

Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

STMA continues to grow. Official paid membership for 1997 is now over 900. New membership applications continue to come. While we all are very encouraged by the continuous increase in membership, we also are concerned that some individuals haven't renewed for 1997. We are in the process of sending questionnaires to those who haven't renewed to find out why. If you, as a member, hear from any past members any reasons for their non-renewal, please let us know so we can at least attempt to address their concerns. We try to be responsive to the membership, but can only deal with what we hear about.

Chapter activities continue to grow, as does the number of chapters. MAFMO (the former Chesapeake Chapter) has again joined the ranks of STMA affiliated Chapters. This is especially gratifying to me. Their return is a good indication that headquarters is again serving the needs of our chapters and members. We know there is always room for improvement, so please let us know what we can do to better provide the services that you want and need.

You should now have your latest issue of the Compendium. We hope you enjoy the improved quality of the printing of the text and pictures. When you have the opportunity, pass along your thanks for the Compendium to any contacts that you might have at John Deere. Not only do they provide the entire cost of producing the Compendium itself, they have provided the biggest share of the funding to develop most of the articles in the Compendium. While STMA is an association of and for Sports Turf Managers, it could not exist without the assistance of the commercial companies that supply many of your needs. If these companies hear your appreciation they are more likely to continue their assistance.


Your conference committee has been hard at work finalizing the schedule

for next January's Conference. It has something that each of you can use in your day-to-day operations. The opportunity to get together with your peers from around the country can itself provide enough information to pay for your trip. All the additional opportunities for growth just make the trip that much more valuable. Full Conference details will soon arrive in the mail. After you've looked over the information, make your commitment to attend. Then pass the information along to colleagues who may not yet know about STMA or request Conference information packets for them.

Your President and I had the opportunity to visit the TPI (Turf Producers International) Conference and Show in Minneapolis while in

town to visit the Minnesota Chapter and make the presentation to Dick Ericson. Several TPI members have been big supporters of STMA for some time. Some opportunities presented themselves for additional mutually beneficial relationships. A special thanks to STMA members Dale Wysocki and Jesse Cuevas for donating items for the TPI silent auction. Their generosity provided a larger presence for STMA and \$350 for TPI's Foundation that funds research. Some of that research could end up helping STMA members in the future. We will continue to help increase the awareness of STMA and seek alliances that will be helpful.


Until the next issue, may your problems be small and your successes huge. *STM*



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