

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
Managers Association

Volume XI Number 1
January/February 1993

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President's Message

... And Then Some!

by Gil Landry, Jr.
1993-94 President

I wish all of you could have been in Indianapolis to share the experience of STMA's conference. For the more than 150 people in attendance, it was a time to learn, a time to network and develop friendships, and a time to feel the spirit of individuals interested in developing both their profession and their own professionalism. The theme was set by keynote speaker George Toma describing the "And Then Some" of a real professional, which means going the extra mile.

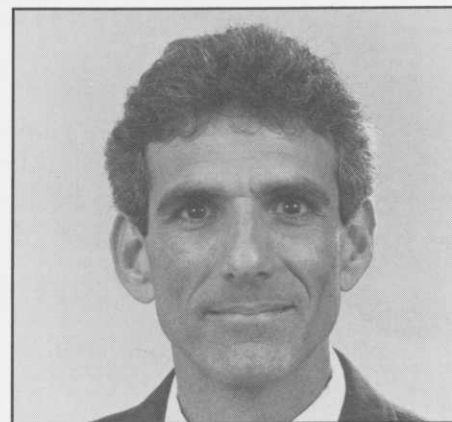
The conference climaxed at the STMA Awards Banquet when Dr. Jim Watson presented the 1992 Groundskeeper of the Year: Harry C. Gill Memorial Award to an emotional George Toma. Between these two leaders there is more than 80 years of sports turf management experience.

The Importance of Unity

Your association is clearing its last big hurdle, the hurdle of unity. Unity develops through communication between all parties, understanding their limitations, and accepting compromise for the group's benefit — in this case, STMA. Unity is also fostered through understanding and a willingness to work for the T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More), instead of for the individual. Unity comes from members asking, "What can I do?" instead of, "What's in it for me?" Your board has worked hard to improve communication, and the results are beginning to show.

Don't get me wrong, we still have some significant hurdles. Our financial obligations and the need to continue offering quality educational opportunities through articles, institutes, an annual conference, etc., are ongoing hurdles we are continually striving to overcome. However, if you are willing to help your association evolve, your board of directors and executive director are willing to work.

Keep in mind dues only cover about 40 percent of STMA's operating expenses, so



Dr. Gil Landry, Jr.

we are constantly looking for ways to generate additional revenue. For example, Mike Schiller and crew raised more than \$700 by raffling items during the conference in Indianapolis. That effort covered the cost of nearly 1.5 scholarships for the benefit of those working to improve our industry through education.

Get Involved!

Check the list of committees and join the T.E.A.M. by volunteering. Volunteer now — committees are trying to complete most of their work by spring, so you'll be able to take part in the planning process.

We have many other important goals to strive for, but we also know from experience our budget must match our expectations. Every one of these goals requires both time

and financial support, so if you have the time and can get the resources needed, we are certainly interested.

I hope 1993 is a better year for all of us. I encourage you to call a committee chairman, a board member, our executive director Bret Kelsey or myself if you have a question or an idea. That is what STMA is all about — the furthering of our education, professionalism and leadership through quality education, whether it be through formal training, articles or the expertise of our peers. □

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