

Headquarters Report

by Steve Trusty, Executive Director

It has been a busy couple of months since I last wrote to you. Your Board of Directors met in Arlington, Texas, the end of September. They approved the Strategic Plan that STMA will be operating under for the next several years. More information will be coming out on that. They approved the 2001 Budget and Management Agreement. We look forward to working with all of you during the next year.

I feel the biggest step taken was the approval of the formation of SAFE, the Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments. SAFE was established to accept and disseminate funds for research, scholarships and education. SAFE is being formed as a 501 (c) 3 Corporation. This means that, under current tax laws, individuals and companies can make donations to SAFE that will be tax deductible, charitable contributions. The way the foundation is set up, overhead will be kept at a minimum and more funds can be used for the intended purposes. A separate Board of Trustees that are appointed by the Board of Directors of STMA will control the

affairs of SAFE. One-third of the SAFE Board must be STMA Board Members; one-third must come from potential donor groups and the other one-third from any other groups that the STMA Board feels will advance the work of the Foundation.

STMA started SAFE with a \$100,000 endowment. Only the income from that endowment can be used by the Foundation. The Foundation will accept funds to be put into endowments, funds tagged for specific uses, and funds to be used at the discretion of the Board. The STMA Scholarship program and the annual auctions and raffles will now become a function of the Foundation. As soon as the proper paperwork is received from IRS, persons donating to these events will be able to utilize these donations as deduction on their tax returns to the fullest extent of the law. Watch for more details coming soon.

STMA also has been busy with various outreach programs. We had a booth and sponsored a program at the National Recreation and Parks Association show in Phoenix. The purpose of the program was to help parks directors learn effective sports field maintenance and provide them with resources for more information. The purpose of the booth was to acquaint attendees with what STMA has to offer members. In many cases, the people that attend the NRPA show employ STMA members. We want them to know what you do, why it is important and to encourage involvement in STMA, the Conference and other programs. We felt it was a very worthwhile show. We provided information to a lot of Park Directors.

As a part of the Strategic Plan, STMA will be reaching out to students to let them know about the career potential in sports turf. As part of that initiative I attended the annual FFA Convention in Louisville in October. What a great bunch of about 40,000 young people. Being a part of an event like that lends renewed hope for our great country.

Upcoming outreach programs include the Baseball Winter Meetings and Trade Show, the High School Athletic Directors Conference and several state turfgrass conferences.

I hope to see you on one of my trips and especially in Tampa in January. May you and yours have a most joyous and blessed holiday season.



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