

Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

If you were in Colorado Springs, you were part of STMA's largest and most successful Conference ever. Preliminary accounting tells us that 223 people were in attendance. That number does not include the over 120 Exhibitor personnel that showed off their wares in a record 68 booths. Thanks for being there and a special thanks for all your kind comments. As great as this 8th Annual Conference was, I'm sure there are things that we could do to make the next one even better. If you haven't filled out that evaluation form that was in your notebook, please do so ASAP. Your board will be meeting March 14th and 15th in Orlando. The more input they receive, the better chance they have of meeting YOUR needs. While everyone likes to hear good things, we really like constructive criticism also. What we don't know can hurt us all.

For those of you who didn't make it to Colorado, we'd like to hear from you also. What can we do to provide what you want to get you to future conferences? The date and location for the next one is set. Are you making plans now to attend next January 14 - 18 at Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort? If not, why not? Please tell us!

STMA is starting the process towards another important milestone. Your Certification Committee held their initial meeting in Colorado Springs on January 17th. They are putting a lot of thought into the process and will be putting a considerable amount of time into the project. Their next meeting will be a day-long working session on March 16th. Here again, your input is needed to help put together the program that is best for STMA and the Sports Turf Manager of tomorrow. The committee is well aware that they cannot please everyone, but they want to at least have the opportunity to address all concerns. Please take a few minutes to jot down your thoughts on certification and mail, fax or e-mail them into Headquarters. We will get your thoughts sent to all of the committee members.

Dr. Henry Indyk is the Chair for the Certification Committee. Other members include: **Steve Cockerham**, University of California - Riverside; **Dale Getz**, University of Notre Dame; **Dr. Tony Koski**, Colorado State University; **Ross Kurcab**, Denver Broncos Football Club; **Dr. David Minner**, Iowa State University; **Mary Owen**, University of Massachusetts Extension; Bob Patt, City of Canton, Ohio; **Vince Patterozzi**, Baltimore Ravens, **Floyd Perry**; Grounds Maintenance Services and **Dr. A. J. Powell**, University of Kentucky. When you get a chance, thank these individuals for agreeing to take on this monumental task. You may also express your thoughts on certification directly to any of these people when you take the opportunity to visit with

them. They all are committed to assisting in putting together the best certification program possible.

Your association ended the year with 854 members. Additional new members are coming in on an almost daily basis. Renewals are also coming in very strong. In fact, between the record turnout for the conference, the renewals and new members, your headquarters has gotten behind in getting the membership certificates out to new and renewed members. The new directory is also behind schedule. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will be nearly caught up. Getting the directory to the printer is next on the agenda after this newsletter and getting all membership certificates out follows close behind. If you haven't done so already, you can save us the time of sending out reminders to non-renewed members by sending in your dues payment now. Please go-ahead and inundate us with new member applications. Let others know about STMA. We have just received a new supply of membership brochures. If you would like some to hand out to others, just let us know.

Headquarters has received a number of inquiries from various parts of the country about forming chapters. Look over the Chapter Events column. If you have a Chapter in your area, get involved. If you would like to help get a chapter going, let headquarters know. You'll see by the activities of others that being involved on the Chapter level can be very worthwhile. We again have Chapter Sponsors that fund the Chapter visits from headquarters. I hope to see you soon!

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Employment Opportunities

The *Beloit (WI) Snappers* and the *Quad City River Bandits (IA)* have openings for Head Groundskeeper.

The *Toronto Blue Jays Florida Operations* has an opening for a Grounds Superintendent.

Wichita (KS) Baseball has an opening for a Groundskeeper.

The *San Bernardino Stampede* has an opening for an Assistant Head Groundskeeper at their new stadium.

The *Michigan Battle Cats Baseball Club* has openings for Sports Turf Management Internships for working on the grounds crew at Bailey Park.

The *Butte (MT) Copper Kings Baseball Club*, Rookie League affiliate of the Anaheim Angels, has an opening for Groundskeeper

For more information on these openings contact STMA Headquarters at (800) 323-3875.