

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

Official Newsletter of the Sports Turf
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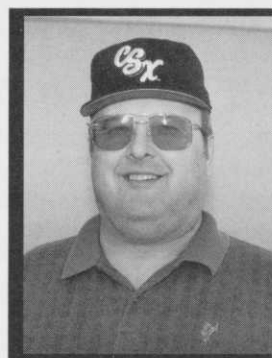
President's Message

by Mike Schiller, President

It's already fall. While you're juggling a packed schedule to keep all your fields in top shape for fall play, 1997 is winding down fast. On the horizon is our 9th Annual Conference, "Meeting the Challenges," which will be held January 14 - 18, 1998, in Orlando, Florida. By now you should have received your Conference packet and I'm betting you're as excited as I am about the program, the seminars on wheels, and those great facilities: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Disney's Wide World of SportsTM complex.

Did you catch the special extras on the Friday Conference program? We'll kick off on Friday with a behind the scenes tour of the sports complex. We'll close the afternoon with two outdoor events. The Products on Parade will be a series of demonstrations by vendors "on the field" at the complex. Following that, you'll have your choice of multiple sessions of "How We Do It" real-life action Demos given by Disney personnel and other sports turf managers at various parts of the complex.

So...right now, while you're putting your budget together for 1998, allocate funds for Conference attendance and STMA membership at both the national and chapter levels. These are, and rightfully should be, a portion of your professional development funds allocation. STMA is your year-round resource for information, ideas, and personal contacts that directly affect your job performance. The Conference will be packed with opportunities to pick up new information, find that solution to a specific problem, discover a time-saving technique, and network with your peers from across the nation and the world. I know you'll take home ideas to put to work that



Mike Schiller

will more than make up for the costs of the trip.

And, as the Conference grows near, so does our annual meeting at which I will officially hand over the reins at the end of my two year run as your President. STMA has made lots of changes over these last two years. We've grown, we've added programs and services, and we've tried very hard to be more responsive to your needs. All of your board has worked hard, but it's been a very positive labor of love with the opportunity to get to know some of the greatest people in the world.

You'll note that again in this issue, STMA's nominations committee chair, Greg Petry, is putting out a call for nominations for board positions. Along with that, I'm issuing a call for volunteers to serve on committees. This is your organization. Make your own personal commitment to it and GET INVOLVED. Questions, comments, just want to talk about it? Your calls, faxes and e-mail messages are always welcome.

And back to those great STMA people. As this newsletter was going to press, Dr. Kent Kurtz was scheduled for extensive surgery on his back. Please keep him in your prayers and let him know you care.