

Your Annual Meeting Report

President Steve Guise called the Annual Meeting of the Sports Turf Managers Association to order at 12:25 PM on January 16, 1999, in Mesa, Arizona. Key details of that meeting follow.

Board Member and Membership Chair, Bob Campbell, reported that 1998 membership on October 1, 1998 (when membership for 1999 officially opened) was 1254 as compared with 975 at the same point in 1997. Combined 1998 and 1999 membership at the end of December was reaching 1500. An information outreach to key non-member extension personnel in all states has produced positive response.

Treasurer Bob Patt reported on STMA's financial status. He noted these figures are unaudited at this time but will be certified in the near future by an independent auditing firm. STMA ended 1998 with an \$88,000 surplus of income over expenses. That's \$63,000 higher than the projections at the beginning of the year. This surplus is based on a total income of \$458,000 and total expenses of \$370,000. Annual dues collections were \$16,000 higher than the initial budgeted projections. STMA's cash in the bank increased by \$118,000, for a total at year's end of \$332,000. Note -the majority of the Conference expenses have yet to be paid. STMA's total equity increased by \$93,376, giving STMA an equity balance of \$147,931 at the end of 1998.

Patt noted, "The credit of course goes to you, the members who support this organization by paying dues, attending this conference, supporting your chapters and going back to your different parts of the country and spreading the word to your peers about what STMA has to offer. Special thanks go to our commercial members who have lent their financial support to the wide range of services and programs that STMA provides."

Board Member and Awards and Scholarship Chair Tim Moore reported on the record number of applicants for scholarships and entries for the Field of the Year Awards, thanked The Toro Company for establishing the Dr. James Watson Scholarships, and congratulated scholarship and award recipients.

Trusty reported the Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session was a great success. He thanked the 1998 and 1999 Chapter Sponsors. The four newly affiliated Chapters were announced and presented with their gavels. (See page 8.)

Past President and Nominations Chair, Mike Schiller, presented the results of the 1999 election. (See page 5.)

President-Elect Rich Moffitt invited everyone to "Meet me in St. Louis" for the 2000 Conference, January 12 - 16, 2000 at the Regal Riverfront Hotel.

Bob Tracinski, Secretary of the Evergreen Foundation, reported on this green industry outreach to help foster a national greenway system.

The Board also meet briefly at 4:30 PM on January 16th for a post-Conference debriefing and idea exchange session.

The next Board meeting will be held March 12 -13, 1999, in San Diego, CA.

The first ever STMA Chapter Officers Training and Exchange Session took place on January 12th, with representatives of the majority of affiliated and forming chapters joining in the action. If you're a Chapter leader and missed out on it, please contact Headquarters for information.

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