

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

Headquarters is gearing up for several projects that are in the works for an improved STMA. The Certification Committee has been hard at work and if we continue on the current pace, you should be introduced to the first Certified Sports Field Managers (CSFM) at the Conference in St. Louis. Plans are also underway to provide a test site on Sunday morning (January 16) in St. Louis for those who are ready for testing at that time. Look for full details on the certification program in September.

Speaking of St. Louis in January, your Conference Committee has just about finalized the program. The informational materials are being designed and put together and watch your mail for these in August. Be sure you make plans to be in St. Louis, January 12 to 16. If you are a Chapter Officer or have an interest in starting a Chapter in your area, plan to arrive in St. Louis the evening of the 10th or early morning of the 11th to participate in the Second Annual Chapter Officers Training Session. Committee Chair, Abby McNeal, and her committee are putting together another great program to help Chapter Officers better

understand what they can and should do to provide better programming for growing chapters.

On Wednesday, January 12th, there will be individual Category Member meetings. Category I tried this as an experiment last Conference and the concept is being expanded to all Categories. The get-togethers will be less formal, but the Board Members from each Category are developing their own plans to provide a worthwhile forum for the members of their Category. The idea is for people facing similar challenges, due to the type of facility they work with, having the opportunity to talk over common problems and help each other with some solutions. You also will have the opportunity to visit with your Board Representative about ways the STMA can be of even greater service to you.

Speaking of Categories, your board voted at the June Board Meeting to recommend to the membership a Bylaws change that would create a new Membership Category. Presently, Category III is made up of those Sports Turf Managers representing schools other than 4-year Colleges along with extension agents, teachers and researchers. It is the recommendation of the Bylaws and Membership Committees and the Board that a new category be created to include those in Extension, teaching and research and that Category III include only Sports Turf Managers with schools other than 4-year Colleges. Part of the reason for this change is to allow both of these constituencies a voice on the Board. Another reason is to be able to provide Commercial Members a more detailed breakdown of membership. The Bylaws Committee and the Board are also suggesting several minor changes in the Bylaws for clarification and more technical accuracy. As soon as legal counsel has gone over the Board recommendations and provided the appropriate "legalese," the changes will be sent out to all members for ratification.

Speaking of mail, please let headquarters know if you change your address, phone or fax number. Each month we receive newsletters or other mailings back with corrections and postage due because people have moved and haven't notified us. The extra postage can add up, but more importantly, members' mail is being delayed because we haven't received your updated information. Please help us and yourself by passing along new information as soon as you have it.

Until next issue, may your challenges be no greater than you can handle and may those around you appreciate your worth.

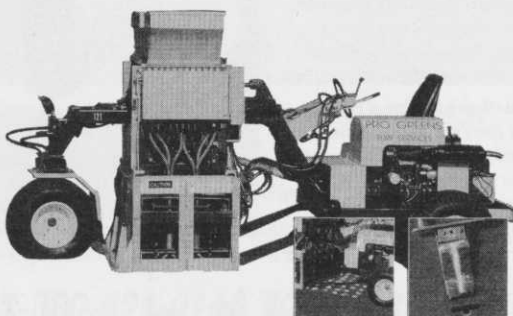


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