

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Another Conference is history and your headquarters is in the process of recording all the on-site transactions and reviewing bills from suppliers. Preliminary figures indicate that expenses were on target and income may be running ahead, particularly in some areas. No matter what the financial outcome, from what we heard, everyone who attended felt that the 1999 Conference and Exhibition was a huge success. We had a record number of attendees, record number of exhibitors, excellent educational sessions and ample opportunities to network. Those who were able to arrive on Tuesday and take advantage of the special Lofts Seed reception were treated to an outstanding evening with Cal Ripken, Jr. What a great representative for Baseball! If you missed this year's Conference, you missed a great one. Make plans now so you are not left out next year in St. Louis.

It takes many volunteers and their efforts to make a conference a success. Special thanks are due Char Schiller, Ruth Ann Mayer, Pam Saul, Alice Ward, Mary Indyk and MJ Calvert for all their help in the office and at the Registration desk. Thanks to Coleman Ward, Eugene Mayer and Henry Indyk for their "and then some" efforts throughout the Conference. Thanks to Abby McNeal for all her planning in the Chapter Officers Training Session. Thanks to Tom Curran and his committee for the successful Live and Silent Auctions. Thanks to Tom Burns and Paul Zwaska for all their work on the Category I meeting. While they took a little heat from some people for having a closed session, it was very successful for a one-time experiment. All members of STMA will be seeing the benefits of this program and increased participation by Category I members in various ways for many years to come.

One of the most important aspects of an STMA Conference are the educa-

tional sessions. Thanks to Mary Owen and her committee for coming up with such a top-notch program.

We truly had a great time in Mesa. It is fun to work with individuals who enjoy themselves and are willing to share so much.

I don't like BAD NEWS any more than anyone else, but I thought you should know that Jaci Pettie, our Office Coordinator, has had to take a leave of absence for an undetermined length of time. Her oldest son (17) suffered a gunshot wound January 16th. The Council Bluffs police call it a "senseless shooting". Josh was returning a pager that had been left at a friend's house. Upon meeting the 19 year-old pager owner, some words were exchanged; the 19 year-old pulled out a gun and shot Josh once in


the neck. The 19 year-old has been charged with attempted murder. The bullet went through the neck, voice box, spine and lodged in the shoulder. Initial prognosis was that if Josh lived, he would be paralyzed from the neck down. The good news is that he is improving, he will have a voice and he is beginning to have movement in his arms. Prayers for miracles and for Jaci and her family are welcome.

Membership renewals are coming in very strong. If your '99 dues are not yet paid, please get them in ASAP to assure your place in the new Membership Roster.

Until next issue, may your challenges be no greater than you can handle.




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