

Headquarters Update

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

We have just returned from Orlando and this office's third Conference. I had the privilege of attending 3 Conferences prior to 1996. Each one has been better than the previous. Increased attendance is one of the primary reasons that the conferences are better. There are more people there to exchange ideas with, more people at the trade show, more people in the educational sessions and functions, and that makes the conference more valuable to everyone involved. Another factor that helps things go more smoothly is more activity by committee members, board members and others willing to pitch in to help whenever and wherever needed. Our getting to know more people helps with communication and camaraderie. While we really do appreciate all of the compliments, we especially want and need to hear what we can do to make next year's Conference even better. We welcome your thoughts and will give every possible consideration to all suggestions.

We also want to hear from those of you who didn't make it to Orlando. What can we do to make attending the annual Conference a must on your to-do list? What can be done to provide even more value? What can we do to make sure you have all the information you need to make the decision to attend? How can we help you convince your budget people that the STMA Conference is one of the most important aspects of your job? What can we do to convince you that your boss and/or co-workers and/or employees should also attend? Let us know -- **we want to see you next year in Arizona.**

Thank you to all who helped in this year's Conference success. The board and committee members, the folks at Disney, the speakers and moderators, the sponsors, the tour guides, all of the exhibitors and attendees. It is most enjoyable helping so many people have a good time and get something out of their efforts.

Besides all of the activities included on the program for the conference, several other meetings took place. Your Board held their quarterly Board Meeting to review STMA's progress and make plans for the future. As reported at the Annual Meeting, STMA membership has more than doubled in the last two years. STMA is financially stable. STMA gave more in scholarships than ever before and all three scholarship winners got to attend

the Conference. Thanks to all of the support on the silent and live auctions and the raffle, we'll be able to fund even more in scholarships next year!



Tom Curran calls live action

The certification committee met and did some fine tuning on the CSTM program. The certification Round-Table discussions were most informative -- for me and the other participants. Dale Getz has agreed to co-chair the Certification Committee with me for the coming year. Watch for more advancement of this worthwhile program.

The Chapter Breakfast again proved to be a lively exchange of ideas on chapter development. The Mid-South Chapter officially welcomed as your newest affiliated chapter and representatives of some additional forming chapters picked up good ideas. If you don't have a chapter in your area, maybe now is the time to help form one.

Several Category I members got together for breakfast and discussions on how they can get more Sports Turf Managers of professional facilities involved in STMA. They discussed ways that STMA and the individuals that deal with professional sports can work together to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship. Look for information on this as the year progresses. As in all areas, your thoughts are most welcome. Paul Zwaska, Steve Wightman, Murray Cook and Tom Burns, as well as Headquarters, would be your first contacts for suggestions.



Reggie Williams

The Sports Turf Manager does make a difference at every level of play. Reggie Williams' presentation at the kick-off of Friday's Trade Show session brought that point home once again in emphatic, dynamic and indisputable terms. STMA exists as your educational resource, your idea exchange center to help you raise the level of professionalism throughout the industry. But -- none of that "works" without you!

Dues notices went out at the end of December and renewals are coming in very strong. **If you haven't renewed, please do so right away to avoid missing your listing**

in the 1998 Membership Roster & Resource Manual.

If you know of someone that might benefit from STMA membership, pass the information along. We want membership to double again -- in less than two years.

Until next time -- may your challenges be no greater than those which will bring out the best in you and those around you!