

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
Managers Association
1375 Rolling Hills Loop
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-8552
712/366-2669, 800/323-3875
(FAX) 712/366-9119
(e-mail) TrustyTips@aol.com
(world wide web)
<http://www.aip.com/STMA>



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President's Message

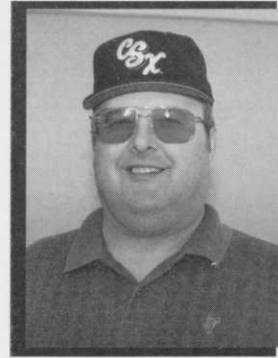
by Mike Schiller, President

1997 is fast becoming a banner year for STMA. Your Conference Committee is putting the finishing touches on plans for the 9th Annual Conference, "Meeting the Challenges," to be held January 14 - 18, 1998, in Orlando, Florida - and I'm REALLY EXCITED about it. The beautiful, new Disney facility, the Coronado Springs Resort, is our headquarters hotel. The multi-sports complex, Disney's Wide World of Sports, is the center for our indoor trade show and outside demonstrations. We'll not only tour the complex, but also see some "tricks of the trade" that allow them to handle "in the spotlight," back-to-back events.

This committee has really listened to your suggestions. There will be three topic choices for each of our concurrent sessions with something for you, whether you're just starting out, already an experienced sports turf manager, or somewhere in between. The Round Table program has been expanded to three 30-minute segments, with even more choices of topics. Dynamic presenters on "Meeting the Challenges" include Reggie Williams, former NFL linebacker with the Cincinnati Bengals and now Vice President of Disney's Wide World of Sports, and Captain Al Haynes, who piloted that "impossible" life-saving landing in Sioux City, Iowa, a task that flight simulators still can't duplicate.

With the Board's official recognition of the MAFMO Chapter at our July Board Meeting, STMA has welcomed two Chapters within this past year. A budding Chapter in Northern California is taking shape with a solid core of "founders" and 25 members already signed on.

The recommendations of your Awards and Scholarship Committee have been approved by the Board. They are calling for your thoughtful consideration of those individuals worthy of nomination for the four individual Founders Awards: The George Toma "Golden Rake" Award, the Dick Ericson Award, the Dr. William Daniel Award, and The Harry Gill Award. The Scholarship program has been expanded, making it even more worthwhile for students preparing for this profession. (See the article on page 12).



Mike Schiller

Your Certification Committee continues to move forward, with its second meeting, on August 2nd, focusing on all of the input received from you - the members - to date, and fine-tuning the program. If you've been thinking about voicing your comments and suggestions, DO IT NOW. This Committee will be presenting its recommendations to the STMA Board at our next meeting. (November 14 - 15, 1997 in Mesa, Arizona) PLEASE give them time to consider your input by providing it to Headquarters no later than September 5th. It's really a painless process. You can send a fax, a letter or an e-mail message. You can even relay your thoughts by phone. All input will be forwarded to all Certification Committee members.

Membership is growing in all categories, in all sections of the country. Your compendium of STMA articles, Sports Turf Topics, has arrived on your desk. Our international outreach continues through the publication, International Baseball Rundown, with the help of Murray Cook and IBR Editor, Jeff Elijah. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Razum, Alan Sigwardt, Steve Wightman, Gary VandenBerg, and David Mellor, and the great showcase provided by David Cassidy, Editor of the new consumer magazine, Home, Lawn and Leisure, the man (and woman) in the suburbs gained some understanding of baseball's "pattern master magic" and the role of the sports turf manager in field care.

It seems to me that "Meeting the Challenges" is exactly what we're doing. THANKS to all of you! And keep up the good work!