

Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Your Board of Directors had a very busy meeting March 14th and 15th. Part of the time was spent planning an even better conference for 1998 than the record breaker that we had in Colorado Springs. See this issue's cover story for some of the highlights of what promises to be another outstanding opportunity to get together with your peers from around the country. Thanks to those of you who took time to fill out the conference evaluations. The Conference Committee and your board have some excellent suggestions for future conferences.

Speaking of the Colorado Springs Conference, the board received the good news that income above expenses for that event was approximately \$37,000.00. The Board has now been able to put some money into savings. STMA is on strong financial footing and your association can start working on additional programs to benefit the membership.

One of those programs is certification for sports turf managers. Be sure to carefully read the story on page 14 about the Certification Committee's second productive meeting. They have put a terrific amount of work into preparing preliminary plans for a positive program that will increase the professionalism of Sports Turf Managers. The time to think it through thoroughly is NOW, before final decisions are made and materials are printed.

STMA continues to grow. See the notice about the membership recruitment program on this page, that your board has approved. This program rewards everyone who sponsors a new member and provides a special incentive to the top promoter of STMA. The real winners will be those individuals that you introduce to an organization that is going to help them grow professionally. Remember also that a larger and stronger membership will provide more benefits to all.

Your board officially recognized the newest STMA Chapter. Welcome to the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization (KAFMO) Chapter. This Pennsylvania group started meeting about two years ago. They have just completed the process of incorporating as a chapter of STMA. They have approximately 200 members and have already held some very worthwhile events. Take special note of the article in the March issue of sportsTURF. I look forward to visiting this new chapter on May 15th and presenting them with their gavel.

Other Chapter visits that have been confirmed to-date include the Colorado Chapter's Commercial Vendors event on April 10th and the Minnesota Chapter's Seminar on Wheels on July 16th. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Interest in forming new chapters remains high in various locations. If you would like to get involved with chapter activities in your area, contact headquarters for an update on what is happening or what you might do in your part of the country.

Your nominating committee is seeking individuals willing

to serve STMA as board members and officers. If you feel a strong commitment to STMA and would like to get involved, contact Nominating Committee Chairman, Greg Petry. If you would like to recommend someone, contact them and make sure they are willing, and then send their name on to Greg.

Members are always welcome to attend or provide input for Board Meetings. To help you plan, the Board has set the dates and locations for their next three meetings. They will meet on July 11th and 12th in Canton, Ohio. On November 14th and 15th, they will meet at the site for the 1999 STMA Conference, the Sheraton Mesa, in the Phoenix area. The customary first of the year meeting in conjunction with the Annual Conference will be held January 13th at the Coronado Springs Resort.

Hopefully you have received your new Membership Roster and Resource Manual. If you haven't and don't within the next few days, let Headquarters know. Make good use of this resource and be sure to thank the advertisers.

Take special notice of your mailing label on this issue of the Sports Turf Manager. If you see your name highlighted it means that, at the time of this writing, we had not received your dues for 1997. If you mailed your dues in the last couple of weeks, I'm sure that they just crossed in the mail. If you have not mailed them yet, please do so ASAP. If your dues aren't received by May 30th, you will be dropped from membership. You'll miss out on all sorts of things, including the new compendium, this newsletter, your new membership certificate and card, and all sorts of other benefits of STMA membership. If you have any questions or need a new dues invoice, please contact us at 800/323-3875.

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

STM

Help STMA Grow

Share the STMA story with another sports turf manager
Once they join, they'll start receiving the benefits
of membership

AND

You'll be rewarded as well

Between NOW and MAY 31st - If YOU

Sign up 1 new member - You earn an STMA cup

Sign up 3 new members - You earn an STMA hat

Sign up 5 new members - You earn an STMA shirt

The individual who signs up the most new members --
earns a FREE registration to the 9th Annual STMA

Conference & Exhibition

at the Coronado Springs Resort & Walt Disney World Sports
Complex in Florida
January 14-18, 1998.

A Membership Application is included in this Newsletter

Just call 800/323-3875 for more applications.

(Be sure to write YOUR name on the "referred by" line.)