer participation in the United States, according to the the National Golf Foundation.

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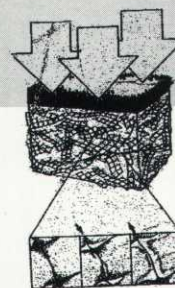
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