

STMA Board Meeting Report

continued from page 3

The board asked Executive Director Trusty and all STMA staff members to leave the room so that results of the board member's individual evaluations of Trusty and the management firm could be discussed. Trusty was then given a brief review of the discussion and presented with the written results of the evaluation and specific goals set by the board. This is an annual process.

The Board addressed final details of the Colorado Springs Conference. Rulli explained the procedures for the Cripple Creek excursion, a fund-raising project for the host Chapter, and the tie-in ice-breaker for the opening reception.

Also discussed were preliminary details of the 9th Annual Conference to be held January 14 - 18, 1998, at Walt Disney World in Florida and Disney's new Sports Complex. The March 14-15 Board meeting will be held at the Disney property for in-depth Conference planning.

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STMA Annual Meeting Report

President Mike Schiller called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM. He opened with a welcome to all and gave an overview of 1996, a successful year for STMA. Schiller thanked all those whose contributions of time, talent and financial resources made it possible. He introduced all officers, board members and the STMA staff members.

Schiller thanked the Colorado Chapter for all their work on the Conference and also thanked the hosts of the venues on the Seminar on Wheels tours for sharing their facilities and their expertise.

Secretary Eugene Mayer submitted the agenda for approval. Copies of the agenda, along with election ballots and proxy forms were mailed to all members prior to the Conference.

Bucky Trotter gave the membership report. From 1996 membership of between 550 and 600 members, as of December 31, 1996, membership stood at 854 and new members are coming on board almost daily. Membership growth by region and category is remaining within one or two percentage points of previous figures. Trotter noted that while this growth is good progress, it's miniscule compared to the number of potential STMA members and urged everyone to recruit actively. Recognition of the sports turf manager within the green industry, facility owners and managers and the public and our ability to get things done will increase proportionately with our numbers.

Treasurer Rich Moffitt gave the financial and treasurers report which included the details provided in the board meeting report above.

Bob Milano, Awards and Scholarships Committee Chair, noted that he, Dr. Henry Indyk and Jesse Cuevas judged this year's entrants. Milano noted that recipients would be announced at the banquet.

As Chair of the By-Laws Committee, Greg Petry reported some changes have been suggested by the board and that the By-Laws, including those changes have been submitted to an attorney for review. Once

the review is completed, the By-Laws will come back to the board for presentation to the membership. Any recommended changes will be subject to approval by the membership.

As Immediate Past President, Petry also reported on the meeting of the Past Presidents Council Long-Range Planning Committee, which held its first meeting in conjunction with the Conference. Their recommendations include a more active outreach within the industry to such groups as the Stadium Managers and Athletic Trainers; the development of educational materials that are both practical and useable; the promotion of

continued on page 14

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STMA Annual Meeting Report

continued from page 11

the benefits and values of proper management, based on research. They also recommend beginning a study to accurately define the sports turf market in terms of who, how many and where. These recommendations have been presented to the board for consideration.

Chair Dr. Henry Indyk reported that the Certification Committee held their initial meeting at the Conference. The Committee noted that with the wide-ranging differences within the sports turf management field there will be multiple issues to consider. Dr. Indyk issued a call for input, in writing, to be sent to STMA headquarters by all those interested in contributing to this effort. The next meeting will be held on March 16th, in conjunction with the next STMA board meeting, so the sooner input is received the sooner it can be passed along to all committee members.

Steve Trusty reported that STMA currently has six officially affiliated chapters. During the past year, thanks to funding by 1996 Chapter sponsors, John Deere and The Scotts Company, Trusty made visits to all affiliated chapters plus four groups either in the formative stages or existing groups considering affiliation. Trusty and Schiller presented STMA gavels to the six affiliated chapters. Ken Norkosky accepted the gavel for the Colorado Chapter; Dave Minner for the Iowa Chapter; Marc VanLanduyt for the Midwest Chapter; Mike McDonald for the Minnesota Chapter, and Chris Bunnell for the Southern California Chapter. The gavel will be presented to Florida Chapter #1 at a later date.

Trusty also noted that an active organization in Pennsylvania, the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO), is in the process of finalizing formal affiliation with STMA as the KAFMO Chapter STMA. The former Chesapeake Chapter, which is currently operating as MAFMO, is making plans to rejoin the STMA organization.

Trusty noted that Novartis, formerly Ciba, will be a Chapter Sponsor for 1997.

Chair of the Education Committee, Mary Owen, urged attendees to provide input on the Conference program through the evaluation forms included in the notebook. All input will be considered in planning the educational program for the 1998 Conference.

President Schiller reported that the Historical Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kent Kurtz, and with the assistance of Past President Mark Hodnick, has been busy categorizing materials from the archives for display and thanked them for their efforts. Dr. Kurtz, assisted by Tom Lincoln, has provided the display by the registration area. The Historical Display will become a part of each Conference.

Dr. Gil Landry, Co-Chair of the Public Relations/Communications Committee, reported that the outreach continues with over 30 articles provided to Turf industry publications. Dr. Landry thanked John Deere for

their financial support of this outreach effort and their funding of the public relations efforts on behalf of the chapters.

The newsletter, Sports Turf Manager, has expanded to 12 and sometimes 16 pages. Dr. Landry thanked The Toro Company for their financial support of the newsletter.

He reminded members that this committee is always open to their input.

Steve Guise, Chair of the Standards Committee, reported that he, Steve Wightman, and/or another committee member have attended all meetings of the American Society of Testing Materials again this past year. ASTM is working to identify the Clegg Impact Hammer as a standard measure of measuring hardness. They are also working on developing standards for ball field construction.

Steve Wightman reported on the first meeting of Category I members, those managing professional sports turf facilities. They are looking at how they, as a group, can make the Association stronger and become a resource within the Association for all members. One area of focus will be standards.

Greg Petry introduced the election of officers. It was noted that a call for nominations was mailed to all members along with the slate of officers and board members proposed by the nominating committee. No other nominations were received. Ballots with the slate of officers and board members were then mailed to all members for a vote. The slate as presented was duly elected.

President Schiller noted that now is the time for all those interested in the governance of the association to become involved actively on a committee and to express their interest in a board position. The more hands to carry the load, the easier the task becomes for everyone. Please get involved and help STMA grow.

Conference Chair Steve Guise asked Trusty to give Future Conference details. The 1998 Conference will be held January 14 - 18 at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Florida and at the Disney World Sports Complex. The 1999 Conference will be held January 13 - 17 at the Sheraton Mesa in Phoenix, Arizona.

With no new business brought to the floor, the meeting was adjourned.

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Make your plans NOW for the STMA 9th Annual Conference and Exhibition at Walt Disney World in Florida from January 14th to 18th, 1998.
Plans are under way to maintain the best features of past conferences while providing new and exciting additions in response to members' and exhibitors' requests and to take advantage of the unique attractions offered by the Disney facility and the Orlando, Florida, area.